

While hailing vigilance of workers, Leader says:

Workers Drew A Line with Enemy

▶ Page 3

Fateful “line”

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

A review of Ayatollah Khamenei's speeches over the past few decades shows that he has repeatedly emphasized the necessity of drawing a line with the enemy. For example, in the “Second Phase of the Revolution”, he emphasized:

“The Islamic Republic is not reactionary and it does not lack perception and understanding in face of new phenomena and situations; however, it strongly adheres to its principles and it is highly sensitive to its frontiers in relation to its rivals and enemies. It never imprecisely regards its principal lines and considers it important as why and how it would persist.”

Drawing a line between oneself and the enemy is a key and sensitive issue for individuals and various groups. The enemy uses various and sometimes very complex methods to achieve its goals. ▶ Page 2

The Leader praised the value of work. “Work is what keeps a society alive. Work is the backbone of people’s lives. Without work there is nothing,” he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei praised the vigilance of workers in the face of provocations of foreign forces, saying that foreigners have so far failed to pit workers against the government.

Acknowledging the grievances in the workers community, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out that the workers did not allow ill-wishers to abuse labor protests and gatherings.

Production backbone

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The current Iranian calendar year 1402 (began on March 21) is named “Inflation Control, Production Growth” by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

“Production Growth” to achieve self-reliance is in fact the main approach of Iran to nullify the sanctions, so all those who can play role in martializing this objective are of great significance in the country.

The Leader's special view about the necessity of people's participation in the process of economic growth and development and the necessity of popularizing Iran's economy in order to achieve the goals of economic transformation in recent years is not hidden from anyone. ▶ Page 4

From Inside

- 65 Iranians evacuated from Sudan as clashes raging **P2**
- Iran president to celebrate Resistance victory in Syria visit: official **P3**
- Iran, EAEU discuss expansion of customs co-op to boost bilateral trade **P4**
- 700-year-old complex in Tabriz to gain former glory **P6**
- Tehran, Moscow universities seek to broaden cooperation **P7**
- Tehran center to review Sidney Lumet's legal drama “12 Angry Men” **P8**

Tehran Papers

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in Yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

“Riyadh has reconsidered its regional tactic”

The Iran newspaper in its reportage discussed the dimensions of the foreign minister's visit to Oman and Lebanon. It wrote: Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, ▶ Page 2

Iran rights chief decries EU position on death penalty against terrorist

TEHRAN- The European Union (EU) has come under fire for its interventionist remarks over confirmation of death sentence against Iranian-German terrorist mastermind Jamshid Sharmahd.

Kazem Gharibabadi, the secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, stated on his Twitter account on Saturday that “a terrorist Iranian national was supported in Europe and the United States.” He added that “Sharmahd has been given the death penalty in accordance with Iranian law.”

Gharibabadi also said that individuals who reject verdicts against Sharmahd have no mercy for the rights of terrorist victims.

He stated that the U.S. and the EU opted to support the terrorist rather than denounce his devilish crimes.

“This is the face of the Europe which purportedly protects human rights,” Gharibabadi pointed out. ▶ Page 2

Iran celebrates Persian Gulf day with pride and joy

TEHRAN - Today, Iranians proudly celebrate the rich history of the Persian Gulf, an extension of the Indian Ocean sandwiched between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

April 30th, known as the Persian Gulf National Day, signals a landmark cultural heritage of the ancient land and its unwavering commitment to protecting its territorial integrity.

It is a reminder that the country is steadfast in protecting its interests and will continue to stand firm against any threats to its sovereignty.

For millennia, the Persian Gulf has drawn the attention of governments and nations due to its strategic location and being endowed with giant natural and petroleum resources.

As mentioned by the Persian Gulf Studies Center, Darius the Great ordered the creation Suez Canal to develop commerce ▶ Page 6

Op-ed

Where is Sudan heading for?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

Tensions have been escalating between the head of the Transitional Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (aka Hemedti), since April 15.

Violent clashes erupted in Khartoum and other areas due to the RSF's attempt to control strategic locations in the country. Indeed, those bothered by the reconciliation between the Saudis and the Iranians and the openness on Syria have upper hands in igniting the war against Sudan!

This conflict was not surprising at all, a few days after the expiration of the constitutional deadline for integrating the RSF into the Sudanese army, in preparation for the establishment of a civilian authority that would lead to elections that would produce a civilian government.

In light of the preoccupation of the major powers in their own wars, analysts do not expect that the events in Sudan will end soon, and therefore the results of this conflict cannot be predicted. ▶ Page 5



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (right) shaking hands with Iraqi counterpart Abdul Latif Rashid (left) during a press conference in Tehran on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Iraqi president holds high-level meetings in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid met on Saturday with his Iranian counterpart Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi and Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

President Abdul Latif Rashid visited Tehran on Saturday morning.

The two presidents discussed avenues for expanding cooperation. In a joint press conference, Raisi said that they had good negotiations and held talks on different issues.

Describing Baghdad-Tehran ties as strategic, the Iranian president said that the level of trade and economic exchanges between ▶ Page 3

No region in Covid-19 red zone: health ministry

TEHRAN - There are no regions in the country in the Covid-19 red zone, the Ministry of Health said in a report.

The numbers of cities in the orange and yellow zones have decreased to nine and 213 respectively, the report added.

Moreover, the number of cities in the blue zone has increased to 226.

In March, ISNA quoted Ahmad Tabatabaei, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, as saying that the ninth wave of the coronavirus may hit the country as the number of people being infected with the disease is on the rise.

It seems that the COVID-19 wave that happened in Europe is taking place in Iran, he noted.

“Considering the number of patients visiting clinics and hospitals, unfortunately, it seems that we are facing a new wave of coronavirus,” he explained.

It is possible that this increase in cases is the beginning of the ninth wave of the disease, but this matter needs to be confirmed by the relevant laboratories, he added.

“However, compared to a month ago, the increase in the referrals is clearly visible.”

However, Babak Eshtrati, the deputy health minister had said on April 4 that the ▶ Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

“Riyadh has reconsidered its regional tactic”

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

From page 1 ► has launched a new round of diplomatic actions to resolve regional crises by making visits to Oman and Lebanon.

In a situation that many people consider the rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia as a significant event to help solve these issues, the question arises whether the atmosphere in the region and the will of the parties allow the diplomats test their luck in the political field to help create peace? The answer seems to be yes. A members of the diplomatic delegation present in the recent trip, told the Iran newspaper's reporters accompanying the foreign minister that “Riyadh has actually reconsidered its regional tactics. In addition to showing constructive and practical signals to resume relationship with Tehran as soon as possible, and quick efforts to start diplomatic works in Iran, the war in Yemen has come to an end for the first time after 8 years, and peace is achievable.”

Kayhan: The need to deal with invalid election claims

In its editorial, Kayhan compared the decisive action in the United States against invalid claims about the integrity of the elections with similar claims in Iran. It wrote: The Leader of the revolution on 15 of Farvardin (April 15), in a meeting during Ramadan with the officials of the system, emphasized the importance of the elections at the end of the (Iranian) year and asked the relevant officials to draw the strategy of participation in the elections. One of the aspects of this strategy is to prevent unsubstantiated claims, which from now may discourage people from voting by casting doubts on the integrity of the elections and the way of holding it. In the first stage, such statements are objectionable by the current and former senior officials of the Islamic Republic, and if such suspicious and fake statements are suppressed at this level, the lower levels of the society will largely remain safe from such poisonous atmosphere. Based on this, a necessary strategy in the elections is to deal seriously and frankly with pretentious officials from any party and group who, with any intention and without valid documents, want to question the integrity and mechanism of elections and discourage people about the elections.

65 Iranians evacuated from Sudan as clashes raging

TEHRAN- In a statement issued on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said that 65 Iranian citizens had been safely evacuated from Sudan, which has descended into turmoil as a result of the outbreak of hostilities between opposing factions.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the foreign ministry, said the ministry has been actively pursuing arrangements to evacuate 65 Iranian citizens living in Sudan since the beginning of the crisis in the African nation.

“The Iranian nationals were successfully relocated from Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, to Port Sudan and subsequently to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, after the appropriate preparations were made,” he added.

The official also mentioned that plans had been made to return the nationals to Iran from Saudi Arabia and thanked both Saudi Arabia and Sudan for their effective assistance with the evacuation.

Many nations are organizing risky evacuations of their personnel and other residents using a variety of convoys, flights, boats, and frantic getaway drives.

A number of nations have closed their embassies in Sudan.

U.S. Congress dashes hope for restoration of Iran deal

TEHRAN- Based on informed sources, the U.S. Congress is preparing a bevy of bills that would effectively dash any hope the Biden administration has of inking a revamped nuclear deal with Iran.

According to drafts of the legislation that the Washington Free Beacon has exclusively received, House Republicans start introducing a series of six bills on Friday that are intended to increase sanctions against Iran and limit the White House's

Hamshahri: The general's solitude

Hamshahri, in its headline, has criticized responsible organizations for not cooperating with police in dealing with the issue of hijab.

The fact is that if the authorities fulfill their duties on the issue of hijab, police will not be needed to enter the fray at all. Security and law enforcement action is the last step to prevent a breakdown of cultural norms. The police are a symbol of security, honor and authority in the society. Why should they enter the scene alone and other organizations and institutions just watch?

Ham Mihan: A journey with two destinations

Ham Mihan has reported on the visit of Iran's foreign minister to Oman and Lebanon. According to the newspaper, these trips are to complete and realize the results of the agreement between Tehran and Riyadh. Each of the parties have their own interests in mind in normalizing relations. China, which mediated this agreement, is keen to fix relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia as two major oil suppliers. Iran, which is under a lot of pressure due to Western sanctions at international and regional levels, intends to improve its relations with the Arab world by being friend with Saudi Arabia, because it knows that the way to reach the Arab world passes through Riyadh. On the other side of the story, Saudi Arabia, due to its plans to turn its oil dependent country into a modern economy, needs a prospect and an atmosphere free of conflict and tension in order to attract foreign investment. Beyond Oman's role-playing, Saudi Arabia expects Iran to use its influence on Yemen's Ansarullah to prepare the condition for ending the war in Yemen.

Sobh-e-No: The end of radicalism

In its commentary, Sobh-e-No discussed Mir Hossein Mousavi's connection with the foreign-based opposition groups. It wrote: For years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been facing the campaign of subversives and enemies, who have scary nightmares for the system. Meanwhile, in less than a year, Mir Hossein Mousavi and his close allies play an important role in connecting the subversive opposition and the radical domestic opposition. The “Clubhouse” meeting titled “Dialogue Conference to Save Iran” should be considered the top of the anti-security action of Mousavi's allies.



Conflicts between the head of the army, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who also serves as the chairman of the ruling Sovereignty Council, and the commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (also known as Hemedti), caused the situation in Sudan to worsen.

Armed battles between the opposing military factions broke out on April 15 in and around Khartoum's city and the military camp in Merowe.

Sudan's health ministry reports that since the crisis started, more than 600 people have lost their lives.

capacity to waive penalties in future accords.

The bills, which are backed by conservative Republicans, are directed at Iran's military, political elite, and banking industry.

