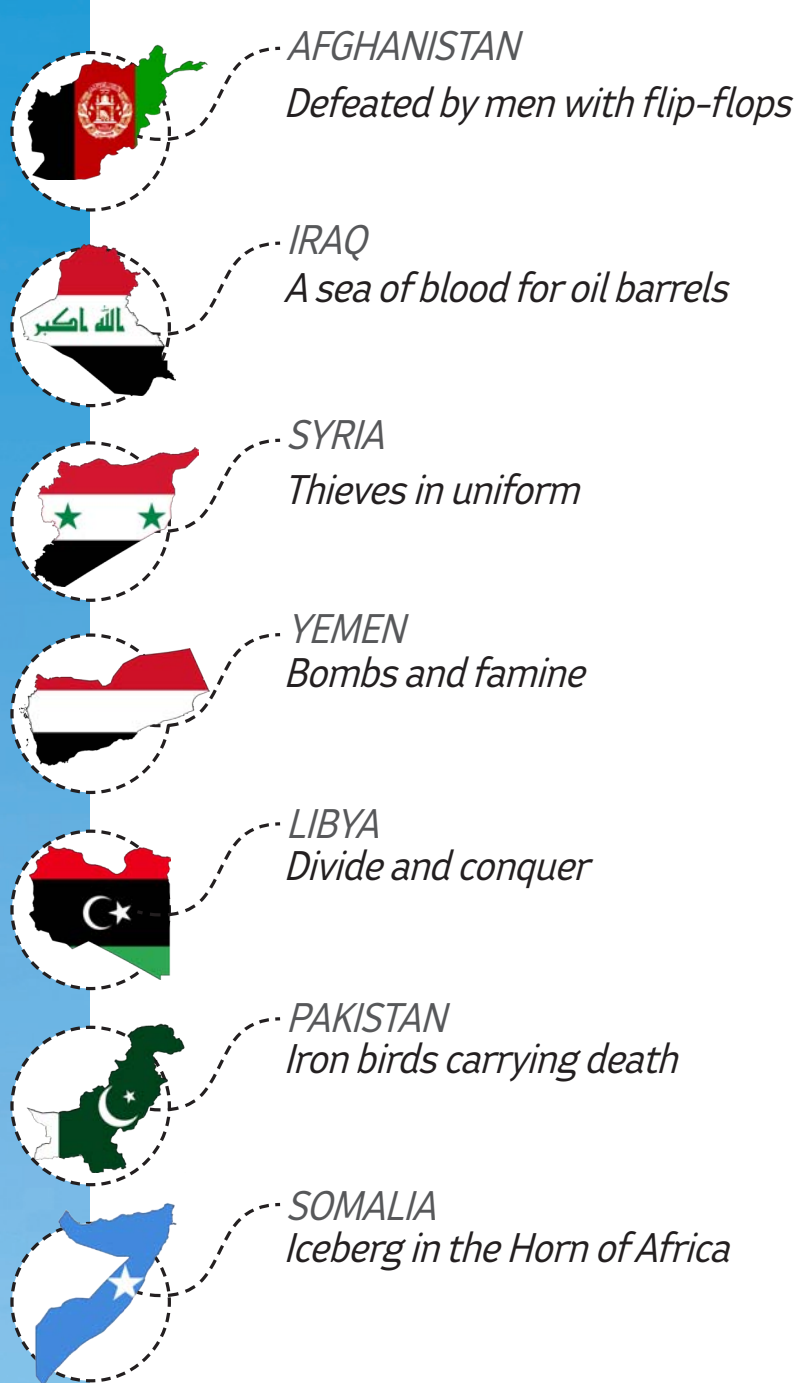


Both Killer and Loser

The Story of Seven Countries: A Review of US Aggression in West Asia and North Africa



By Sadra Torabi

The America emerged from World War II as a global superpower, with a military that was unmatched in size and technological sophistication. However, the post-war period also saw the US engage in a series of military interventions and conflicts that were marked by a number of failures and crimes. From Korea to Vietnam, from Iraq to Afghanistan, the US military has been both a killer and a loser, leaving behind a trail of destruction, suffering, and human rights abuses.

One of the most notable examples of US military failure and crime after World War II is the Korean War. The war began in 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea, triggering a response from the US and its allies. The conflict lasted for three years and resulted in the deaths of over two million Koreans, including many civilians. The US military was unable to achieve its stated goal of unifying Korea under a democratic government, and instead ended up dividing the country into two hostile states that remain at odds to this day.

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Tehran Papers

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

Tehran and Beijing need to accelerate trade ties

Vatan-e-Emrooz discussed the relations between Tehran and Beijing. It wrote: In the past 3 years, there have been many negotiations about expanding the 25-year partnership agreement between Iran and China, and multiple meetings have taken place, especially in the current government. ► Page 2

Iran, S. Arabia resuming diplomatic ties: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani announced in a press conference on Monday that the two nations of Iran and Saudi Arabia are in the early stages of resuming bilateral relations and re-opening embassies, noting that three Iranian diplomatic missions in Riyadh and Jeddah have already begun their operations.

Iran and Saudi Arabia demonstrated a good example of cooperation as Iranian citizens caught in the war in Khartoum, Sudan, were first transferred to the Saudi port city of Jeddah and then to Tehran. ► Page 2

Israel has suffered devastating blows from Iran: intelligence chief

TEHRAN- Iran's Intelligence Minister Esmaeil Khatib on Sunday emphasized the Islamic Republic's accomplishments in combating the internal and international moves of the Zionist regime.

Lauding the nation's outstanding accomplishments in dealing with the Zionist regime, the intelligence minister said Iran has made great successes, by God's grace, in retaliating against the policies and activities of the Zionist regime both at home and abroad. ► Page 2

2023 Tehran Intl. Book Fair names Tajikistan guest of honor

TEHRAN – The 34th edition of the Tehran International Book Fair has announced that Tajikistan is the guest of honor of Iran's major trade fair for books.

The Tajikistan culture minister and a large number of the country's cultural figures and writers will attend the book fair, Iran's Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs, Yaser Ahmadvand, told the Persian service of ISNA on Sunday.

He said that a memorandum of understanding is scheduled to be signed by the culture ministers of Iran and Tajikistan during the book fair. ► Page 8

Tehran hosting 14th Iran Petrochemical Forum

TEHRAN – The 14th Iran Petrochemical Forum (IPF) kicked off at IRIB International Conference Center (IICC) in Tehran on Monday.

The inaugural ceremony of the event was participated by Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, the vice president for science and technology, Majid Chegeni, the managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), and senior director of the country's petrochemical sector.

Focusing on "Value Chain, New Opportunities", the two-day forum revolves around eight topics, including: "Feedstock, products and supply chain", "Solutions and advanced optimization technologies", "Integration and coordination between petrochemical and refining complexes", "Production process and market", "Methanol market and its roles", "Global energy crisis and future of petrochemical industry", "Investment and financial supply opportunities", and "Energy optimization and production without pollution".

As stated by the managing director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC), "Our today's important objective of completing the production chain in the country's petrochemical sector highlights the significance of holding this conference". ► Page 6

Families with four children and above rise 15%

TEHRAN – An official with the Ministry of Health has said that the number of families with four children or more has increased by 15 percent in the country.

Saber Jabbari added that families with three children have also increased by 2.5 percent, IRNA reported.

The policy of having one or two children has changed in the society and the birth of a third

child has been increasing, he highlighted.

A center in the Ministry of Health provides services in the field of care, education, and counseling, as well as facilitating successful and stable marriages, healthy fertility, and promoting natural childbirth, early diagnosis of infertility, and timely treatment, he pointed out. ► Page 7



India's top security official meets Iranian counterpart ► Page 3

Iran FM appoints new deputy for Caspian Sea affairs

TEHRAN – In a sign of the rising importance of the Caspian Sea in Iran's foreign policy, the Iranian foreign minister created a new diplomatic post focusing on the Caspian Sea.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has issued an order appointing Alireza Jahangiri as his deputy for the Caspian Sea affairs.

Jahangiri holds a PhD in international law and previously served as the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Iran's permanent envoy to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the Foreign Ministry's director general for international law.

Jahangiri is expected to coordinate issues related to Iran's relations with the littoral states of the Caspian Sea, whose importance has been on the rise in recent years.

Also, the new deputy could handle discussions surrounding the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea given his background in international law.