By introducing such bills, the Biden administration would be prevented from unilaterally lifting sanctions against Tehran, as the Obama administration did when it sidestepped Congress to sign the initial agreement.

No signs of toxic substances discovered in schools: Intelligence Ministry

TEHRAN- The use of non-toxic substances was responsible for the occurrences that caused public fear during the last several months, according to Iran's Intelligence Ministry, which concluded that no poisonous substances were employed in the purported poisoning attacks on school girls around the nation.

The ministry detailed the findings of a comprehensive investigation it conducted into the inexplicable episodes in a statement issued on Friday.

The mysterious incidents began in late November in the city of Qom, when approximately 50 female students fell ill and needed to be taken to hospital.

Since then, several more schools in Qom, Tehran, Kermanshah, and Ardabil in the west and Ardabil in the northwest have allegedly suffered consistent poisonings of a similar nature, necessitating the hospitalization of a large number of young pupils.

The instances followed violent protests that broke out in Tehran in the middle of September when Mahsa Amini, 22, died while being held by police.

The statement said, “There were reports of the infirmity of students



in some schools of the country and they gradually started to rise. There was an inverse relationship between the gradual decline of riots and the rapid rise of the incidents resulting in the publication of the students' infirmity.”

The statement emphasized that the Interior Ministry, Health Ministry, and the president immediately issued strict orders to investigate the matter, and the Intelligence Ministry immediately mobilized all its intelligence, security, technical, operational, and laboratory capabilities to identify the causes and factors.

The ministry said that five elements, including stink bombs, pepper spray, odorous agents that cause panic, anti-security objec-

tives, and agents that cause mass hysteria, were involved in causing or triggering illness at various schools around the country.

Based on the ministry's field and laboratory results, “malinger” was one of the proven causes of the occurrences, with the goal of fun, skipping lectures and examinations, and, in a few cases, fomenting unrest and riots.

The statement added, “Toxic substances have not been distributed in any of the nation's schools, but non-toxic agents that have caused panic have been used accidentally or purposefully in some reported settings.”

It went on to say that some persons accused with taking those substances were identified, sum-

moned, or detained, and that their cases were delivered to court.

The statement reiterated its main finding that there hasn't been a network in the nation for the distribution of poisonous substances, stressing that there are, however, many cyber networks both inside and outside the country that create and spread rumors to cause school closures, elicit protests from parents of students, and purposefully accuse the Islamic establishment.

According to the statement, several similar networks have been located and traced, and all of their members have been or will be charged with crimes.

The Intelligence Ministry further emphasized the enemies' “completely obvious and undeniable” participation in provoking the attacks.

Based on the statement, the topic has received a lot of attention recently from people, organizations, groups, and the Western media.

In the chain of hybrid warfare, the statement said, “A number of foreign politicians, foreign institutions, and international organizations, who played a role in igniting the conflict, formed a link.”

Iran rights chief decries EU position on death penalty against terrorist

From page 1 ► The European Union declared in a statement on Friday that it “vigorously opposes” the death sentence given to Sharmahd in an interventionist stance.

Josep Borrell, the head of EU foreign policy, urged Tehran to spare Sharmahd from the death penalty in the statement.

Iran's Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence for Sharmahd on charges of “corruption on earth”.

The court upheld a previous conviction against Sharmahd, issued by a lower court in February, for heading a pro-monarchist group accused of planning attacks across Iran, according to the judiciary's official news website.

“In the appeal, there is no reason or proof that would create the grounds for dismissing

the initial verdict, and the sentence of the convicted has been issued in accordance with the law based on presented evidence,” the Supreme Court said on Wednesday.

The 67-year-old, who also has United States residency and was arrested in 2020, has been charged of being the leader of the U.S.-based group Tondar (which means “thunder” in Farsi), which has said it seeks to restore the monarchy that was toppled in a 1979 revolution.

Jamshid Sharmahd masterminding a 2008 bombing at a mosque in the southern city of Shiraz, which killed 14 people and wounded hundreds.



The main charge he faced was masterminding a 2008 bombing at a mosque in the southern city of Shiraz, which killed 14 people and wounded hundreds.

He has also been accused of planning a series of other attacks, including bombings and assassinations, in addition to passing information to U.S. and Israeli intelligence.

Abdollahian says Iran able to solve Lebanon's power crisis

TEHRAN- Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has asserted that Iran can fix Lebanon's energy shortage through bilateral collaboration with the Arab country, noting the failed U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic cannot affect such an endeavor.

Amir Abdollahian told a news conference in Beirut on Friday that during his three-day visit to Lebanon, he assured Lebanese authorities that Iran can address the electricity issue if the two nations sign a deal for cooperation.

“Of course, the U.S. pressures and fear-mongering about sanctions are among the problems in this regard, but you should know that the U.S. sanctions have failed,” he added.

He went on to stress that Tehran, which is subject to strict U.S. sanctions, exports oil and other kinds of fuel to several nations, including Iraq.



“Given Iran's capabilities, bilateral cooperation in the electricity and gas sectors is a profitable and two-way business both for Lebanon and Iran, and of course, it helps to improve the Lebanese people's welfare,” the top Iranian diplomat highlighted.

In this respect, conversations between Tehran and Beirut are progressing, according to Amir Abdollahian, who expressed hope that the parties will be able to take concrete action following the conclusion of the political processes in Lebanon and the election of the

nation's president.

The acute fuel crisis in Lebanon has caused several homes and businesses to struggle with ongoing power outages, and the country's economic collapse since 2019 has slowed down fuel imports for government facilities.

Last year, after the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance organization requested Iranian assistance to alleviate the energy shortfall in the Arab nation, Iran provided Lebanon with much-needed petroleum shipments via Syria.

Regarding Lebanon's political issues, Amir Abdollahian stated that Iran has consistently backed any accord reached by the Lebanese parties and will use its resources to assist the Arab nation in completing its political process.

Iran would back the option, the foreign minister stated, if all Lebanese parties agreed to elect a Christian president in accordance

with the nation's constitution.

Amir Abdollahian further announced that Iran and Saudi Arabia will reopen their embassies and general consulates in the upcoming days, about two months after the two regional powerhouses decided to mend their strained relations that had been broken seven years earlier.

The senior diplomat pointed out that the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia will have “positive” effects on regional countries, especially Lebanon, and would start new chapter in their relationship.

Iran and Saudi Arabia eventually reached an agreement on March 10 to reestablish diplomatic ties and reopen embassies and consulates. The deal was brokered by China.

China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran all reaffirmed their resolve to do every possible effort to advance regional and global peace and security.

Fateful “line”

class, to the point where they would take to the streets in rebellion and the country would become chaotic and insecure. This is while America always claims that the goal of sanctions is to put pressure on the Iranian government to change its behavior. But in reality, the people are the target.

For example, Richard Nephew, a Treasury Department official in the Obama administration who is also known as the “architect of Iran sanctions”, said in an interview about whether the main target of U.S. sanctions is the people or governments of countries, he said, “It depends on the country being sanctioned and what interests are at stake. If you sanction the Qaddafi regime in Libya, you shouldn't even think about the population because Qaddafi didn't care about his population or their suffering. It's the same with Kim Jong-un and North Korea. Here, ‘pain’ should specifically target the ruling elites to change their behavior. The same goes for Russia. In my opinion, when it comes to using ‘pain’ for populations, it should be a government that has a popular base,

and Iran falls into this category... In the case of sanctions, we should have focused on where the decision-makers would be convinced, and in the case of Iran, this was through making people dissatisfied with the situation.”

Attention to the way America intervenes and infiltrates in different countries shows that workers have been one of the main targets. The working class in any country faces its own issues and problems. The Americans try to exploit these problems and resulting protests to advance their political and hegemonic goals in countries they consider as enemies. Of course, they also cover up this exploitation with beautiful slogans and human rights claims.

The noble working community in Iran has so far thwarted America's sinister plans. Continuing to resist against these conspiracies, in addition to the intelligence of the workers, requires more attention from officials to the demands of this noble and hardworking class and improving their welfare, as emphasized by Ayatollah Khamenei on Saturday.

While hailing vigilance of workers, Leader says:

Workers drew a line with enemy

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, met with workers on Saturday and praised them for keeping their distance from the enemy.

At the start of the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the value of workers in society, underlining that work equates to the life of a society since it provides all the needs and requirements of the people and the country.

“Work is what keeps a society alive. Work is the backbone of people’s lives. Without work there is nothing. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the facilities we use that our lives depend on, all of these are the products of work. Who does this work? Workers. So, what is the value of a worker? The value of a worker is equal to the value of a society’s existence. They are equal to the value of people’s lives,” he said, according to a readout by khamenei.ir.

Ayatollah Khamenei considered it important to understand labor work and workers in order to make an effort to produce real and useful work. “The country’s and society’s vital need for work, a worker’s need for work in order to manage his/her life, the spiritual need of a person for work and the completely tangible effect of work in eliminating and preventing the occurrence of all kinds of corruption, demonstrate the great importance of planning, investing and taking action to produce work and genuine employment,” he noted.

The Leader also highlighted the loyalty of workers to the system, saying, “The most important sign of the



worker community’s loyalty to the system is their intelligent manner of conduct in the past few decades. [For example], they thwarted the efforts of certain groups to cripple the establishment in the beginning of the Revolution by closing down their workshops, and they also wisely stood up to the widespread propaganda of foreign ill-wishers which aimed to put the working community against the government.”

Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the imperviousness of workers to enemy propaganda. He described the vigilance and invulnerability of the workers to the provocations of foreigners as “the great jihad of the workers community.” He emphasized that, “Up until today, they have not been able to put the workers community against the government, and by the power of God, they will not be able to do the same from here on.”

Ayatollah Khamenei acknowledged that there were some rightful protests in the workers community, saying, “Fortunately, in all cases of

protests, the workers community did not allow the ill-wishers to abuse the protests and gatherings by drawing the line against the enemy and emphasizing companionship and friendship with the government.”

Citing verses from the Holy Quran, he said there should be a direct relationship between work and income, and highlighted the necessity of creating a culture in this regard.

“From the point of view of Islam, income should come from hard work and effort. Therefore, unearned, easy money and wealth, middlemanship, bribery, profiteering due to connection with a certain person, and usury are against the Quranic logic and God’s order,” he explained.

According to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, not having the courage to fight against the corruption inside the country will also take away the courage to fight the bullying of the enemy outside the country.

“For example, if an official does not have the courage to confront the

abusers of business or bank credits and does not confront the major bank debtors, he/she will likewise not have the courage to confront the demands of a tyrannical government like the US,” he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also argued that improving the workers’ livelihood and job security will in turn increase the quality of work and products, and therefore, any effort in this line is indeed an investment for more profits.

The Leader praised the value of work. “Work is what keeps a society alive. Work is the backbone of people’s lives. Without work there is nothing,” he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei praised the vigilance of workers in the face of provocations of foreign forces, saying that foreigners have so far failed to pit workers against the government

Acknowledging the grievances in the workers community, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out that the workers did not allow ill-wishers to abuses labor protests and gatherings.

Raisi sacks 15 managers in Khuzestan

TEHRAN –President Ebrahim Raisi announced the dismissal of more than a dozen managers in the oil-rich province of Khuzestan after they failed to do their job.

The announcement was made at a press conference Raisi held at the end of his two-day visit to the province.

Referring to the dismissal of 15 managers of Khuzestan province due to poor performance, he said, “If a manager is not capable of doing the job, we ourselves are the most sensitive and replace ineffective managers, and we consider this not a weakness but a strength of the government.”

Ayatollah Raisi stated that today attention to the efficiency of the institutions and the fight against corruption is the concern of all the government bodies, according to a readout by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

In response to a reporter’s question about the replacement of managers, he emphasized, “The government is constantly evaluating the performance of the managers of the institutions, and if it is confirmed in a detailed evaluation that a manager has not been successful, we will not hesitate to replace him.”

Raisi also underlined the need to pay heed to the local talent in selecting managers, “In recruiting human resources, experts and managers,



preference is given to local workforces, unless it is necessary to select a more capable manager from outside the region.”

Raisi called on the media to help monitor the implementation of the government’s provincial ratifications and said, “In addition to monitoring the government’s resolutions and decisions, the results of which are reflected in people’s lives, the media should provide compassionate criticism of the performance of a manager or an organization.”

Raisi visited Khuzestan Province on Thursday morning as part of his second round of provincial trips.

Upon his arrival in the border province, President Raisi told reporters that the young people of Khuzestan should not suffer from unemployment. “The government is looking to solve the problems of the

province by considering the many facilities and capacities of Khuzestan,” he said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

In Khuzestan, the president visited several cities such as Dezful, Andimeshk, Ahwaz, Karun, and Shadegan. He also visited several projects in the oil-rich province.

Raisi delivered a speech before a group of Ahwazi people on Thursday afternoon. “Iran is indebted to Khuzestan, and today the whole country, especially we the officials, must pay our respects to this province and its loyal and resistant people,” he said.

During the press conference, Ayatollah Raisi referred to employment and reducing unemployment as one of the most important demands of the people of Khuzestan and said, “The government is trying to take advantage of the province’s capacities and pay attention to the agricultural and tourism economy, as well as strengthening trade relations with Arab countries, which have increased to 5 times in this government.”

Referring to the projects inaugurated during the two-day visit of the Popular Administration to Khuzestan, Ayatollah Raisi said, “Great work has been done in the field of electricity, and with the projects inaugurated, more than 300 megawatts of electricity entered the national grid, which will be increased to 500 megawatts in the next step.”

not pleasing to the enemies.

“Iran and Iraq will expand their interactions according to the interests of the two countries in the region. Strengthening and consolidating relations between Tehran and Baghdad will benefit the region in addition to securing the interests of the two nations,” he added.

At the meeting, the president of

Iraq emphasized his country’s interest in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic and stated that the two countries have diverse capacities to expand economic, political, cultural cooperation and trade exchanges.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, President Rashid visited Iran at the official invitation of his Iranian counterpart Raisi.



particularly with Arab nations.

The statement was made by Saeed Iravani during a speech to the UN Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday, where the member nations were debating the most recent events and the state of affairs in Syria, particularly the Damascus government’s reconciliation with its Arab neighbors.

IRAN IN FOCUS

APRIL 30, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Hazfi Cup: Esteghlal into semifinals

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team defeated Pars Jonoubi 1-0 in the Iran’s Hazfi Cup quarterfinals on Saturday.

In the match held in Takhti Stadium in Jam, Saeid Mehri scored the winner for the visiting team in the 97th minute.

Havadar also defeated first tier Esteghlal Mollasani 2-1 in Mollasani’s Shohada Stadium.

Mohammad Chaharmahali and Masoud Shojaei were on target for the visiting team and Mohammadamin Saeidavi scored Mollasani’s goal.

On Sunday, Persepolis will host Gol Gohar Sirjan in Tehran and Nassaji meet Paykan in Ghaemshahr.

Hazfi Cup is the Iranian football knockout cup competition, run by the Iranian Football Federation. Esteghlal are the most successful club with seven titles.

Nassaji Mazandaran are the titleholders.

Qatar to host 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup

TEHRAN – Qatar will host the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup, the governing body for international basketball confirmed on Friday.

“The Qatar Basketball Federation (QBF) has been awarded the hosting rights for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027, with all games at the prestigious tournament to be played in the city of Doha,” FIBA said in a statement.

Qatar has become the first Middle East and Arab country to host the flagship event in men’s basketball.

The 2023 edition will be co-hosted by the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia from August 25 to September 10.

“The Central Board was impressed by the submission made by QBF. I would like to congratulate them on behalf of the Board for the quality of the work they have already completed in putting this bid together. We are very happy to be able to award the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 to Qatar,” said FIBA President Hamane Niang.

Qatar also hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Paykan suffer third successive loss at 2023 Asian Women’s Club Volleyball

TEHRAN – Paykan of Iran lost to Japanese Hisamitsu Springs (25-20, 25-15, 25-17) in Pool A of the 2023 Asian Women’s Club Volleyball Championship on Saturday.

Paykan had previously lost to Vietnamese team Sport Center 3-2 and King Whale of Chinese Taipei 3-1.

Paykan will play Mongolia’s Khuvsgul Erchim on Sunday.

The 2023 Asian Women’s Club Volleyball Championship is the 23rd edition of the Asian Women’s Club Volleyball Championship, an annual international women’s volleyball club tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Volleyball Federation of Vietnam (VFFV).

The tournament takes place in V’nh Phúc, Vietnam, from April 25 to May 2.

The winners of the tournament will qualify for the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Women’s Club World Championship.

Teymourian on verge of being sacked as Iran coach: report

TEHRAN – Iran football federation will reportedly part company with Team Melli assistant coach Andranik “Ando” Teymourian.

The former midfielder of Esteghlal expressed his hope that his former club will win Iran football league after the end of Tehran derby, where the Blues lost 1-0 to their archrivals Persepolis.

Teymourian’s remarks aroused the anger of the Persepolis fans and they accused him of partiality and said is not acceptable as the National Team assistant coach.

The Federation is going to hire another coach as Teymourian’s replacement.

Shortly after, Ando apologized to the football fans for his comments but the media reports suggest that Iran head coach Amir Ghalenoei is going to hire a new assistant.

Gholami wins Iran’s third gold at 2023 IBSA Judo Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Mousa Gholami of Iran claimed a gold medal on Saturday in the 2023 edition of the IBSA Judo Asian Championships.

He defeated his opponent from Kazakhstan in J1-90kg final match of.

Vahid Jeddi in J2-73kg and Meysam Banitaba in J1-60kg had won two gold medals in Day 1 of the 2023 IBSA Judo Asian Championships.

A total of 85 judokas (58 men and 27 women) from 11 Asian countries compete for the continental title in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The competition is part of the qualification for Paris 2024.

Persepolis not to extend Diabate’s deal

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team have no plan to extend the contract of Cheick Diabate.

The Malian forward joined Persepolis in September 2022 but was sidelined majority of the season due to the foot injury.

The media reports suggest that Persepolis will not extend the contract of the 35-year-old striker, who scored three goals for the Reds in the current season.

With three weeks remaining, Persepolis lead Iran Professional League (IPL) table, followed by Sepahan and Esteghlal.

Iran learn fate at 2023 FIBA World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team knew their opponents at the 2023 FIBA World Cup.

Team Melli are drawn in Group G along with Spain, Cote d’Ivoire and Brazil.

The Official draw, with the participation of several stars and the Global Ambassadors Pau Gasol, Luis Scola, and Carmelo Anthony, took place in Manila, Indonesia on Saturday.

The draw:

*Group A: Angola, Dominican Republic, Philippines, Italy

*Group B: South Sudan, Serbia, China, Puerto Rico

*Group C: USA, Jordan, Greece, New Zealand

*Group D: Egypt, Mexico, Montenegro, Lithuania

*Group E: Germany, Finland, Australia, Japan

*Group F: Slovenia, Cape Verde, Georgia, Venezuela

*Group G: Iran, Spain, Cote d’Ivoire, Brazil

*Group H: Canada, Latvia, Lebanon, France

The first four Groups (A, B, C, D) will be played in Manila, the first two in the Areneta Coliseum and the others in the Mall of Asia Arena.

Group E and F will be host in Okinawa, while Group G and H will be played in Indonesia.

The World Cup will be held from Aug. 25 to Sept. 10 in Jakarta (Indonesia), Okinawa (Japan) and Manila (the Philippines).

Iraqi president holds high-level meetings in Tehran

From Page 1 ► the two countries stands at more than \$10 billion, which can be increased more, according to Iran’s official news agency IRNA.

Iraq and Iran cooperate in infrastructure, water, electricity, gas, and energy sectors in a way to use the existing capacities that can meet both nations’ demands, he added.

He further pointed to a security memorandum of understanding signed last year between the two neighboring states, noting that the MOU is in place and will help establish security in the region.

The two presidents also held a joint meeting attended by delegations from Iran and Iraq. In the meeting, Raisi said improvement of relations between Iran and Iraq is

President to celebrate Resistance victory in Syria visit: official

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will soon pay a visit to Syria where he will celebrate the victory of the Resistance Axis, a senior Iranian official has said.

Mohammad Jamshidi, the deputy presidential chief of staff for political affairs, made the announcement on Twitter.

He said the West Asia region has witnessed changes that led to the victory of Iran and the defeat of the United States.

“West Asia has undergone a tense period of geopolitical change with 2 results: victory of Iran & failure of the US,” Jamshidi said.

He added, “This Resistance will be celebrated in the visit of president Raisi to Syria. Qasem Soleimani taught us successful diplomacy is rooted in being powerful in the field.”

This is the first Iranian tacit confirmation of the reported visit by Raisi to Syria. Earlier, Syrian media reported that Raisi will pay a visit to the Arab country soon.

The Syrian Al-Watan newspaper said President Raisi will visit Syria on a two-day trip to meet with Bashar al-Assad and discuss strengthening strategic cooperation between the two countries, especially in economic areas.

The visit will take place on Wednesday, according to the newspaper. If Raisi visits Damascus, it will be the first visit of an Iranian president to Syria after 12 years.

In order to preserve Syria’s security and development, the permanent representative of Iran to the UN has said the Islamic Republic favors resumption of diplomatic ties between Syria and the rest of the world,

Kermanshah province has over 3,900 apiaries



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, there are 3,920 apiaries in Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran.

Hossein Heydari, the director-general of the province's Veterinary Department, also put the number of honey bee colonies in the province at 44,485 hives.

Private sector, government explore ways to materialize slogan of year

TEHRAN- The government and private sector dialogue council of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) in its 92nd meeting discussed the ways to materialize the slogan of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), which is "Inflation Control, Production Growth".

Referring to the slogan of the year, the governor-general of Tehran province said that its realization depends on the efforts and determination of entrepreneurs and business owners from the private sector.

Stating that the government's foreign diplomacy during the past year has resulted in significant achievements for the country in the domestic and international arena, and

According to the latest census of the country's apiaries by the Agriculture Ministry, the production of honey is 136,000 tons in the country, a board member of the Iran Beekeepers Association announced.