Under President Ebrahim Raisi, Iran has been seeking to boost economic relations with neighboring countries, including those of the Caspian Sea.

Kazakh Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov visited Tehran in late April ► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

Tehran and Beijing need to accelerate trade ties

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

From page 1 ► However, it is expected that the pace of such partnership would grow more speedily and the rate of business exchanges between the two sides would increase much higher than the current time.

It is necessary for the two sides to quickly implement the projects based on a win-win prospect, because such projects can be very beneficial not only for Iran and China, but also for the region and even can make it much harder and maybe impossible to sanction Iran in the future.

Farhikhtegan: A project that was conceded to "Ali Vaez"

In an analysis on the status of the nuclear case, Farhikhtegan discussed the news of possible activation of the trigger mechanism regarding the JCPOA. It wrote: Ali Vaez, Iran director in the International Crisis Group, in an article published on April 29 on his Twitter page, once again unofficially reported of activation of the trigger mechanism to force Iran to ignore its demands. This is not the first time that Vaez publishes an article aimed at threatening Iran. Before the riots of the fall of 1401, he did this many times and even talked about military action against Iran, an action that American politicians have been dreaming about for years. But despite verbal statements, they have never dared to implement it. The American negotiating team decided to use Ali Vaez as a media scarecrow because despite that fact that his statements were proven wrong several times, he did not give up and has threatened more strongly after the failure of the street riots project.

Sharq: Taliban has a different idea

Sharq discussed Iran-Afghanistan relations in an interview with Mohsen Rouhi Sefat, the former head of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e-Sharif, Peshawar, Kandahar, and the former head of the Afghanistan headquarters. Rouhi Sefat criticized the country's policy regarding the Taliban. When asked: What has Tehran achieved after handing over the Afghan embassy to Taliban as a great privilege from the Islamic Republic of Iran? Rouhi Sefat said: Yes, maybe Tehran declares that this action does not mean recognizing the Taliban government, but the Taliban has a different idea and it is almost being publicized by political and media circles that Iran has recognized the Taliban.

Israel has suffered devastating blows from Iran: intelligence chief



From page 1 ► Iran's success in foiling Israeli schemes is due to collaboration and coordination among Iranian intelligence and security agencies, he said during a visit to Markazi province.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, exhorted the Muslim world on April 22 to grab the enormous opportunity created by the acceleration of the Zionist regime's downfall, which began a few years ago.

Ayatollah Khamenei asserted that "several decades ago, one of the creators of the fictitious system, (David) Ben-Gurion, declared

Etemad: The threat to impose a temporary agreement

In a commentary, Etemad discussed the situation of the nuclear case. It wrote: If the news of America's focus on the "temporary agreement" is true, it can be the result of the two-sided policy of the West and the new diplomatic move. It means that maybe the aim of America to withdraw from the JCPOA is that they seek to limit Iran's nuclear program within a certain range by granting little and limited concessions in terms of sanctions. "Temporary agreement" has been discussed in the past as well, but Iran has never shown any desire for it, because in that situation Iran's only lever of pressure- higher uranium enrichment- will be neutralized. According to a Wall Street Journal reporter, the action that Europe has shown regarding the trigger mechanism is a serious threat that might encourage Iran to accept the "temporary agreement".

Sobh-e-No: Israel losing status in U.S.

In an interview, Sobh-e-No discussed the situation in Israel with Saadollah Zarei, an expert on regional issues. He said: The anti-Zionist action has penetrated both the American civil society and political currents. There are also some signals that the America administration is distancing itself from the Israeli regime. After the recent clashes between Hamas and Israel, anti-Israel demonstrations were held in America. Although Hamas started the conflict, as the Zionists are not in a condition to start a war, we saw that demonstrations against Israel were formed in America. All this shows that the "price of this regime has been reduced" among its founders.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Effectiveness of direct negotiation

Arman-e-Emrooz in its headline addressed the proposal by Mohammad Dehqan, President Raisi's deputy for legal affairs, regarding the timing and location for negotiations between Iran and the United States on settling the case of some Iranian properties in the Hague-based International Court of Justice. It wrote: Undoubtedly, no negotiation can prove as effective as direct negotiation to resolve tensions and clear up misunderstandings and to agree on minimum understandings; but the recent actions of the Biden government show that the American tactics have not changed in the new era and instead of constructive diplomatic actions, is taking steps towards its destruction.

that we will be annihilated if our deterrent strength ceases."

The Leader added, "This fact is being observed by everyone right now, and if nothing is done, the usurping tyranny will soon come to an end."

In a meeting with a group of Iranian officials and ambassadors from the Islamic countries in Tehran, the Leader remarked that this is also one of the blessings that has resulted from the sacrifices of the committed Palestinian youth in the West Bank and other occupied areas.

Iran arrests people suspected of having connections to French spies

TEHRAN- Iran has apprehended members of a network with ties to Marxist counter-revolutionary organizations, the terrorist cult the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), and French spies.

Fars news agency stated on Monday, citing informed sources, that all of the inmates had previously been imprisoned and freed under pardons given by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

According to the investigation, the inmates had come together to plan and coordinate raising tensions in teacher and worker meetings, inspiring them to strike nationally, and bringing up the false poisoning projects at schools once more.

Two of those detained were Maryam Assadollahi (also known as Anisha) and Reyhaneh Ansari.

Because of their association and collaboration with two French agents, they were detained last year.

Last year, ahead to Workers' and Teachers' Day, French spies entered the country to plan disturbances and offer money to their operatives.

After being recognized, they were



apprehended by Iranian intelligence officers and watched for a period to identify their domestic associates.

The inmates had congregated at the residence of a former ringleader of an unlawful self-proclaimed labor union.

The gathering was organized by foreign elements and took place under the pretense of visiting inmates' relatives.

IRGC foils sabotage team linked to MKO in northern Iran

An anti-government sabotage group linked to the terrorist MKO group in northern province of Mazandaran has also been disbanded, according to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

(IRGC) intelligence officials.

Mostafa Bazvand, the IRGC commander in the city of Babolsar, said on Monday that the team was operating in the northern city with the intention of misleading young people.

Based on his remarks, the team's commanders engaged in acts of terrorism and sabotage and had direct communication with foreign-based organizations.

Since the riots began in Iran in mid-September 2022, the group had been sending video footage and other information to Persian-language media networks based in the United States and Britain while also mislead-

ing children, the IRGC commander said.

They were held by IRGC intelligence forces, he continued, and their social media accounts were also suspended.

When Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman, passed away in mid-September in hospital three days after collapsing at a police station in Tehran, riots erupted in certain cities across Iran.

Amini's death was eventually ascribed by an inquiry to her underlying medical condition rather than to alleged police abuse.

Over the past three decades, the MKO has carried out a number of terrorist attacks against Iranian citizens and government figures.

About 12,000 of the nearly 17,000 Iranians who have died in terrorist attacks since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 have been victims of MKO-perpetrated terror.

The EU designated the organization as a terrorist organization until January 2009, when the EU Council withdrew the label in response to intense political lobbying.

Likewise, the United States followed the decision in September of 2012.

Qalibaf promises to probe allegations of bribery against MPs



TEHRAN- Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, on Monday weighed in on the controversy surrounding claims that 75 legislators had previously received bribes to abstain from voting to unseat industry minister Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin in an impeachment session in November 2022.

"We won't waste any time in investigating this matter, and any misbehavior will be dealt with," Qalibaf declared.

"I won't let anyone mess with the Majlis reputation."

Earlier, Ahmad Alireza Beigi, an MP representing Tabriz, said that 75 parliamentarians had received receipts for two Chinese automobile brands from Iranian authorized agencies.

That's in the midst of a sharp increase in market pricing that generates a significant profit for everybody who is persuaded to purchase a car from the manufacturer.

Amid soaring prices of automobiles as well as the rising costs of industrial products, Iran's parliament decided on Sunday to unseat the industry, trade and mine minister Fatemi Amin, making him the first member of President Ebrahim Raisi's cabinet failing to win the parliamen-

tarious' vote of confidence.

In the open session of parliament, Fatemi Amin took the podium to face questions from MPs who were dissatisfied with his ministry's performance and management of the affairs.

In reference to the issue pertinent to vehicles, Fatemi Amin remarked, "The country's car industry is in a dire state, but we are now in the middle of the way and we have reached good places."

"The car industry has many issues, but today its price is more apparent," said Fatemi Amin. He added, "Due to sanctions, automobile manufacturing has fluctuated."