Mohammad Fekri said that with producing 30,000 tons of honey per annum, West Azarbaijan province supplies more than 22 percent of the country's annual honey, East Azarbaijan, Fars, Ardebil and Kermanshah provinces come next, and about 43 percent of the honey is produced in other provinces.

As stated by the chairman of the Animal Science Research Institute of Iran (ASRI), Iran ranks third in the world in the number of apiaries.

Mokhtar Mohajer also said that Iran's rank in honey production is changing and moving between fourth and sixth place in the world.

during this year, its results will be revealed, Alireza Fakhari emphasized the creation of an economic information exchange center with the chamber of commerce as its axis this year.

TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari for his part explained the economic situation of the country and said: "It seems that a difficult year is ahead from the economic point of view, because problems from previous years have been accumulated and transferred to the new year; Several problems in various infrastructure areas such as lack of water and electricity with economic problems such as government debt, bank balance deficit, etc. have been transferred to the current year without being resolved."

Commodities worth over \$2.5b traded at IME in a month



TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar month (ended on April 20) Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 11,429,496 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$2.5 billion on its physical market.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor, trade of 9,646,113 tons of commodities valued at more than \$1.5 billion.

On this floor the IME sold 5,109,245 tons of cement, 2,398,000 tons of iron ore, 1,546,964 tons of steel, 550,600 tons of sponge iron,

88,450 tons of zinc, 28,675 tons of aluminum, 25,560 tons of copper, 600 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of cast iron and 60 tons of precious metals concentrate.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 1,661,569 tons of commodities worth more than \$872 million on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 437,457 tons of bitumen, 434,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 393,840 tons of polymeric products, 186,000 tons of lube cut, 148,735 tons of chemicals, 40,080 tons of sulfur, 15,868 tons of oil, 5,268 tons of petroleum products, 790 tons of gas feedstocks and 550 tons of insulation.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 121,814 tons of commodities.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

TEDPIX jumps 73,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 73,255 points to 2.438 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 26.488 billion securities worth 187.719 trillion rials (about \$445 million) were traded at the TSE.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

The stock market transactions in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20) went through volatile days, which, according to experts, despite the value of the stock market for investment, the mistrust of shareholders and their fear of entering their capital into this market led to a decrease in liquidity and creating severe fluctuations in the stock market.

This condition caused the government and the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to take effective measures to restore prosperity and investors' confidence in this market, in a way that many capital market

experts believe that the outlook for investing in the stock market is positive in the current year.

Hossein Abdi, a capital market expert said that the government has a supportive approach to the capital market, and it seems to affect market transactions positively.

Analyzing the upward trend of the stock market and breaking the record of the index this year, he said the capital market started its work in the first week of this year with a very positive trend, which promises good days in the capital market for 1402.

TEDPIX jumped to 2.1 million points on April 4, registering a record high.

The forecasts indicate that the stock exchange transactions in the first three months of this year will experience good days and will provide good returns to the shareholders, Abdi further noted.

Meanwhile, as stated by the secretary general of Iran's Securities Exchange Brokers Association (SEBA), the government and Securities and Exchange Organization worked well to make changes in the stock market during the past Iranian year.

Iran, EAEU discuss expansion of customs co-op to boost bilateral trade

TEHRAN- During a meeting between Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvani-Far and Minister in Charge of Customs Cooperation of the Eurasian Economic Commission Eldar Alisherov in Tehran on Saturday, the two sides explored the ways for increasing customs cooperation to boost the bilateral trade.

During this meeting, Rizvani-Far said: "Although the memorandum of understanding with Eurasia is for three years, the formalities of turning this memorandum into a long-term agreement will be completed soon, and we will follow up on these agreements through approval in Iran's parliament."

According to the IRICA head, Iran's trade with Eurasian countries is 3.3 billion dollars annually, which includes over 1.5 billion dollars of Iran's exports to Eurasia and more than 1.7 billion dollars of imports from Eurasia.

He also said: "After the agreement and facilitation, our trade exchanges with this union increased by 32 percent in the previous year, and we have set a target in the customs that the figure will increase from 3.3 billion dollars to 10 billion dollars. I think it is quite possible."

"In the goods transit sector, our trade volume was 1.8 million tons, of which more than one million tons of goods were transited from Eurasia through Iran, and over 700,000 tons of goods were transited from Iran to Eurasia", the official further announced.



Minister in charge of customs cooperation of the Eurasian Economic Commission, for his part called the meeting with the IRICA head a success and said: "We hope that our three-year temporary agreement with Iran will turn into a long-term agreement in the future and more privileges will be considered between this union and Iran."

He expressed hope that the trade exchanges between Iran and this union be doubled and a trade agreement between the two sides be arranged as soon as possible.

In mid-January, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said the long-awaited free trade agreement (FTA) between the Islamic Republic and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is going to be put in effect by mid-Iranian calendar year 1402 (late September).

Alireza Peyman-Pak made the remarks after a meeting with

Minister in charge of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission Andrey Slepnev in Tehran.

"In the last two and a half years, more than 30 rounds of negotiations have been held with the representatives of five member countries of the Eurasian Union, and thank God, we reached a final agreement in this round," the TPO head said.

According to Peyman-Pak, during the meeting, the two sides concluded their negotiations and the draft of the agreement was finalized.

The official noted that the list of the commodities to be included in the FTA has been also finalized, saying: "The two sides made the final talks today, according to which 90 percent of the items were put on the green trade list with the rest 10 percent enlisted as forbidden items."

He noted that the FTA will have a significant positive effect on the

volume of trade between the two sides.

In the meantime, the EAEU trade minister said that the five members of this union attach special significance to cooperation with Iran.

Slepnev said that Iran is a close ally of Russia and other EAEU member countries. He also believed that the preferential trade agreement between the two sides led to an expansion of economic cooperation with Iran.

Despite all the restrictions caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus disease, EAEU's trade with Iran has grown by 20 percent over the past year, the official said.

Iran and EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items are currently subject to preferential tariffs.

The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019.

Production backbone

From page 1 ► His emphasis on important people-oriented economic topics and concepts such as economic jihad, national production and support for Iranian work and capital, economic epic, economy and culture, with national determination and jihadi management, resistance economy, support for Iranian products, production boom, production jump, knowledge-based economy, economic transformation, etc., in naming the years of the last decade and his statements and orders in meeting with the people and those involved in the government, show the depth of his economic view based on jihadi and comprehensive presence of the people to advance the economic goals of the country.

In the second month of the "Inflation Control, Production Growth" year and on the occasion of the National Labor's Week, a group of workers from all over the country met with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei on Saturday morning.

Addressing the workers, the Leader said: "Labor" is the life of society, it is the backbone of people's lives, without it, there is nothing.

Work is done by the worker, so the value of the worker is the value of the society's life, the value of the people's life.

Unemployment is the source of corruption. Many social harms are caused by unemployment. Addition is related to unemployment, corruption is related to unemployment, theft is related to unemployment. Divorce, destruction of families is related to unemployment.

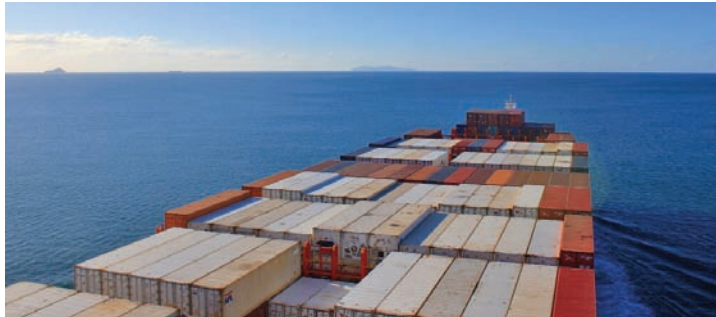
Therefore, those organizations that are responsible for the job creation should know how important it is for society to create employment in the real sense, and invest in this field.

The backbone of the country's economy is production. The backbone of production is the worker. We must not let the worker, this backbone weaken.

We said "Production Growth" this year. So how does production growth occur? An important part of production growth is related to workers.

For the growth of production, to improve the situation, they should consider the improvement of the worker's life as an important principle.

Iran's annual export to UAE rises 28%



TEHRAN- The value of Iran's non-oil export to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rose 28 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that importing non-oil goods worth \$5.767 billion from Iran, the UAE was the third top export destination of the Islamic Republic in the previous year.

Iran imported non-oil commodities valued at \$18.395 billion from the UAE in the past year, which was 11 percent higher than the figure of the preceding year, the official stated, adding that the UAE was Iran's first top source of import in the previous year.

Saying that the UAE is considered as one of the important countries in Iran's foreign trade, Farzad Piltan, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of West Asian Countries, said in last October that targeting \$30 billion trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirates for the next two years is on the agenda of the trade organizations of the two countries.

Pointing out that the balance of trade volume between the two countries has always been in favor of the UAE, the official added: "According to the plans, balancing, maintaining and improving the level of trade relations between the two countries is on the agenda of trade organizations."

"Considering the position and capacities and facilities that the UAE has for the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation at the regional and international level, by removing trade barriers and increasing export standards and insurances, we can reach \$30 billion trade with the UAE", the TPO official added.

As announced by Ruhollah Latifi, the value of Iran's non-oil export to

its neighbors rose 19 percent in the past Iranian year.

The official said that 75.184 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$30.537 billion were exported to the neighboring countries in the previous year.

According to Latifi, Iran imported 21.582 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$28.305 billion from its neighbor in the past year, with a 10-percent growth in worth year on year.

Latifi, who is the former spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), further stated that Iran's non-oil trade with neighboring countries accounted for 52 percent of its total non-oil trade, exports to these countries for 57.5 percent of the total

"Fair share of labor income" was another point that the Leader emphasized and said the worker's contribution in creating value for the product is more than other elements and factors, therefore, in order to create a high value for the products, it is necessary to seriously plan in the field of education, skill training and experience building of the workers.

He did not consider paying attention to the worker's share to mean ignoring the investor and creating a front against it and pointed out:

Both the entrepreneur and the worker need each other and what ensures a fair share in work relationships is fairness, companionship, empathy and seeing God as a watcher.

Of course, in some cases, capital instruments violate the rights of workers, which must be prevented, while the possible limitations of investors and entrepreneurs must also be considered.

He finally called raising the abilities of the workers as a duty, and referred to the saying that "Oppression of the worker is the cause of the destruction of all good deeds and makes the smell of heaven haram (forbidden)".

non-oil exports, and imports from them for 47.5 percent of the country's total non-oil imports in 1401, which shows the increasing importance of neighbors in Iran's foreign trade and bringing foreign currency to meet the needs of the country under sanctions.

As previously announced by Latifi, the value of Iran's non-oil export rose 10 percent in the past Iranian calendar year.

He said that 122.056 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$53.166 billion were exported in the previous year.

The official also announced that 37.18 million tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$59.655 billion were imported to the country during the past year, with a 10 percent drop in weight, and a 13 percent rise in worth, year on year.