He added, "The adversary is aware of the significant economic impact that cars have."

At the end, out of 272 MPs present in the 290-seat parliament, 162 MPs voted in favor of dismissing him, 102 voted no and two abstained.

Iran, S. Arabia resuming diplomatic ties: Foreign Ministry

From page 1 ► "The transfer of 65 Iranian citizens from Sudan was a positive event that took place in the shadow of Saudi authorities' cooperation with Iran. I must thank Saudi authorities for their valuable cooperation. It was really a very complicated issue."

"Improvement of ties with neighbors key to regional security"

Kanaani also said that Iran underscores the guiding principle of "neighbors first" policy and that improving relations with neighbors is crucial to ensuring regional security.

Honoring National Persian Gulf Day, he said that "The Persian Gulf, by this very name, is not a geographical body of water but part of the shared historical and cultural identity of the region."



"Iran believes that the key to achieving mutual security is to build ties based on the neighborliness policy. Iran's moral approach prioritizes its neighbors," Kanaani remarked.

"Iran prepared to finalize nuclear talks"

Kanaani also reiterated Iran's preparedness to conclude discussions on the resuscitation of the 2015 nuclear agreement and the easing of sanctions against

Tehran, but warned Europeans that such a window would not remain open forever.

He emphasized the fact that negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)- the official name for the nuclear deal- have not been conducted in a while does not suggest that diplomatic efforts in this respect have ceased or reached a deadlock.

"The path of diplomacy is still open, and messages are still being exchanged. I would want to highlight that Iran is ready to reach a deal while upholding its red lines," the official continued, warning the European parties that the window of opportunity for discussions would soon close.

Concerning reports that certain European parties are taking steps to

derail the JCPOA talks, Kanaani warned the EU parties that any miscalculation or illogical action will result in a reaction from Iran, which has already sent them a clear message.

"We made efforts to form the relations with the EU on the basis of mutual respect, but the European side unfortunately considered specific subjects and sadly acted as an impeding factor. As regards the JCPOA, the European sides, notably the JCPOA signatories, unfortunately followed the U.S. wrong policy and linked bilateral relations with Iran to the complicated situation resulting from the wrong U.S. policy and obstructed the economic relations," the spokesman underlined.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran successfully tests aircraft engine made by Iranian parts

TEHRAN - On Monday, Iranian industrial specialists tested an airplane engine with great success which was made of domestically-made parts.

In honor of International Workers' Day, President Ebrahim Raisi visited the Iranian energy and infrastructure company MAPNA.

The power component and engine management system of the airplane were put to the test during the visit by the specialists of MAPNA, renowned as the largest Iranian contractor for steam, gas, combined cycle, and renewable power plants.

The reverse engineering process was used by the domestic experts at MAPNA to completely develop and produce the engine and its control system.

The president also went to a display of technical advances in a number of industries, including water industry, oil and gas production, train transportation, aircraft engines, and the production of renewable and thermal energy.



The president also saw the exhibition's high-tech F-class Iranian gas turbine and the domestic MAP 24 locomotive.

Raisi also went to the MAP24 locomotive, a product made by the MAPNA Group's experts.

During his visit, the president emphasized the need of satisfying the country's locomotive needs with a focus on local manufacture, as well as utilizing the capability of this company's locomotive training center.

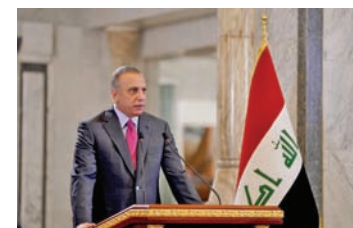
Raisi then toured the electric vehicle drive system, which included buses, passenger cars, and freight vehicles developed and manufactured by MAPNA Group.

Iraqi prosecutor launches probe into alleged role of ex-PM in Gen. Soleimani assassination

TEHRAN- Head of the public prosecution office in Iraq has ordered an investigation into former Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's alleged involvement in the U.S. assassination of Iran's top anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani.

Shafaq News reported that the prosecutor general instructed the Federal Court, which specializes in looking into all crimes, to pursue legal action regarding a complaint brought against al-Kadhimi and notify the office of the results, according to official documents released by the head of the public prosecution's office on April 4 but made public on Sunday.

The court is required to investigate a charge made against al-Kadhimi as a former intelligence chief by Hossein Monis, the leader of "Harakat Huqooq," or the Rights Movement which is the political branch of Iraq's Kataib Hezbollah anti-terror organization.



Al-Kadhimi is accused of "negligence" that resulted in the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), as well as their companions, on January 3, 2020.

He was prime minister of Iraq from May 2020 to October 2022.

In the region, the two anti-terror commanders were praised for their crucial role in battling and destroying the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, especially in Iraq and Syria.

India's top security official meets Iranian counterpart

TEHRAN - Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval visited Tehran on Monday to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart Ali Shamkhani.

Shamkhani and Doval discussed economic, political and security issues concerning the two countries as well as the most important regional and international developments, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

The Indian official visited Iran at the invitation of the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

In the meeting, Shamkhani pointed out the deep-rooted civilizational, historical and cultural commonalities, the will of the leaders of the two countries, as well as the strategic independence of Iran and India as the main platforms for the development of bilateral cooperation.

"The relations between Iran and India are not against any other country and are not affected by the will of third parties. Global and regional developments have created very suitable conditions for strengthening bilateral interactions in the fields of energy,



transportation and transit, technology and banking between Iran and India," Shamkhani stated, according to Nour News.

He added, "Activating the rial-rupee mechanism is a necessary and important action that will play a decisive role in advancing common goals in various economic fields."

Welcoming the promotion of India's role and position in regional and international de-

velopments, Shamkhani said, "We consider New Delhi's active presence in political, economic and security initiatives with the participation of Central Asian and Persian Gulf countries to be necessary and facilitatory."

The top security official of Iran added, "The participation of the two countries to assess and take advantage of the opportunities resulting from regional and global developments, as well as

active cooperation in the Shanghai Organization and the BRICS group, provides the national interests of Iran and India."

He stated, "Decisions taken to remove obstacles to continued cooperation in the Chabahar project can be very effective in changing the current inappropriate situation."

The Indian official also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Raisi underlines cooperation after minister failed to win confidence vote

TEHRAN - President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi underlined the need for cooperation among the branches of the government after Parliament unseated one of his ministers on Sunday.

Speaking at a cabinet session on Sunday evening, Ayatollah Raisi referred to the impeachment of the Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade in the parliament, appreciated the efforts of Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin and his colleagues in the ministry.

Fatemi Amin failed to win the parliamentarians' vote of confidence on Sunday over fluctuations in the car market, among other issues.

Raisi considered the submission of warnings, questioning and impeachment among the powers of the parliament, according to a statement by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Stating that he does not see the performance of the parliament representatives in any way a manifestation of disputes between the branches, Raisi noted, "Today more than ever, the cooperation and solidarity of the branches to solve the issues of the country are essential."



Recalling the anniversary of the "Issuance of the Supreme Leader's Eight-Article Decree to the Heads of Branches to Fight Economic Corruption" in 2001, Ayatollah Raisi considered supervision to be one of the effective management tools in preventing and dealing with corruption, and incompetence.

"In their meetings and correspondence with me, people sometimes express dissatisfaction and complain about the incompetence of some managers, so all officials, especially in the provinces, are expected to have strict and effective control and supervision over the performance of their subordinates in order to see how people's affairs are followed up," he pointed out.

Iran FM appoints new deputy for Caspian Sea affairs

From Page 1 ▶ and met with Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber to discuss ways to strengthen economic cooperation.

In a joint meeting with the visiting Kazakh prime minister, Mokhber said economic cooperation is not commensurate with political cooperation that the two countries currently enjoy.

"In agreement with the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, it was decided to raise the level of relations to 3 billion dollars," Mokhber said, according to IRNA.

He added, "In two meetings

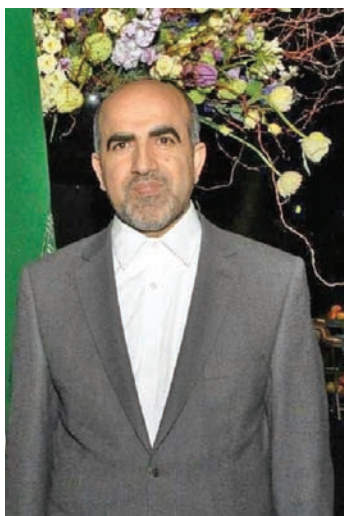
with the presence of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and the accompanying delegation, good decisions were made and it was decided to quickly develop a temporary road map between Iran and Kazakhstan."

The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan thanked Iran for inviting him to visit Tehran. "Now the long negotiations ended with good agreements, the details of which were fully explained by the First Vice-president of Iran."

He noted, "Iran and Kazakhstan have good neighborly and friendly relations. Construc-

tive political dialogues have been established between the two countries and economic and cultural relations are developing."

During a meeting between Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov and Mokhber on the sidelines of the Second Caspian Economic Forum in Moscow in October 2022, the Kazakh side emphasized the importance of improving the level of cooperation between Tehran and Astana in oil swap, as well as industry, agriculture, scientific and cultural sectors.



Raisi due in Damascus on Wednesday

During their two-day trip to Syria, the president and his delegation will consult with the country's top officials about ways to strengthen political relations and improve the level of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries, IRNA said.

In addition, during the trip, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran will attend the joint meeting of Iranian and Syrian businessmen and discuss and exchange ideas with them.

Meeting and talking with Iranians residing in Syria and visiting the holy places of Syria are among the other plans of Raisi's trip to Syria.

Earlier, Iranian Ambassador to Syria Hossein Akbari considered the planned visit of Raisi to Syria as a "turning point" in the region, emphasizing that the trip will have positive effects beyond the region.

Raisi's trip to Damascus on Wednesday is very important due to the changes that are happen-

ing in the region, Akbari told IRNA.

He said the visit can have both regional and extra-regional effects and at the same time help to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries in all areas.

Commenting on the expected achievements of the two-day trip, he said, "This trip will not only be beneficial for Tehran and Damascus, but it is a very good event that other countries in the region can also take advantage of."

He underlined that both Tehran and Damascus have a winning case and have raised their flags, and when the synergy between them is greater, it can increase the power of resistance.

"At the same time, this trip can open a space and chapter of interaction between the countries that oppose the domination system, especially the countries that are in the area of sanctions and have common interests. Other countries can also use it," the ambassador said.



TEHRAN - Iranian President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi will pay a visit to Syria on Wednesday, Iran's official news agency reported.

Raisi will be accompanied by high-level economic and political delegations, IRNA said. The visit is taking place at the invitation of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

IRAN IN FOCUS

MAY 2, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran defeat Kuwait at 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Kuwait 20-0 at the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship on Monday.

Team Melli, who defeated India 17-1 in their first match, will play Kyrgyzstan on Wednesday in Group B. Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the UAE are in Group A.

After a single round-robin in each group, the first two teams from Group A will qualify for the semifinals and the remaining teams need to qualify for the semifinals against the best two teams coming from Group B.

The event started on April 30 in Bangkok, Thailand and will finish on May 8.

Paykan lose to Altay at 2023 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN - Iran's Paykan lost to Altay of Kazakhstan in straight sets (25-15, 25-20, 25-18) at the 2023 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship on Monday.

Paykan had lost to Sport Center of Vietnam 3-2, King Whale Taipei 3-1 and Japanese Hisamitsu Springs 3-0 and defeated Mongolia's Khuvsigul Erchim 3-0 in their previous matches.

The Iranian side will play Hong Kong's Hip Hing on Tuesday in the 5th-9th places round.

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 (VfV).

The tournament takes place in Vn Phuc, Vietnam, from April 25 to May 2.

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

Iran's Hazfi Cup semifinals draw confirmed

TEHRAN - The 2022/23 Hazfi Cup semifinals draw has been confirmed.

Esteghlal will host holders Nassaji in Tehran, while Persepolis and Havadar lock horn in the capital.

The semifinals round will be held on May 24 and 25.

Hazfi Cup is the Iranian football knockout cup competition, run by the Iranian Football Federation.

Esteghlal are the most successful club with seven titles, followed by Persepolis with six titles.

Iran U23 football still undecided on new coach

TEHRAN - Iran U23 football team are still without a coach as time runs out.

The football federation of Iran and the country's Olympic Committee have not reached an agreement on choosing a new head coach for the U23 team.

Media reports suggest that Iran head coach Amir Ghalenoei is interested in appointing Paykan coach Mojtaba Hosseini but U23 team director Habib Kashani aims to name Zob Ahan coach Mehdi Tartar as head coach.

Mehdi Mahdavia resigned from his post as head coach of the U23 team in October 2022 and the team are without a coach with four months remaining until the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification.

The competition will be held from Sept. 4 to 12 in Qatar.

The 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup will act as the AFC qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics men's football tournament.

Karkhaneh appointed head of Iran national teams committee

TEHRAN - Mostafa Karkhaneh has been named as head of Iran's national teams committee.

The former head coach of Iran volleyball team was appointed by head of Iran volleyball federation Mohammad Reza Davarzani.

Iranian national teams have a busy year ahead since they will have to participate in the Asian and world events.

Karkhaneh is also technical advisor of Iran national volleyball team.

Taremi keeps Porto in title race

TEHRAN - Porto football team kept its Primeira Liga title hopes alive after beating Boavista 1-0 at Estádio do Dragão Sunday night.

Porto created several chances in the first half but their strikers lacked cutting edge.

Mehdi Taremi broke the deadlock before the hour mark.

Sergio Conceicao's team were reduced to 10-man after Iván Marcano was shown a red card in the 66th minute.

Porto remain second with 73 points, four points behind leaders Benfica.

Olympic champ Ghasemi now UWW Educator

TEHRAN - Komeil Ghasemi, an Olympic champion in 2012 and silver medalist from Rio 2016, expanded his career horizons by pursuing a United World Wrestling (UWW) educator certification.

In Cambodia's Southeast Asian Championships last year, Ghasemi took his first step by appearing for the certification test, uww.org reported.

As the coach of Cambodia's national team for two years, Ghasemi sought to enhance his skills and knowledge. After acing the Level 1 Coaching, Training, and Introduction to Refereeing course, conducted by Olympic Solidarity in collaboration with UWW, Ghasemi was invited to the Coaches Course in Thailand in March.

"I am thrilled to share my experience and my expertise with all the participants," said Ghasemi in December. "UWW remains committed to its affiliated members and is always concerned for their development and is committed to working with all the partners concerned towards this objective of sustainable development while keeping the course of the 2022-2026 strategy."

Hailing from the wrestling hotbed of Juybar, Iran, Ghasemi has achieved several accolades in his career. He won two gold medals at the U20 Asian Championships and bronze medals at the U20 World Championships. Ghasemi's notable achievements also include a world silver medal in addition to his two Olympic medals, making him the most successful Iranian heavyweight wrestler.

After retiring in 2019, Ghasemi transitioned to coaching and joined the Cambodian wrestling team. His expertise bore fruit at the Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship held in 2021, where Cambodian wrestlers achieved their most significant tournament success since joining a few years ago, earning a total of 19 medals, including three golds, three silvers, and 13 bronzes, under Ghasemi's coaching.

Mehdi Taj to attend 8th CAFA Congress

TEHRAN - Head of Iran football federation Mehdi Taj will participate at the 8th Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) Congress.

The Congress will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Tuesday.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino and AFC president Shaikh Salman will also participate in the congress.

CAFA consists of six national association members, namely Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

*The Story of
Seven Countries:
A Review of US
Aggression in
West Asia and
North Africa*

Both Killer

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN - In the 21st century, the U.S. learnt the hard way of its catastrophic foreign military policy in West Asia: From boots on the ground to so-called precision strikes.

Washington's success in destabilizing a continent with terror and destruction over two decades came at the expense of mass civilian casualties, dead U.S. soldiers, expensive price tags for American taxpayers to pick up and embarrassing defeats.

The U.S. began its West Asia war campaign in 2001 with soldiers on the ground, along the figures of hundreds of thousands in Iraq and Afghanistan. But as casualties among American service members rose significantly, the wars became deeply unpopular at home. Yet Washington had to pursue them to expand its hegemony. In order to accomplish that it resorted to what the Pentagon defines as precision strikes from the skies with warplanes and much more increasingly, armed drones.

The U.S. says it uses precision strikes with pinpoint accuracy. Rights groups have slammed such accuracy that has slaughtered so many civilians.

The Western media have played the role of the Pentagon's propaganda machine by beating the drums of war to the American public. Footage of soldiers setting out tried to project a sense of necessity and sympathy among the American public, many of whom unaware that these military missions were illegal.