He went on to say that the country's non-oil trade reached 159.236 million tons worth \$112.821 billion in the previous year, with an 11.2 percent growth year on year.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Where is Sudan heading for?

From page 1 ► It has become clear that the violent clashes will remain amid the absence of political stability, resulting from the direct and indirect military intervention in Sudan's affairs since the independence of this country in 1956. Sudan is one of the countries rich in agricultural, mineral and oil resources, in addition to its ports on the Red Sea.

Although the balance of military power tends in favour of the army, this does not mean that the army will be able of dismantling Hemedti's RSF, or "Janjaweed," a militia of uneducated camel herders that emerged in 2000 with the aim of putting down a rebellion against former President Omar al-Bashir.

Hemedti established the Janjaweed before a decision was issued to include this militia in the official military forces as a kind of presidential guard for Bashir. He gained the nickname "Lieutenant General" despite not having undergone military training. In parallel, his commercial interests in gold mining and livestock grew. Besides, his participation in the war against Yemen has earned him a close relation with Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Sudan owns agricultural lands that can achieve food security for all Arab countries. For its part, Saudi Arabia has bought lands from it with the aim of securing its food security, while the UAE acquires 58% of the agricultural investments of the (PGCC in Sudan. A 2019 report by Global Witness reveals that the RSF controls the Jabal Amer mine, in addition to three other mines in separate parts of the country, and this made Hemedti and his forces a major party in the gold trade. From Sudan's exports to the UAE (during 2010-2014, no less than 96,885 tons of Sudanese gold was smuggled to the UAE).

After the coup against Al-Bashir in 2019, Hemedti assumed the position of Vice President of the Transitional Military Council. As a diplomat, he has strengthened his relationship with Moscow too. In February 2022, days before the Russian military operation in Ukraine, he visited the Kremlin to hold talks with Putin regarding the continued export of gold to Russia, the purchase of Russian weapons and the construction of a new military port on the Red Sea.

After the fall of the Bashir regime, Hemedti stood with al-Burhan against holding elections and establishing a civilian government. Together, they led the coup against the government of Abdullah Hamdok on October 25, 2021. They placed him under house arrest, dismissed all civilian officials in the military council, dissolved the government, and declared emergency provisions. However, the international community turned against them. Al-Burhan was forced to reinstate Abdullah Hamdok, who resigned on January 22, 2022 due to sharp divisions in Sudan.

Meanwhile, a transitional military government formed of the army and the RSF, in addition to civilian forces, agreed to join. By the end of 2022, they agreed on the "framework agreement," which was signed by both sides in addition to 40 parties. Many other parties opposed it.

The international community and regional parties welcomed the agreement. Among its provisions were establishing a full civilian authority without the participation of military forces; organizing inclusive elections at the end of the transitional period; limiting the transitional period to 24 months from the date of appointment of a civilian president to head a transitional government; dismantling the Bashir regime in all state institutions; recover funds and assets obtained illegally; establishing a unified



national army that requires the unification of the RSF and other militias (which is the point that brought the dispute into a climax).

The framework agreement was supposed to end on April 11, with the selection of a prime minister who would lead a civilian government that would lead the

If the responsible authorities do not act, Arab water security will be in danger, and Sudan, which was originally divided, will be even more divided.

transitional period for a period of 24 months. Since the transitional period lasted two years, the army's position was to stop recruitment into the RSF. However, Hemedti refused and tried to gain more power and influence, demanding a longer period for the merger to take place, exceeding 10 years, which was completely rejected by the army and other political forces.

As for Egypt, which considers Sudan its strategic depth, it seems that Cairo is distancing itself although the kidnapping of its soldiers at Marawi airport was a call for it to intervene in this conflict. It is noteworthy that Egypt trained al-Burhan militarily and has influence within the Sudanese army, in addition to an extensive intelligence presence in Khartoum. In addition, Egypt relies on 97% of the Nile waters, and without Sudan as a political partner, it will not be able to obtain its rights from Ethiopia in the river's water.

As for Ethiopia, the conflict on the border dates back to more than a hundred years, and the clashes between the two countries are repeated despite the Ethiopian recognition of Sudan's right in the disputed part. However, there is an overlap in the economic and social interests in the border region, which makes Ethiopia claim economic and social damage resulting from its withdrawal from this region.

For its part, Moscow has a significant influence through its "Flamingo" military base project in Port Sudan. Besides, there are agriculture, mining, manufacturing and official oil projects between the two countries. Hemedti has also hired the "Wagner forces," which extract gold, protect the mines, and export it to the Emirates in return for training the militias.

As for China, Beijing's foreign policy has always been based on non-interference. It maintained relations with al-Bashir and after him with the current military rulers. Even at a time when Western countries imposed sanctions and withheld aid, China continued its investments as the Chinese National Petroleum

Corporation owns oil assets in Sudan. China too has rehabilitated the Sudanese railway network at a value of \$640 million.

The temporary Zionist regime has influence on separatist movements that have managed to penetrate southern Sudan since the 1950s. The enemy also seeks to put pressure on Egypt, as the lack of security in Sudan will create a hotbed of tension on Egypt's southern borders.

In addition, the enemy seeks to blackmail Egypt with its water rights in the Nile by establishing a network of dams in Ethiopia and pitting the upstream countries located on Lake Victoria against Egypt.

Observers remember the close cooperation between Khartoum and the Tel Aviv regime in military and intelligence fields, which the Zionist entity exploits in its hegemonic schemes for the Arab North Africa and Africa in general, especially due to Sudan's strategic location overlooking the Red Sea.

In the aftermath of the 2021 coup against al-Bashir, Israel's foreign intelligence service Mossad secretly met Hemedti. What affirms the growing influence of the Zionist enemy is when US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urged the Zionist Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz, to use its influence to restore civilian leadership.

Nothing is known yet about who will manage the negotiations between all these parties, especially in light of the recent Saudi-Iranian reconciliation and the Arab openness to Damascus.

Yedioth Ahronoth revealed that the United States explicitly asked "Israel" to intervene to stop the conflict between the Sudanese parties, which means that Washington is aware of its influence in Sudan. AXIOS revealed too that Hemedti sought to establish an independent relationship with the Israelis in order to advance his local political agenda in Sudan earlier during Hamdok's presidency of the Transitional Council.

With regard to Washington, relations between the two parties reached their nadir in the early 1990s when Khartoum hosted Al Qaeda. Then al-Bashir sought to rebuild the relationship, offering to expand intelligence cooperation in Washington's alleged war "against terrorism." Washington agreed in late 2019, but did not send an ambassador. Foreign Policy says the United States has enough influence to thwart its allies' ambitions in Sudan. For instance,

days after al-Bashir's surprise visit to Damascus in December 2018, as the first Arab president to visit Syria since March 2011, he was overthrown on April 11, 2019. In the immediate aftermath, Washington and Western capitals canceled sanctions against Sudan, and lifted it from its alleged "black list."

Overall, observers know well that the enemies of the region will not rest until countries are destroyed in favor of the Zionist entity. Nothing is known yet about who will manage the negotiations between all these parties, how long it will take, and what role the Zionist entity will play in this conflict, especially in light of the recent Saudi-Iranian reconciliation and the Arab openness to Damascus.

Here it is necessary to recall the Zionists' annoyance and its endeavor to prevent the path of détente, militarily, politically & economically in the region. The latest example of this is its relentless efforts to incite Azerbaijan against Iran under the pretext of ethnic and sectarian justifications. The usurper entity made a lot of gains from its relations with Baku, which allowed the Zionist entity to establish military and intelligence bases near the borders with Iran. Baku also provides the oil needs of the Zionist entity, through pipeline that passes through Turkey, which the occupation wants to be a party to any tension between Iran and Azerbaijan. Turkey has national, sectarian and strategic calculations in the Caucasus region near the Black Sea, as it is its gateway to Central Asia, where Islamic countries of Turkish origin are located.

Here it is necessary to recall the great interest that Erdogan attaches to al-Burhan, as he received him in Ankara twice, although Al-Burhan overthrew Al-Bashir (Erdogan's close friend). We must also recall the efforts of its ally, Qatar, to obstruct opening up to Syria. In all cases, and whatever the possible results of the events in Sudan, observers know that the enemies were, are, and will remain against the peoples of the region, and hope that the Iranian-Saudi reconciliation will not realize its goals, the most important of which is the achievement of stability in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and now in Sudan, because of the strategic importance of the country.

The two parties - Hemedti and Al-Burhan - are conspirators against the Islamic nation and their history is black in bloodshed, looting of wealth and collaboration with the Zionists. The alleged international courts that pursued and demonized Al-Bashir did not pursue them. What is going on in Sudan is dispute over the spoils. There is no civil war in Sudan, but a war of militia. The evacuation of foreign communities is evidence that this violence is not in vain, but rather fabricated and deliberate. If the responsible authorities do not act, Arab water security will be in danger, and Sudan, which was originally divided, will be even more divided.

WORLD HEADLINES

Taliban not invited to UN Doha meeting

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has singled out Afghanistan's Taliban administration by not inviting them to a meeting that he is convening with special envoys on Afghanistan from various countries in Doha next week, a UN spokesperson has said.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said, "The Secretary-General has not extended an invitation to the de facto authorities."

The UN last week emphasized that the meeting will not be around the possible international recognition of the Taliban administration after UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed suggested that the gathering "could find those baby steps to put us back on the pathway to recognition ... of the Taliban, a principled recognition - in other words, there are conditions."

West's efforts to isolate Russia have failed – Lavrov

The West has failed to isolate Russia, with the majority of the world still interested in maintaining good relations with Moscow, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said. He also argued that the trend toward multipolarity is irreversible, whether former colonial powers like it or not.

Addressing the World Online Conference on Multipolarity on Saturday, Lavrov said that "Washington's and its satellites' efforts to reverse history, to force the international community to live by the invented 'rules-based order'" are proving to be a fiasco, citing the "total failure" of the West "to isolate Russia."

According to the foreign minister, a number of countries, which combined are home to 85% of the world's population, have made it clear that they will not do the bidding of the former colonial powers.

Israel refuses to let Palestinian mother see mentally ill son

Palestinian national Ahmad Manasra was arrested when he was only 13 years old under terrifying circumstances, and he was tortured by Israeli forces in the occupied East Jerusalem.

Pakistanis form human chain hailing UN designation of March 15 as anti-Islamophobia day



Thousands of Pakistanis formed a human chain on Thursday to commend the UN for declaring March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

The event took place in the Jhang district of the northeastern Punjab province under the umbrella of the Muslim Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, which has long been voicing

Manasra, who is suffering from serious mental health issues, was brought to the Beer Sabaa (Beersheva) district court on Wednesday afternoon for his hearing, where his mother called out to him but was prevented from seeing her son by Israeli soldiers, who quickly took him out of the room, in heart-wrenching footage.

A campaign titled #FreeAhmadManasra, advocating for his release, was launched on social media.

Palestinian civil societies denounce 'shameful' statement by EU Commission president

Dozens of Palestinian civil society organizations vehemently denounced "the shameful statement" made by the EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in which she celebrated Israel's so-called "Independence" day by using racist anti-Palestinian tropes and denying Palestinian history and the atrocities of the Nakba.