Mainstream Western media also played a sinister role by, for example, only publishing videos of U.S. missile salvos being fired but failed to display any footage of where those missiles landed. Has there ever been any footage of the moments before U.S. missiles drop on their screaming victims? Or several days later when women and children are being pulled out of the rubble?

The goal of Washington's military adventurism in West Asia, apart from serving the industrial military complex, was to serve its number one proxy, Israel, in the region. Serving Tel Aviv's interests came at a time when the region grew in power and the U.S. sought to undermine West Asia's influence by bringing instability, violence and terror as well as sowing division. Among the countries subject to the U.S.'s so-called "war on terror" in West Asia and its bordering regions are the following.

From Page 1 ▶ The Vietnam War was another major failure and crime of the US military after World War II. The war began in the 1950s as a response to communist insurgency in South Vietnam, and escalated into a full-scale conflict that lasted until 1975. The war resulted in the deaths of over three million Vietnamese, including many civilians, as well as tens of thousands of Americans. The US military was unable to achieve its goal of defeating the communist forces and establishing a democratic government in South Vietnam, and instead left behind a devastated country that struggled with poverty, corruption, and political instability.

US military intervention in Iraq after the 2003 invasion is another example of failure and crime. The invasion was launched under the pretext of removing Saddam Hussein's regime and promoting democracy in the country. However, the war quickly turned into a protracted conflict that lasted for over a decade and resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, as well as thou-

sands of American soldiers. America's presence in Iraq became one of the main reasons for the emergence of ISIS. Americans cooperated with ISIS terrorists at different times. The assassination of Gen. Soleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis in January 2020 is another American crime in Iraq.

US military intervention in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks is yet another example of failure and crime. The war began in 2001, with the stated goal of defeating the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and bringing stability to the country. However, two decades later, Afghanistan remains one of the most unstable and violent countries in the world, with ongoing conflict between various other armed groups. The heavy shadow of the American army's scandalously escape from Afghanistan still weighs on the country's foreign policy, and no one is willing to accept responsibility for this failure.

In addition to these failures, the US military has also been involved in a

number of crimes after World War II. These include the use of torture and other forms of abuse against prisoners, as well as the killing of civilians in drone strikes and other military operations. The US has also been accused of supporting authoritarian regimes and human rights abuses in authoritarian countries.

Overall, the US military has been both a killer and a loser after World War II, leaving behind a legacy of failure, instability, and human suffering. While war and aggression are carried out with lofty claims such as fighting terrorism, developing democracy and human rights, the truth is that all of them have resulted in failure, violence and human rights violations.

America is declining in all areas and the world is building a new order. It seems unlikely that the American government will voluntarily stop aggression, but the realities and the new world order will impose its conditions on this aggressor country.



In August 2021, ten members of a family, including seven children, were killed in an American drone attack in Kabul

Defeated by men with flip-flops

Following the 9/11 attacks, the then Bush administration assumed the mastermind was Bin Laden, the leader al-Qaeda, and that the terror group was hiding in Afghanistan.

The U.S. proceeded to quickly invade the country a month later in October 2001 with the goal of toppling the ruling Taliban.

Major questions have since been asked. Was it domination of emotion over rationale? Is there any rationale among foreign policy makers in Washington?

The quagmire of all quagmires. The longest war in American history, 20 years and four U.S. Presidents. Later in August 2021, the White House decided enough was enough.

The most "sophisticated, advanced military and weapons" were unable to defeat men with flip-flops, loose turbans, and trousers armed with Kalashnikovs and RPGs.

The so-called evacuation and the scenes that came with it were an embarrassment for the Biden administration.

20-years of U.S. occupation saw at least 70,000 U.S. trained Afghan security forces killed. Hundreds of thousands of civilians killed by the U.S. and terrorism. A million others injured with some think tanks saying that's an undercount. And perhaps not a market in Kabul that wasn't blown up to pieces.

Ultimately the U.S. trained Afghan army collapsed and so did Kabul to the Taliban who took power again.

At least 2,440 U.S. troops killed, another 21,000 injured. No goal achieved, no mission accomplished, only 20 years of terror for

Afghan civilians.

The cost of the war and occupation of the country for American taxpayers varies. The Costs of War project at Brown University puts it at \$2.3 trillion, which doesn't include the shambolic evacuation. An estimation by Forbes summed it up at \$300 million dollars per day for two decades. And the same Taliban restrictions are slowly creeping back again.

There is also humanitarian crisis now, mainly because the U.S. has seized upwards of \$7 billion dollars of Afghan assets.

A sea of blood for oil barrels

The Bush administration used fake intelligence at the UN, claiming Iraq had hidden weapons of mass destruction. And proceeded to invade with the infamous shock and awe bombardment, lighting up the Baghdad skyline in March 2003.

The anti-U.S. resistance factions grew as the months and years stretched on. Nobody wanted Saddam, but none of the locals wanted U.S. tanks on their streets either. Iraq had been on the receiving end of harsh U.S. sanctions before Saddam was toppled and that brought extreme hardship for the Iraqis.

Some officials later said the U.S. war on Iraq was about oil. In 2007 Alan Greenspan wrote "I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what

everyone knows: The Iraq war is largely about oil."

Different organizations have concluded that as many as 1.2 million Iraqis died as a consequence of the invasion, which saw the rise of al-Qaeda in Iraq. The terror group had no presence there before the invasion.

Terrorist bombings became the norm and occur to this day despite a significant decrease. At times, during the U.S. occupation, explosions were killing hundreds of civilians.

While U.S. troops awaited flowers from the locals, they were waiting for the U.S. military with armed resistance. The deeply unpopular war on Iraq had bitter consequences for the U.S. military.

4,491 U.S. soldiers died. Around 1,000 U.S. contractors and another 32,000 soldiers sustained injuries.

Data shows hundreds of thousands of soldiers suffered from mental issues, including traumatic brain injuries in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The war also came with another massive price tag for American taxpayers. Academics differ on the exact price as many hidden costs, not represented by official estimates, are accounted for. In early 2008, before U.S. forces were forced to withdraw, Harvard University put the Iraq invasion at \$3 trillion.

The U.S. was humiliated by the Iraqi resistance and kicked out of the country in 2011.

The U.S. returned to Iraq in 2014 under the pretext of fighting Daesh which critics say Washington has helped flourish. It continues to violate the country's sovereignty today, despite a parliamentary bill calling for the expulsion of its forces

following the assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and the deputy leader of the Popular Mobilization Units Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in Baghdad.

This time, during the era of Daesh, the U.S. declined to use foot soldiers. Being aware of the consequences, it relied on its air force, which carpet bombed regions, killing tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians. The drone footage of the U.S. bombing in Mosul in 2017 shows entire residential neighborhoods flattened to the ground.

Nevertheless, Iraq's foreign currency reserves from oil exports are based at the U.S. Federal Reserve, giving the Americans significant control over Baghdad's supply of dollars.

In essence, the country has yet to become fully sovereign, until it controls its own funds and the occupation ends.



The torture of Iraqis in Abu Ghraib prison is one of the dark pages of the US case in the invasion of Iraq

Bombs and famine

Financially, the U.S. has massively benefited from its role in the war on Yemen. Its role was to support a Saudi-led coalition to crush a popular revolution.

Washington has sold Saudi Arabia and the UAE weapons to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars to use in Yemen. It also provided Saudi Arabia with training, refueling of fighter jets, and intelligence on where to strike in

Yemen.

Those airstrikes together with the blockade for eight years since 2015, have killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, along with causing the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

As ongoing truce talks between Yemeni officials and Saudi Arabia look promising and may likely achieve tangible results, the U.S. goal of preventing Yemen from being a sovereign nation has failed.



A malnourished Yemeni child lies on a hospital bed in the Hajjah province



and Loser



An oil field in northeastern Syria-US' oil stealing has led to losses to the Syrian government of up to \$107.1 billion

Thieves in uniform

The U.S. military interference in Syria in August 2014 also comes under the pretext of fighting Daesh, despite no invitation from Damascus.

The U.S. supported, armed and funded groups that Washington labeled as "rebels" wanting to topple the government.

Unfortunately for the U.S., gruesome videos of the same "rebels" would soon surface and go viral on social media, such as members of the U.S. trained militants cutting out civilian chests and eating their hearts with their decapitated heads laying on their bodies. This is

while Western reporters could not enter the areas where the U.S. was supporting militants as they would be decapitated as well.

The Pentagon gave a huge boost in helping terrorist groups prosper in Syria.

Again, the U.S. used its air force to carpet bomb entire cities like Raqqa. According to monitoring groups such as Airwars, tens of thousands of civilians were killed as a result. Other organizations have put the civilian death toll from the U.S. interference in Iraq and Syria at a much higher level, many of them women and children.

The U.S. bombed Iraq and Syria under the pretext of fighting Daesh

at least 40,000 times. Where did these tens of thousands of bombs land and who they killed is under heavy scrutiny.

Syria has yet to rebuild its infrastructure or restore vital services for its nationals. The main reason behind this is the ongoing, illegal U.S. occupation of Syria's eastern oil-rich border with Iraq, where there is an estimated 1,000 – 2,000 troops in heavily fortified bases. The presence of the U.S. forces on both parts of the Syria-Iraq border has a very dark element. Critics say their deployment is aimed at undermining the two countries' progress while bringing regional insecurity.

Damascus estimates the U.S. military has plundered upwards of \$12 billion of the country's oil reserves to pay for its own illegal presence in the country. These are vital funds that can go a long way to helping the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Dozens of U.S. soldiers and contractors have been killed in Iraq and Syria during the U.S. occupation of both countries since 2014.

The war on Syria also saw a refugee crisis in the West, the same region that declared it stood by the Syrian people banned them from entering their territory as refugees.

Divide and conquer

The U.S.-led NATO interference in March 2011 was publicly declared as aimed at toppling long-time ruler Muammar al-Gaddafi and came in the form of divide and conquer.

This has worked as Libya has

witnessed several different governments controlling different regions competing for the right to kill everybody else, amid regular heavy clashes among the warring sides.

NATO resorted to airstrikes in Libya once more, but the result of

the interference has been a bloodbath. Death toll figures are difficult to gain as the nation has been divided for so long with different authorities in charge of the East and West.

Adding to the misery of Libyans is that the country, just like every-

where else the U.S. intervened, has seen the terror of Daesh, which had no presence in Libya before the U.S.-led NATO interference.

Libyans have been fighting terrorists without the backing of NATO, which caused the destruction of the country.



Smoke rises from explosions as NATO airstrikes hit Tripoli-June 2011



Pakistanis protest against US drone strikes in on Oct. 31, 2014.

Iron birds carrying death

Since 2004 the U.S. has attacked thousands of targets in northwest Pakistan, using drones operated by the U.S. Air Force under the operational control of the CIA's Special Activities Division. The lethal operations have been dubbed "the drone war".

Washington alleges to be targeting terrorists from the skies, but again civilians have borne the brunt of the so-called precision strikes. The massacre of civilian families has led to the radicaliza-

tion of Pakistanis to join terrorist groups.

It's not easy to get precise civilian death toll figures from this warzone. Monitoring groups say the region being bombarded by the U.S. has a civilian death toll that is underestimated mainly due to lack of transparency on the U.S. side for the number of attacks it commits, let alone the civilians it kills. Also, countries at war with the U.S. as well as terrorism lack the advanced resources to keep track of the casualties or identify the real terrorists from the civilians.

For example, from 2004 to 2018, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism reported that there were at least 430 confirmed U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan. These attacks from the skies reportedly killed between 2,515 and 4,026 people. 424 to 969 of those individuals were civilians and to make matters worse, 172 to 207 of those civilians were children.

But these are rural areas with little to no services so how can the international community be sure that more civilians were not killed, in the absence of an international

inquiry into precisely what has been occurring.

Perhaps more importantly is that when an evaluation is made on the significance of the drone war, studies find it has had no impact on the militants in Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan who continue to kill scores of civilians on a regular basis.

It can be safely concluded that the U.S. drone war, apart from radicalizing sections of the Pakistani population, has been nothing short of an absolute failure.

Iceberg in the Horn of Africa

Referred to by many as the "Hidden U.S. War in Somalia", the latest round of intervention began in 2007. The case of Somalia receives little media attention but is one of the biggest causes of regional instability.

U.S. senators have said nearly 1,000 U.S. troops are currently deployed in Somalia. But the White House failed to disclose the actual number in an unclassified portion of the report it submitted to Congress in March.

The U.S. claims to be helping local authorities to counter the al-Qaeda linked Al Shabaab terrorist group, but most studies suggest it is doing the opposite.

The U.S. air force has taken the leading role in the attacks, waging hundreds if not thousands of airstrikes claiming to target Al-Shabaab.

Yet there hasn't been a shred of evidence from the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) that those killed on the ground were actually Al-

Shabaab militants.

On the contrary, international NGO's have documented a countless number of cases where the airstrikes have killed civilians.

AFRICOM has a pattern in Somalia where it is presented with evidence that civilians are being killed in the same cases which the U.S. military claims militants have died but AFRICOM declines to provide a response.

There is zero accountability for Washington's actions in Somalia as civilian casualties continue to mount.

Women, girls and the elderly are among the many killed by these secret attacks. In one case seven members of the same family were killed, including a new born baby. With no probes, the exact number of civilians killed is unknown.

The rising civilian death toll resulted in the radicalization of Somalians with more joining Al-Shabaab than before the U.S. interference began, meaning terrorism is spreading and becoming more powerful as a direct result of these

secret U.S. airstrikes.

On Thursday the U.S. House of Representatives voted against a resolution that would have forced President Biden to withdraw all U.S. troops from the African nation.

The Costs of War project found Washington has spent more than \$2.5 billion in Somalia since 2007.

The project says the figure is "just the tip of the iceberg" and that "sixteen years after Al-Shabaab's emergence, the group is still on the rise."

It added that "U.S. efforts are not merely exacerbating Somalia's insecurity, but actively impeding stability and conflict resolution, the U.S. portrays itself as an external actor with a supportive role in helping Somalia in conflict resolution efforts. But U.S. policy makes conflict inevitable."

It's safe to say that the U.S. has violated international humanitarian law in Somalia.

"The evidence is stacking up and it's pretty damning. Not only does AFRICOM utterly fail at its mis-

sion to report civilian casualties in Somalia, but it doesn't seem to care about the fate of the numerous families it has completely torn apart," Amnesty International said.

"AFRICOM thinks it can simply smear its civilian victims as 'terrorists,' no questions asked," it added.

A report by the Costs of War project at Brown University revealed that 20 years of post-9/11 wars in West Asia have cost the American taxpayers an estimated \$8 trillion.

A tiny fraction of that could have helped the refugee crisis where Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Libyans and others drowned after climbing onto flimsy boats with their frightened children to flee U.S. wars waged on their countries. Many of whom had never seen the sea before and never saw land again.

Experts agree the human costs go much deeper with long-term consequences, which may come back to haunt Washington as many seek revenge for the death of their families and loved ones.



A U.S. airman from a downed Black Hawk is seized and killed in Mogadishu's main square, October 1993

Mission accomplished?

If the U.S. terms a mission accomplished as a staggering civilian death toll, wide-scale damage to residential infrastructure, the significant increase in terrorism, prolonging wars, plundering other nations oil or devastating countries hopes of aspirations instead of bringing democracy, prosperity, freedom and human rights, et. then it has accomplished that mission.

But evidence of the U.S. military unable to defeat the will of the people's resistance on the battlefield suggests no matter how advanced Washington's weapons may be, it has been defeated on the ground and cannot win a war.

Tehran hosting 14th Iran Petrochemical Forum

from page 1 ► Morteza Shahmirzaei has expressed hope that IPF can pave the way to achieve all strategic petrochemical products in the world.

As reported, 15 countries, including the members of the BRICS countries (five leading economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) as well as some European countries, are participating in IPF, which is a famous scientific conference in the world, and the latest products and achievements of the petrochemical industry are being presented



and introduced in the two-day event.

Four workshops and an exhibition are also held on the sidelines of the event.

Monthly non-oil trade surpasses \$6.7b



TEHRAN- The value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$6.732 billion in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The country exported 10.471 million tons of non-oil products worth \$3.645 billion in the mentioned month, showing a 12.93 percent fall in value, and a 17.76 percent rise in weight, as compared to the first month of the previous year.

Liquefied natural gas, liquefied propane, liquefied butane, iron and steel ingots, and methanol were the major exported items, and China, Iraq, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India were the top export destinations of Iranian non-oil products in the first month.