"These remarks," they said in a statement published today, "depart from basic political and diplomatic principles and shamelessly favor the occupying power, which engages in persecution, aggression, and state terrorism against the Palestinian people."

In her speech, Ursula von der Leyen claimed that Israel has made "the desert bloom", utilizing "a colonial remark that greenwashes Israel's settler-colonial project, and its displacement of the indigenous Palestinian people and the illegal confiscation of their land," said the 34 civil society organizations that signed the statement.

Putin authorizes oil supplies to friendly countries

Russian President Vladimir Putin has authorized oil and oil product supplies to friendly countries under contracts signed before Feb. 1, according to a decree published on Friday.

The decree, which takes effect from Friday, amended a previous one Putin signed at the end of last year that banned Russian oil and oil product supplies to foreign entities if their contracts directly or indirectly involved a price cap imposed by Western countries.

In December 2022, the European Union placed a price cap of 60 U.S. dollars per barrel on Russian seaborne crude oil, which was joined by the Group of Seven and Australia.

against Islamophobia.

Donned in white shalwar-kameez (long shirt and loose trousers), the participants demonstrated different formations, including "Thank You UN", and "Islam is Peace" stretching 100 feet (30 meters) each in length and breadth.

Flags of 57 Muslim countries were prominently arranged around the UN logo.

Archaeological studies of Bushehr sites begin



TEHRAN – Teams of archaeologists have started working across Bushehr in a bid to shed new light on the history of human settlement in the southwestern Iranian province.

The archaeological studies will be carried out on five different sites which date from the 5th millennium BC onwards, the deputy tourism minister said on Friday.

For the first time that such studies will be conducted simultaneously on five historical sites of the province to refine its archaeological map, Nasrollah Ebrahimi said.

Some of the sites have yielded relics and ruins dating from the Elamite, Achaemenid eras, the official added.

Moreover, Bushehr is home to countless historical and architectural monuments, including mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, and gardens.

Experts say it is one of the most significant historical regions along the Persian Gulf, embracing significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

Bushehr is famed for its ancient port Siraf, which has been nominated for possible registration on the UNESCO World Heritage list. It was Iran's most important port from the Sassanid period to the 4th century AH. Siraf bears plentiful evidence of Persian mastership and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with other near and far cultures and civilizations.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa between 800 CE and 1050.

Car rally to mark Persian Gulf National Day

TEHRAN – On Saturday, a group of Iranian drivers started a family car rally in the northern province of Gilan to mark the Persian Gulf National Day, which is celebrated annually on April 30, IRNA reported.

Organized by the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran, the rally will continue in several Iranian provinces including Qazvin, Alborz, Isfahan, Fars, and Hormozgan.

The participants need to reach the Persian Gulf island of Kish in southern Iran by Thursday, to attend the closing ceremony there, the report added.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

The Persian Gulf is a shallow, epi-continental sea approximately 1,000 km long and 200-350 km wide, narrowing to about 60 km across the Straits of Hormuz. According to Encyclopedia Iranica, to date, no Neolithic remains have been found anywhere along the Persian Gulf coast of Iran. The earliest archaeological remains yet identified on the coast of Iran consist of sherds of Mesopotamian Ubaid type picked up by M. E. Prickett and A. Williamson on the surface

700-year-old complex in Tabriz to gain former glory

TEHRAN –The 700-year-old Hassan Padeshah complex, which is located in the historical city of Tabriz, East Azarbaijan province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Several parts of the complex have been undergoing restorations for some time, and resuming the work will return the complex to its former glory, Vahid Navadad explained on Saturday.

To implement this landmark project, the provincial department of cultural heritage is utilizing all its technical, administrative, and credit resources, the official added.

Considering the historical significance of this complex, the project is being closely supervised by cultural heritage experts and experienced restorers, he noted.

As a result of the need for specialized and technical research due to its high cultural significance, the restoration project has taken so long, he mentioned.

During the Turkmen and Safavid eras when Tabriz was the capital of Iran, this complex played a significant role in the governmental spheres, therefore, permits are required for the restoration of its remains after extensive research and studies, as well as technical and expert measures, he stated.

Located in Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan province, the 160 thousand square meter complex of Hassan Padeshah, meaning 'Hasan

the King', is among the outstanding works left over from the glorious time of the Aq Qoyunlu Dynasty.

The complex comprises a mosque, a madrasa, a bathhouse, and a massive forum covering some twofold that of UNESCO-registered Imam Square in Isfahan.

As a result of certain factors and events such as floods and earthquakes and historical indifference, the complex carries only a small portion of its past historical greatness.

Like many cities in Iran, Tabriz has a long and rich history but saw many of its historic buildings destroyed by invaders or earthquakes. Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later, the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital. It was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in the ancient city.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Downtown Tabriz is very walkable, and the people are also extremely friendly, something not particularly common in big cities.

Iran celebrates Persian Gulf day with pride and joy

From Page 1 ► in Iran so that commercial vessels could pass the Persian and Red Seas and get to Egypt and the Mediterranean. In a remaining inscription from that era, it can be read: “King Darius says: I am Persian and conquered Egypt from Persia and ordered to drill this canal and people go from the Nile, which flows in Egypt, to a sea from Persia. This canal has been drilled, and vessels sail as I command. As it was at my will.”

As it's been quoted in history, the Arsacid developed commerce and competed closely with Romans, and transformed the Fars Sea into a transit road.

This progress continued in the Sassanid era when Siraf port became a big commercial center and even in historical documents of China everywhere the names Pars, Fars, Parsua, and Iran can explicitly and widely be seen and this shows the existence of commercial ties.

After Iran was conquered by Muslims, again Iranians were ahead of other neighboring governments in sailing. Later, profiteer colonizers struggled to obtain a high position in the Persian Gulf. One evident example was in the Safavid era when the Ottomans started their invasion of the Persian Gulf.

Portuguese, on the other side,



Map depicting the Achaemenid Persian empire in relation to the Persian Gulf.

completely dominated this region in the 16th century and clashed with Ottomans until finally in 1587 King Abbas, with the assistance of England, repelled the Portuguese.

However, England gained a foothold in the region. This matter led to conflicts with England. It should be reminded that, at the time of the Afsharid dynasty, King Nader managed to create a navy force in the Persian Gulf and bought several vessels from England and the Netherlands.

The Persian Gulf was invaded by colonizing countries more than ever before in the Qajar era; especially the English colonizer which deemed itself ruler of the Persian Gulf and the mindlessness of the Qajar kings paved the way

for the illegal presence of England, France, and Russia.

Darius the Great noted this sea and he used the phrase “Dar aye tie hecha parsā abi” meaning Pars Sea, which is obvious in a rock-carved inscription.

In addition, the name Persian Gulf has been cited by reputable Arab geographers. Abelghasem Obeidollah Ebne Abdollah Mostowfi, known as Ebne Khardazabe, wrote in his book in 844-848 CE Persian Gulf: ... Bahr Fars. Bahr Fars in Arabic means Persian sea.

Masoudi, another reputable Arab author in his valuable book, Moravvejozheb va Madan Jowhar, when talks of overall news of seas, has noted the Persian Gulf

Isfahan’s archaeology-rich hill to undergo excavation

TEHRAN – On Saturday, Isfahan's tourism chief announced plans to resume archaeological excavations on Ashraf hill, which previously revealed significant evidence about the touristic province.

“I admit that in a period of 10-12 years, we neglected Tepe Ashraf, while the hill constitutes a treasured part of Isfahan's pre-Islamic history and identity,” Mehr quoted Alireza Izadi as saying on Saturday.

The resumption of surveys on the ancient site will help revive the forgotten and neglected side of Isfahan's antiquity, the official explained.

The official expressed hope that, in close collaboration with Isfahan municipality, a fresh archaeological season to be commenced in September.

Last year, Iranian archaeologist Alireza Jafari-Zand urged the need to continue excavations on the hill, which may push back the history of the renowned city by millennia.

Speaking to the Mehr news agency, Jafari-Zand said: “Archaeological excavations have been stopped on Ashraf hill, and, currently, the ancient site suffers a disgraceful state.”

“The hill should be fenced... Moreover,

further excavations should be conducted on a Sassanid fortress situated in the northern part of the hill. However, we see that this section is now abandoned and being demolished,” the archaeologist explained.

The architecturally rich mount has so far yielded ruins, relics, and human skeletons, estimated to date from the Parthian era.

According to Jafari-Zand, Tepe Ashraf is the second place after the Tepe Sialk (in Isfahan province) that has yielded the discovery of such jar tombs that offers valuable clues to uncover the obscure history of pre-Islamic Isfahan.

Excavations at the hill initially began in 2010 when Jafari-Zand announced his team found evidence at the site suggesting that the Sassanid site had also been used during the Buyid dynasty (945–1055).

Jafari-Zand believes that the mount keeps a part of the history of Isfahan and Iran in its heart. “Old Isfahan is beneath the modern city. Thus, normally, full archaeological excavations seem impossible in the city.”

The mound has seriously been damaged on the northern side by the construction of a street. Besides, unscientific excavations



carried out by several archaeology interns in 1987 disturbed the historical strata on a part of the site.

Soaked in a rich history, Isfahan was once been a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran during the 16th and 17th centuries, and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

Isfahan is filled with architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people. It has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into “half of the world”, suggesting that seeing it is equivalent to seeing half of the world.

Iran’s wrestling could boost sports tourism



Sports events are a unique opportunity to attract tourists, and when it comes to Iran, soccer, wrestling, and volleyball provide this opportunity, he explained.

Kordestan’s villages need to preserve indigenous architecture: official



TEHRAN – It is imperative to preserve the indigenous architecture and texture of tourist villages of the western province of Kordestan,

the provincial tourism chief has said.

In tourism villages across the province, the architecture and symbols of the region should be preserved to maintain their originality and texture, Mansour Mehrzad explained on Friday.

A focus on the architectural and traditional textures of these areas, as well as the customs and organic products offered to tourists, will lead to the development of the tourism industry in the villages, the official added.

Along with indigenous architecture, handicraft markets in these villages can also

attract and sustain tourists, he noted.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Tehran, Moscow universities seek to broaden cooperation

TEHRAN - Mohammad Moqimi, the president of the University of Tehran, and Viktor Sadovnichy, the rector of the Lomonosov Moscow State University discussed ways to expand bilateral relations.

In a meeting that was held at the Sixth Forum of Rectors of Russian and Iranian Universities on April 27, the two sides announced readiness to exchange professors and students and boost joint research programs, IRNA reported.

One step to expand the cooperation between the two universities is that Persian-speaking students of Moscow University and Russian-speaking students of Tehran University can be guests at each other's universities for at least one semester, Moqimi suggested.

The president of Lomonosov Moscow University welcomed the proposal of the president of Tehran University.

Moqimi expressed hope that the

The Sixth Forum of Rectors of Russian and Iranian Universities was held on April 27.

cooperation program will start within the next few months.

The Sixth Forum of Rectors of Russian and Iranian Universities was



organized in order to expand and deepen international cooperation in scientific, research, and academic fields between the top universities of the two countries.