Iran imported 1.829 million tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$3.087 billion in the first month of this year, with a 13 percent drop in value, and a 24.79 percent fall in weight.

Corn as livestock food, soybeans, rice, mobile phones, and parts for car manufacturing were the main imported items, and the UAE, China, Turkey, Germany, and India were the major

sources of import.

As announced by the spokesman of the Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the value of Iran's non-oil export rose 10 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

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

China with the purchase of \$14.584 billion of commodities (no change), Iraq with \$10.238 billion (15 percent growth), Turkey with \$7.459 billion (23 percent growth), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$5.767 billion (28 percent growth), and India with \$2.146 billion (18 percent growth) were the first five export destinations of Iranian goods in 1401, the official stated.

Latifi further 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.

The UAE with sales of \$18.395 billion (11 percent growth), China with \$15.744 billion (24 percent growth), Turkey with \$6.99 billion (15 percent growth), India with \$2.019 billion (80 percent growth), and Germany with \$2.019 billion (five percent growth), were the first five countries supplying goods to Iran in 1401, he stated.

The official 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.

TEDPIX gains 1,200 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 1,299 points to 2.48 million on Monday.

As reported, over 22.352 billion securities worth 160.192 trillion rials (about \$381.4 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).

A capital market expert stated that directing liquidity towards the capital market will be one of the best solutions to materialize this year's slogan and control liquidity and reduce inflation, and said strengthening the capital market to finance companies will greatly boost production.

The current Iranian calendar year 1402 (began on March 21) is named "Inflation Control, Production Growth".

While emphasizing the potential of the capital market to realize this year's slogan, Mohsen Abbaslou said: "The year 1402 has been named by the Leader as the year of Inflation Control, Production Growth and without a doubt, directing liquidity towards the capital market is one of the best ways to control liquidity and reduce inflation."

In addition, the strengthening of the capital market will also help the financing of companies and facilitating the financing of manufacturing companies will itself lead to the prosperity of production because the capital market is the only market that will not cause inflation when liquidity enters it; while, the entrance of liquidity into the commodity, currency, car and housing markets leads to the escalation of inflation, the expert said, adding, "Of course, directing



liquidity to the capital market and controlling this liquidity will depend on strengthening investors' trust in this market and stability in rules and regulations and decisions".

According to Abbaslou, the capital market is a transparent market and the capacities of this market can be used to increase transparency in other areas as well. The most appropriate way to eliminate rent-seeking, brokerage, and corruption, and increase transparency in the markets is to use the capacities of the commodity exchange.

Meanwhile, the secretary general of Iran's Securities Exchange Brokers Association (SEBA) said that the government and Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) worked well to make changes in the stock market during the past Iranian calendar year 1401.

Mohammad-Reza Dehqani Ahmad-Abad added that these measures can bring good returns in the first half of 1402, but measures must be taken to remove the concerns from the stock market in the long term.

In an interview conducted by IRNA, Dehqani offered a solution to improve the situation of the stock market in 1402 and said: "If the shareholders can be assured that there will be no interference in the market mechanism, then we can hope for the improvement of the market situation."

'Reducing installed capacity-actual production gap planned in petchem industry'

TEHRAN- The managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said: "This year, we plan to reduce the gap between the installed capacity and the actual production of the petrochemical industry."

Making the remarks in the inaugural ceremony of the 14th Iran Petrochemical Forum (IPF) at the IRIB International Conference Center (IICC) in Tehran on Monday, Morteza Shahmirzaei underlined, "The petrochemical industry has now reached more than 80 percent self-sufficiency in goods and equipment, and today we are pioneer in many sectors."

Emphasizing the necessity of moving towards avoiding the sales of raw materials and creating more added value, the official said that currently, more than 550 types of chemical and polymer products are produced in Iran's petrochemical industry, and by the end of this government, dependence on catalysts and chemicals will be stopped.



The NPC managing director further pointed out that the petrochemical industry has shined in bringing foreign currency to the country and emphasized: "This year, we plan to reduce the gap between the installed capacity and the actual production of the petrochemical industry so that the strategy of the Leader, which has been assigned to us, will be realized. With the actions that the management of the downstream industries of the National Petrochemical Company has on the agenda, the increase in prices

and inflation will be prevented and the first step of the slogan of the year, which is to curb inflation, will be realized."

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.

As announced by the NPC managing director, 10 new petrochemical complexes are planned to be inaugurated and start production this year through

them the country's petrochemical production capacity, which is over 92 million tons at present, will surpass 95 million tons per annum.

Referring to the slogan of the current year, Shahmirzaei underlined that the NPC is one of the main addresses of this motto.

As previously stated by the official, currently, the petrochemical sector has the highest added value in the oil industry chain.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to the NPC's managing director, the petrochemical industry is a value and job-creating industry, which has no risk.

This industry is the driving force for other industries, Shahmirzaei has stressed.

Iran's annual export to Kazakhstan increases 27%

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export to Kazakhstan increased by 27 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Iran exported commodities worth \$210 million to Kazakhstan, and imported goods valued at \$318 million from the country in the previous year.

The value of Iran-Kazakhstan annual trade also rose 20 percent in the past year.

Last week, during a meeting between Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie and Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Trade and Integration Kairat Torebayev, the two sides discussed the ways for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

In the meeting held at the place of ICCIMA, Shafeie emphasized the special position of Kazakhstan as a trade partner for Iran and said the presence of the two countries in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) pacts has opened new doors for the development of economic relations, and the private sectors of the two countries should take advantage of this opportunity.

Emphasizing that paying attention to rail, road and sea transportation infrastructure should be a priority of the two countries, the ICCIMA head stated: "The most important problem in the way of improving the level of trade cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan is the issue of transportation. Solving this issue requires the will of the authorities of the two countries. The future of transit between the two countries can be bright due to Kazakhstan's connection to China and Iran's access to the open waters of Southeast Asia, provided that the infrastructure for exploiting this opportunity is available."

The Kazakh official for his part emphasized that his country is seeking to improve business relations with Iran as much as possible and said: "Iran is our main way to communicate with Turkey and West Asia. So far, we have had 20 million dollars in financial transactions, and the aim of these meetings is to increase this amount to 60 million dollars."

"Our economies have a good overlap. We are looking for further development of relations between the two countries, especially in the field of vegetables, fruits and fisheries", he added.

Back in last November, Iran and Kazakhstan inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the expansion of cooperation in the agriculture and trade fields as well as industries, logistics, transportation and technology transfer in Tehran.

The MOU was signed by Javad Sadati-Nejad, the Iranian agriculture minister, and Zhumangarin Serik, the deputy prime minister and minister of trade and integration of Kazakhstan, who visited Tehran on top of a Kazakh delegation.

As reported, the effort of the two countries in order to increase the value of bilateral trade to about one billion dollars, based on the agreements of the presidents of the two countries, is considered in the MOU.

During a meeting between Kazakhstan Prime Minister Alikhan Ashanuly Smaylov and Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber on the sidelines of the Second Caspian Economic Forum in Moscow in October 2022, the Kazakh side emphasized the importance of improving the level of cooperation between Tehran and Astana in the oil swap, as well as industry, agriculture, scientific and cultural sectors.

Mokhber, for his part, said that the level of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan can quickly reach three billion dollars, considering



the existing capacities of the two countries.

The Kazakh prime minister welcomed the proposal of Iran's first vice president and stated that the necessary fields and capacities of the two countries are ready to raise the level of trade exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan and reach three billion dollars a year.

Mokhber then announced Iran's readiness to send mining companies to Kazakhstan and added: "Tehran is ready to cooperate with Astana in port, dam construction, hydropower plant construction, knowledge-based and technical and engineering services."

Also, during an Iran-Kazakhstan business forum hosted by the ICCIMA in Tehran in mid-October last year, the two sides stressed the need for removing visa issuance and transportation obstacles, to realize a \$6 billion annual trade target.

The business forum was attended by senior officials from both sides including Shafeie, Torebayev, Kazakh Ambassador to Tehran Askhat Orazbay, and ICCIMA Deputy Head Mohammadreza Karbasi, as well as the head of Iranian chambers of commerce and businessmen from the two sides.

The members of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and the Agriculture Ministry were also present at the event.

Annual aluminum ingot production stands at over 630,000 tons

TEHRAN - Production of aluminum ingot stood at 632,166 tons in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Among the country's four major producers, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) had the best performance in the past year, producing 270,185 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) producing 178,077 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 147,749 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 36,155 tons of the product.