In August 2022, Mohammad Javad Salmanpour, the deputy head of the Organization for Student Affairs, and Dmitry Kalinichenko, head of the Russian Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad, and the International Humanitarian Cooperation, met in Tehran.

During the meeting, Kalinichenko noted that there are 300 Iranian students with scholarships in Russia and that the number can increase in the future.

Salmanpour, for his part, said that most of the Russian students in Iran are studying without a scholarship mostly in the fields of Persian language and literature, linguistics, etc., and the Islamic Republic welcomes the increasing number of foreign students in these fields.

Iran is among the 15 successful countries in attracting international

students, according to Salmanpour.

We have the ability and capacity to have more than 250,000 foreign students by 2026, he stated.

According to unofficial statistics, more than 300,000 Iranian students study abroad.

Russia is one of the prioritized countries for scientific and technological relations with Iran. Since 2016, various specialized working groups formed by the two countries in the fields of space, aerospace, cognitive sciences, biotechnology, nanotechnology, university cooperation, mega-science, information technology, energy, and regional cooperation.

During the last 5-6 years, the capacity of international interactions has been considered by Iran and Russia, and this cooperation has expanded by forming bilateral agreements through inter-sectoral coordination.

Reviewing the status of universities worldwide shows that the number of Iranian universities has increased in nearly all subject rankings.

At the beginning of its formation,

rating systems provided a comprehensive view of institutions and evaluated them from all aspects and as a whole. But in the past few years, many of these systems evaluate and rank institutions in various scientific fields.

This new ranking method has emerged to meet the needs of users who seek to know the position of an institution in a special field.

Some of these systems evaluate broad scientific fields such as humanities and social sciences, technical and engineering, and medicine, and others measure special fields such as chemistry, mathematics, artificial intelligence, anthropology, and nursing in institutions.

A total of 94,406 foreign students from 91 countries are studying in Iranian universities, according to statistics released in the Iranian year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022).

One of the policies of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is to try to promote diversity in the admission of international students, ILNA quoted deputy science minister Hashem Dadashpour as saying.

In other words, "admitting from all countries and sending only to top universities," he added.

"We are determined and try to admit students from all nationalities, although, in line with the goals and strategic policies of higher education, we have priority over the countries of origin for admitting students."

"Now we have students from 91 nationalities in the country's universities, some of them are from European and American countries," Dadashpour said.

SOCIETY

APRIL 30, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

No region in Covid-19 red zone: health ministry

From page 1 ► increasing trend of coronavirus cases in the country will likely continue in the coming days.

"We already expected an increase in cases of illness after the Noruz holidays, and this happened," Eshtrati said, ISNA reported.

"Following the increase in the number of people suffering from the disease, first the number of people admitted to the hospital and then the number of deaths will increase."

Most of the people that are currently admitted to the hospital are the elderly or those who have an underlying disease or have not received the reminder dose of coronavirus vaccines, he added.

In March, ISNA quoted Ahmad Tabatabaie, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, as saying that the ninth wave of the coronavirus may hit the country as the number of people being infected with the disease is on the rise.

It seems that the COVID-19 wave that happened in Europe is taking place in Iran, he noted.

"Considering the number of patients visiting clin-



ics and hospitals, unfortunately, it seems that we are facing a new wave of coronavirus," he explained.

It is possible that this increase in cases is the beginning of the ninth wave of the disease, but this matter needs to be confirmed by the relevant laboratories, he added.

"However, compared to a month ago, the increase in the referrals is clearly visible."

In January, deputy health minister Hossein Farshidi said three new strains of BQ1, XBB, and BA2, have been diagnosed recently in patients, warning that the new wave of the disease may begin.

WORLD RAMSAR SITES

Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve

Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve is located in the east boundary of Jiangnan Plain. As the largest typical freshwater lake marsh wetland of Jiangnan Plain, the wetland ecosystem is composed of continually shallow lakes, marshes and meadows.

The main protection target is the typical wetland ecosystems, valuable endangered wildlife resources and their habitats.

As one of the overwintering wetlands for a large amount of rare waterfowl in China, Chen Lake Wetland is called 'the gene pool of waterfowl' for its high biodiversity.

Chen Lake Wetland is a representative wetland in the North Shore of Yangtze River, for its intact ecosystem structure, unique function, and rich wildlife resources.

There are large areas of typical aquatic and hygrophyte plant community in Chen Lake Wetland.

Three species of 2nd national key protection plants are recorded in the wetland. 11 globally threatened species including one Critically Endangered, one Endangered and six Vulnerable species have been

recorded in the site. 26 species of birds of national protection can be found here, among which 8 species are listed in 1st level, and 18 species are 2nd level.

In 2009, it has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA-CN352) by BirdLife International.

Hydrology

The main rivers in this site include Huangsi River, Xiliu River and Dongjin River.

The main lakes in this site are Zhangjia Great Lake, Chen Lake, and Wangjiashe Lake.

The wetland connects the Han River through Huangsi River in its upper part and connects Yangtze River through Dongjin River in its lower part. The main supplemental water sources are surface runoff and precipitation.

Climate

Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve is represented as northern subtropical continental monsoon climate.

The average annual temperature is 16.5 Celsius. The frostless period is about 270 days.

The hottest month is July with the mean temperature of 28.9 Celsius, and the coldest month is January with the mean temperature of 3.5 Celsius.

The relative humidity is 62-82%, and the dryness index is between 0.5 and 1.0.

The average annual water temperature of lakes is about 13.5-15.2 Celsius. In winter or at night, the temperature of the lake surface is higher than that of the land.

The average annual precipitation is 1250mm, most of which falls in spring and summer. The prevailing wind direction in winter is north, northeast and northwest; the prevailing wind direction in summer is southerly.

General ecological features

Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve is located in the north shore of the Yangtze River, the south edge of the warm north subtropical climate.

It belongs to the continental monsoon climate zone of China. There are various habitats in the wetland, such as lakes, shoals, meadows, marshes, rivers, farmland, woodland and other habitats in this area.

The dominating vegetation of the reserve is natural wetland aquatic vegetation, and the less common is the artificial vegetation and sparse forest grass vegetation.

The natural aquatic vegetation can be divided into emergent plant group, floating-leaved plant group, submerged plant group, and the dry season hygrophilous vegetation group based on life form. The rich habitat and vegetation resources provide breeding habitat for birds, mammals, amphibians and other animals.

Source: Ramsar.org

Raisi calls for Shadegan Wetland development plan

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi has ordered officials in Khuzestan province to draft a plan for the development of Shadegan Wetland.

The president visited Khuzestan Province on Thursday morning as part of his second round of provincial trips.

He urged environmental officials to prepare the document within a month, IRIB reported.

The president urged environmental officials to prepare the plan within a month.

Shadegan wetland covers 530,000 hectares, 400,000 hectares of which have been designated as a Ramsar site (defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value).

The wetland feeds on Marun and Karun rivers

both crossing Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, but after dam construction over the Karun River, the wetland went dry not receiving its water right.

The recent rainfall has filled 70 percent of Shadegan International Wetland in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, the head of the Shadegan department of environment Rahim Majdami has said.

The water condition in most areas of Shadegan wetland is expected to improve with continuous rainfall compared to last year, he further said, IRNA reported.

With the cooling temperature in the regions of the northern orbit and Siberia, the Shadegan International Wetland will be host to migratory birds, Majdami stated, adding, the DOE forces are dispatched to patrol the area and protect the migratory aquatic species.

The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

Due to insufficient rainfall and recent droughts, as well as non-implementation of some of the programs of the Department of Environment to protect wetlands, now about two million hectares out of the three million hectares area of the country's wetlands are dry and turned into sand and dust spots.

This year, the country experienced the driest autumn in the last 50 years, but this condition was



partially compensated by the winter rains and slightly improved the condition of water resources.

But due to the fact that Iran is located in an arid and semi-arid area with about one-third of the world's average rainfall, this rainfall has not compensated for the country's lack of water.

An official with the Department of Environment has said comprehensive management plans have been prepared for 44 wetlands in the country.

The unique characteristics of wetlands, including groundwater control, climate change adaptation, the livelihood of local communities through fishing, livestock grazing and agriculture, natural water purification, purification and absorption of pollutants, and nature tourism have made sustainable management and protection of wetlands essential for humans, ISNA quoted Jaleh Amini as saying.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$22m earmarked for equipping technical-vocational schools

A total budget of 900 billion rials (nearly \$22 million) has been requested to develop and equip technical-vocational high schools across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 2019), Mohsen Hosseini, an official with the Ministry of Education has announced.

Describing some of the programs and priorities of the technical and vocational training organization affiliated to the Ministry, Hosseini pointed to improvement of technical and vocational training plans as the Ministry's main priority.

Competency-based education and assessment is among the most important programs of the technical and vocational organization, which must be well implemented in all career and technical education high school, he added, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

Given that the number of years students are supposed to spend in career and technical education high schools has increased this year from two to three years, we need to assess the education quality provided in previous recent years and plan more appropriate methods for the next few years, he further explained.

تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان های کشور

مدیرکل فنی و حرفه‌ای دفتر متوسطه وزارت آموزش و پرورش از تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان‌های کشور در سال جاری خبر داد. به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر، سیدمحسن حسینی مقدم در دیدار با مدیران هنرستان‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای شهر شیراز و برخی از مناطق استان فارس با تشریح برخی از برنامه‌ها و اولویت‌های وزارت آموزش و پرورش در بخش فنی و حرفه‌ای، گفت: کیفیت بخشی برنامه‌های دفتر فنی و حرفه‌ای اولویت اصلی آموزش و پرورش است.

حسینی مقدم اظهار کرد: آموزش و ارزشیابی مبتنی بر شایستگی از مهمترین برنامه‌هایی است که در آموزش‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای دنبال می‌شود و باید این شیوه آموزش به خوبی مراقبت شده و در همه هنرستان‌ها اجرا شود.

او به برخی از تغییرات ایجاد شده در نظام جدید آموزشی اشاره کرد و بیان کرد: با توجه به استقرار پایه دوازدهم و سه ساله شدن هنرستان‌ها در سال جاری، باید کیفیت آموزشی ارائه شده در سال‌های اخیر را مورد واکاوی قرار داده و برای سال‌های بعد برنامه‌ریزی‌های بهتری داشته باشیم.



Rose harvest season starts in Iran

Harvesting Damask rose, known as Gol-e Mohammadi in Iran, starts usually in the second calendar month of Ordibehesht (April 21-May 21).

Iranians use the Damask rose in cooking, tea serving, and celebrations in various forms.

Rose petals are renowned for their fine fragrance and are commercially harvested for extracting rose water and oil.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:09 Dawn: 3:40 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:13 (tomorrow)

Translations of Persian works into Japanese

Part 3

In the category of the novel and short story, Bozorg Alavi's Kha'en was among the first to be translated (Ichiro Nono, 1959).

Several works of Jalal Al-e Ahmad, including Nefrin-e zamin and Jashn-e farkhondeh, have been introduced to Japanese readers.

Sadeq Hedayat's Buf-e kur was first translated by Eisho Horii in 1976. In the 1970s and 1980s more than twenty works of Hedayat were translated by Kiminori Nakamura and published in several literally journals, starting with Ayena-ye shekasteh (1977 and 1983). Nakamura published his translations of selected works of Hedayat in one volume in 1984.

Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh is also among Nakamura's favorite writers, from whom he translated Farsi shekar ast and Rajol-e siasi (1980), followed by a collection of his selected works (1987).

Other translators of Hedayat's works include E. Okada (with Davud-e guzhposht, 1977) and Sachiko Takayasu (Abji khamon, 1982).

A translation of Samad Behrangi's Pesarak-e labuforush by Takashi Iwami was published in 1983.

Yuko Fujimoto of Osaka University of Foreign Studies published translations of a number of contemporary literary works, including Samad Behrangi's Bist o chahar sa'at dar khab o bidari (1983) and Mahi-e siah-e kuchulu (1984), Simin Daneshvar's Shahri chon behesht (1984), and Goli Taraqqi's Bozorg-banu-ye ruh-e man (1991). Her latest published translation is Zoya Pirzad's "Hastaha-ye albalu" (2007).

Modern Persian poetry has been introduced by a few works of some literary figures including Ahmad Shamlu and Forugh Farrokhzad (Kiminori Nakamura, tr., 1984). Kimie Maeda (Onuma) has introduced several works of Shamlu and Sohrab Sepehri.

Other translations. Kametaro Yagi (1908-86)'s translation of the book Jang, written in the last years of Reza Shah (1938) by Ahmad

Nakhjavan, a deputy in the Ministry of War, shows a parallelism between the political cultures of Iran and Japan in the years leading up to World War II.

The author tries to justify war as an unavoidable means to provide mankind with qualifications to achieve perfection and a real civilization.

He sees the world as a scene of continuous struggle among nation states for hegemony and national goals in which relations are regulated by power and strength and not by fairness and justice.

In the field of folklore, translations of Sadeq Hedayat's Neyrangestan (tr. Shunsuke Okunishi) and Khansari's (d. 1713) Aqayed al-nesa (tr. E. Okada) were published in one volume (1999).

Translations of Persian folktales have mainly introduced the work of Abul-Qasem Enjavi Shirazi, including pieces of his Qessaha-ye irani (tr. Okunishi and Yuko Hamahata, 1983-86).

Other such translations include Jamshid Shah by Mehrdad Bahar (1979) and F. Tayerfar's Majara-ye Ahmad o Sara (2006), the fourth of a series translated by Keiko Ikuo.

In historical linguistics, Kazuya Yamauchi published a translation (1997) of Ahmad Tafazzoli and Jaleh Amuzgar's Pahlavi; adabiyat wa dastur-e an.

Another work dealing with Persian culture is Yoshifusa Seki's beautiful translation into Japanese of Golestan-e khial (Flower garden of imagination, Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization, Tehran, 1988), titled Yume no hanazono (Tehran, 1997).

The book displays selected works of painting and miniature art, book decoration, calligraphy, wood carving, tiles, glazed vases and vessels, coins, and other art objects preserved in Iranian museums and other public collections.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica. Concluded.

Translations of Japanese works into Persian

Part 1

Translation into Persian of works written in French, English, and other European languages began in Nasser ad-Din Shah's reign (1848-96).

The Government Translation Bureau (Dar al-Tarjama-ye Khassa-ye dawlati) under Mohammad-Hasan Khan E'temad al-Saltana engaged in translating diverse historical, geographical, and literary works.

Perhaps some of these touched on East Asian history and culture, including Japan. But a specific introduction of Japan to Persian readers began when Japanese military victories over China (Sino-Japanese War, 1894-95) and, especially, Russia (Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05) excited the interest of Iranians and other Western Asian nations.

One such notable work was Mamlakat-e shams-e tale' ya dawlat-e Japon compiled and translated by Matavus Khan Melikian and published in 1904.

In 1907, Hosayn-Ali Tajer SHirazi published an account of the Russo-Japanese War in 2,000 couplets of epic verse.

Titled Mikado-nama, it was based on translated reports and commentaries. For four decades after Iran's Constitutional Revolution (1905-11), however, there are no records of any further Persian publications about Japan.

In the early 1940s, after the abdication

of Reza Shah in 1941, the changed political atmosphere led to a revival of publishing activities, and several new literary journals appeared.

Prominent among them was Sokhan, founded in 1943 by Parviz Natel Khanlari, who was also its chief editor. Sokhan provided incentives and opportunity for growth to the promising younger generation of writers and translators.

Many celebrated literary figures, including khanlari himself and Sadeq Hedayat, translated examples of Japanese literature from French or other Western languages, and these were published in Sokhaan.

These include translations of some old Japanese stories and a few stories of Kyogen (Japanese comic plays) by Hamid Enayat; "Urashima Taro," a Japanese folk-tale, by Hedayat; and a representative work of Junichiro Tanizaki (1886-1965) by Zahra Khanlari.

Japanese poetry was first introduced to Persian readers by a number of contributors to Sokhan, of whom Hamid Enayat, Sohrab Sepehri, and Ahmad Shamlu are notable.

Sepehri rendered a number of tanka verses (a classical 31 syllable poetry, comprising five lines of five, seven, five, seven, and seven syllables) into beautiful Persian.

To be continued.

Play by thespians from Iran, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine promotes peace

TEHRAN – A troupe comprising artists from Iran, Armenia Russia and Ukraine has produced a theatrical performance in Yerevan promoting peace.

The play "The Border's Secret" was co-directed by Shiva Sarmast from Iran and Harutyun Hovhannisyun from Armenia at Babylon Theater on March 24 and 25.

Sarmast and Hovhannisyun also played roles in the play, which was performed by a cast composed of Shideh Ghaffarian and Pedram Zamani from Iran, Aram Sardaryan from Armenia, Corrina Odd from Russia and Anastasia Rykunova from Ukraine.

"The idea to stage the play entered my mind during a meeting with my Armenian friends, including Harutyun Hovhannisyun," Sarmast told the Persian service of MNA on Friday.

"We agreed to speak in our native languages, asking something from each other," she said and added that the result was amazing, because they perceived each other demands despite their unfamiliarity with each other's languages.

She said that play is about the perception of freedom in different countries and the endless struggle to achieve it and added, "Harutyun perceived the idea as the Tower of Babel myth and suggested taking it to the stage as a theatrical performance."

Tehran center to review Sidney Lumet's legal drama "12 Angry Men"

A scene from "12 Angry Men" by Sidney Lumet.

TEHRAN – "12 Angry Men", American director Sidney Lumet's 1957 legal drama, will be reviewed at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Monday.

The film will be screened at 5 pm and lawyer and film critic Jahanbakhsh Nuria will attend the review session to discuss the topic "In Search for a Perpetrator".

"Introducing Fractals" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Introducing Fractals: A Graphic Guide" by Nigel Lesmoir-Gordon, Ralph Edney and Will Rood has been published by Saleess in Persian.

Omid Masudifar is the translator of the book first published in 2000.

Fractal Geometry is the geometry of the natural world - animal, vegetable and mineral.

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A scene from "The Border's Secret" co-directed by Shiva Sarmast and Harutyun Hovhannisyun.

Cast members first rehearsed separately and then they joined together in rehearsals that ran for a week.

Sarmast said that due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many Ukrainian artists left their homes to live in Armenia.

"The husband of our Ukrainian cast member, Anastasia, is from Russia; they met each other at the university and one day before the beginning of our rehearsals they married amid

the flames of war flickering between their countries," she explained.

Sarmast referred to wars as mutual human sufferings and noted, "We just want to live in peace and happiness."

She said that their desire for freedom shaped the idea for the performance and added, "Accordingly, the characters each had their own stories; they united in their performance and achieved freedom."

What effect did Medina have on your life?

On its first release, "12 Angry Men" received critical acclaim.

A. H. Weiler of The New York Times wrote, "It makes for taut, absorbing, and compelling drama that reaches far beyond the close confines of its jury room setting."

His observation of the twelve men was that "their dramas are powerful and provocative enough to keep a viewer spellbound."

Variety called it an "absorbing drama" with acting that was "perhaps the best seen recently in any single film" and Philip K. Scheuer of the Los Angeles Times declared it a "tour de force in movie making."

The film was selected as the second-best courtroom drama ever by the American Film Institute during their AFI's 10 Top 10 list, just after "To Kill a Mockingbird", and is the highest-rated legal drama on Rotten Tomatoes' Top 100 Movies of All Time.

Showing the Truth Completely Is Not a Beautiful Thing at All!

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Front cover of the Persian edition of "Introducing Fractals: A Graphic Guide".

An interview with Faeghe Mirsamadi

The book "Snakes and Ladders" is an interesting narrative about the security system and the life story of Medina, the administrator of the ISIS channel in Iran.

Faegha Mirsamadi first visited Medina in November 2017 and after the security agents told her a little about this woman and her children, her place of residence and her social status, Miesamadi became more interested in her life, so she decided to write the story of this woman's life.

How did you get acquainted with Medina at first place?

The security officers provided me with the conditions to meet with this woman for the first time, and I had several meetings with her and conducted detailed interviews. I just want to say that when I met her, she was under the supervision of a doctor.

What was interesting to you about this character that you decided to write her life story?

I don't know how familiar the audience is with the border region in the eastern part of Iran. In these areas, there are many women who, because of the Baloch lifestyle, are very hardworking women in life, and many things

that are unimaginable for urban women, they do every day and live that particular style of their own and their life expectancy is very high.

Salafi and Wahhabi groups and more recently ISIS groups invested a lot on these women. They tried to deceive these women with apparently religious concepts and biased questions to take them with them to the lands that they say is the actual Islamic State!

The Islamic State in the western part of Syria, and the Arabs and Kurds of Syria, have women Mujahids, but in the eastern part, women are not Mujahid, and they are in the role of the wives of ISIS soldiers. They create channels and produce content that attracts the attention of women.

Medina was one of those women. It is true that her venture and adventurous boldness made her join the ISIS group and organization, but poverty had a great effect on her joining because she had a chaotic life and had disagreements and fights with her drug addict and unemployed husband.

How did you trust Medina's words?

She couldn't lie because she was still under surveillance. I asked my security friends to introduce me to those who were in that area, like

Medina, and had returned to Iran and are now under surveillance too.

They introduced a woman and I went to Kurdistan to see her. A young woman like Medina, who also had two children. She had just given birth to one, who was with her in prison. I talked with her and wrote her life story, and God willing, it will become a novel like Medina's life. I compared the words of that woman and Medina. Almost all the words and narrations were verified and there were only minor differences that did not cause any problems in the story.

What effect did Medina have on your life?

Medina had no effect on my personal life. But after that, I tried very hard to tell the story of women's lives, because I also do documentary work, I even consulted with TV channels and different places to make a documentary about these women, but no one supported me.

Did you use imagination and unreal material in the narration of Medina? If yes, how much?

Showing the truth completely is not a beautiful thing at all, and it is necessary for the writers to use imagination to attract the drama and the general trend of the story.