According to the data previously released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 20 percent in Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to the preceding year.

The IMIDRO's data put the annual production of aluminum ingot at 538,633 tons in 1400, while the figure was 446,836 tons in 1399, and 278,318 tons in 1398.

Among the country's four major producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance in 1400, producing



177,058 tons of aluminum ingots, although the figure was 185,000 tons in the preceding year.

South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) produced 173,594 tons, production by Almahdi Aluminum Company stood at 150,738 tons,

and Iran Alumina Company produced 37,243 tons of aluminum ingots in the mentioned year, the IMIDRO's data indicated.

Iranian officials estimate the country's aluminum sector has a value of \$22 billion, which is sufficient to meet the country's aluminum needs.

At present, Iran is the 18th biggest aluminum-producing country in the world.

The country plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

TEHRAN- Iranian banking system has paid 44.485 quadrillion rials (about \$105.916 billion) of facilities in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), registering a 45.3-percent rise from the figure in 1400,

which was 13.863 quadrillion rials (about \$33.007 billion), the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

As reported, of the total facilities, 37.626 quadrillion rials (about \$89.585 billion)

equivalent to 84.6 percent, was paid to the business owners (real and legal), and 6.859 quadrillion rials (about \$16.330 billion) equivalent to 15.4 percent, to the final consumers (households).

Families with four children and above rise 15%

From page 1 ► Some 14 policies to support childbearing and the family were announced by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in [the Iranian calendar year] 1389 (March 2014-March 2015) when he stressed that social, cultural, and economic development should be done in accordance with these general policies to support families.

All organizations are obliged to prepare plans within the framework of the population growth policy.

The policies address the need to increase the population and its various dimensions of it, including childbearing, facilitating marriage and



strengthening the family, reproductive health, promoting the Iranian-Islamic lifestyle, empowering young people, honoring the elderly, and the environment, which can lead to an increase in the quantity and quality of the population if it is timely and continuous implemented.

President Ebrahim Raisi has urged all responsible bodies and organizations to adopt national policies in line with the goal of population growth.

All the institutions and organizations of the country are obliged to prepare their plans and programs within

the framework of the population growth policy and follow up on their implementation seriously, he said, IRIB reported.

He referred to "population" as one of the important and key points in the 7th national development plan (2021-2026).

The president considered promoting the culture of marriage and reducing divorce and helping to solve the problem of infertility as some of the effective factors in increasing the population, which should be the priority of attention and action of all institutions.

Multiple births are much more com-

mon today than they were in the past. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the twin birth rate has increased by over 75 percent since 1980, and triplet, quadruplet, and high-order multiple births have increased at an even higher rate.

There are more multiple births today, partly because more women are receiving infertility treatment, which carries a risk of multiple pregnancies.

However, since the first publication in 1998 of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine's (ASRM's) Guidelines on the Number of Embryos Transferred, the number of treatment-related pregnancies with triplets or more has decreased dramatically.

Also, more women are waiting until later in life to attempt pregnancy, and older women are more likely than younger women to get pregnant with multiples, especially with fertility treatment.

Although notable medical advances have improved the outcomes of multiple births, multiple births still are associated with significant medical risks and complications for the mother and children.

Department of Environment, Foreign Ministry meet on SDS conference



TEHRAN - Department of Environment chief Ali Salajeqeh met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Monday, discussing ways to cooperate on holding an international conference that is due to be held in September on sand and dust storms.

In February, Salajeqeh said that based on the successful experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of combating sand and dust storms, the United Nations introduced Iran as the host of the international conference on combating sand and dust storms, IRIB reported.

Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and this meeting will be held in Tehran with the presence of the environment ministers of the world countries, Salajeqeh said.

In the field of diplomacy, the Department of Environment has held meetings with neighboring countries to the extent that Egypt has also announced its readiness to attend the Tehran meeting, he highlighted.

He pointed out that a delegation from Iran will travel to Iraq in the near future to discuss the issue of sand and dust storms in order to make decisions to deal with the problem.

On April 26, Salajeqeh said the Department of Environment will hold five international meetings in the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21.

"At least five international meetings will be held this year, one of which is the conference on combating sand and dust storms," he added, IRNA reported.

One of the approvals of the regional meeting of environment ministers, which was held in Iran last summer,

was the establishment of a regional dust organization, he highlighted.

"Environmental diplomacy is the main priority for the country's political diplomacy, so holding the conference on combating sand and dust storms is important for us."

So far, 11 meetings of the national headquarters for policymaking and controlling dust storms have been held and the results of these meetings should be evaluated and made public, he stressed.

In July 2022, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of "Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future."

Addressing the opening ceremony, President Ebrahim Raisi emphasized that the preservation of the environment is essential and an inevitable priority.

Raisi had earlier obliged the Department of Environment to diligently pursue the solution of sand and dust storms through diplomacy and international forums, as well as interaction with neighboring countries.

"Conservation of the ecosystem and environment, which is a global concern, especially for countries of the region, is an inevitable priority today. If the environment is not safe and peaceful for people, the development will not be in its proper place and it will even become a threat to human health," Raisi stated.

The SDS phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces.

According to studies, eight large sand and dust storm hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries are affecting Iran.

Regional maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq,

Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively.

According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

In July 2022, Tehran hosted officials from 11 countries, aiming to resolve environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

To deal with sand and dust storms, positive measures have been taken inside the country.

A ten-year plan has been prepared to curb internal sources of sand and dust storms.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

In recent years, about €370 million has been spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve.

Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), said in June 2022 that Iran is really at the forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

SOCIETY

MAY 2, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Women heads of household get medical treatment allowances

TEHRAN - Some 30,000 women heads of household have received allowances for medical treatment, an official with the Welfare Organization has said.

"Medical treatment allowances have been paid to 6,000 female heads of household by benevolent people and to 23,500 heads of household from government funds," IRNA quoted Narges-Khatoun As'adi-Khalili as saying.

She went on to say that a plan has been implemented with the aim of paying allowances for physical and mental health treatment.

A screening plan for women heads of household is generally implemented routinely by provincial departments, she noted.

Usually, the allowances are paid to families with disabled children or spouses, as well as to people with special and incurable diseases.

The Statistical Center of Iran has said out of twenty-two million families in Iran, over three million are women-headed households and most of them are in less-developed areas. The government has prioritized such families for targeting socio-economic support.

The National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs has approved six plans to support families and empower women and improve their status in society.

The formation of a loan guarantee fund for women heads of households was one of the plans of the National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs.

Due to the fact that many female breadwinners could not use business loans due to the lack of a guarantor, the fund was established to help them.

The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has released a report on the achievements of women after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in 7 areas of "education", "health", "employment and entrepreneurship", "media", "sports", "decision-making", and "environment, climate, and crises".

In the field of employment and entrepreneurship, 4,200 rural women's credit funds have been operating. Also, 2,390 women work as members of the board of directors of knowledge-based companies.



In May 2022, Mohammad Nasir, the deputy head of the Welfare Organization, said a total budget of 13 trillion rials (nearly \$32 million) has been earmarked to empower women heads of households.

In the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022), 2,000 female-headed households achieved full empowerment and independence, IRIB quoted Nasir as saying.

Out of twenty-two million families in Iran, over three million are women-headed households.

Empowerment of female breadwinners includes providing the basis for a healthy and lasting marriage, sustainable employment, socio-cultural empowerment, family, and economic independence, the official highlighted.

The budget bill for the past Iranian calendar year (March 2022-March 2023), increased the budget of the Welfare Organization by three folds, he said, adding that nearly 10 trillion rials (about \$20 million) will be allocated to female heads of household.

WORLD RAMSAR SITES

Among these plants, three species are listed in the 2nd level of national protected wild plants, including *Ceratopteris thalictroides*, *Netumbo nucifera*, *Trapa incisa*.

Noteworthy fauna

The animals in this site are divided into terrestrial animal group, amphibious animal group, hygrophilous animal group and aquatic animal group based on their habitats.

According to survey data, in this reserve there are 73 species of benthic animal belonging to 3 phyla, 5 classes, 12 orders and 29 families; 55 species of fishes belonging to 6 orders and 13 families; 10 species of amphibians belonging to 1 order, 4 families and 4 genera; 28 species of reptiles belonging to 2 orders, 8 families and 22 genera; 153 species of birds belonging to 15 orders and 38 families in the oriental flora, including 84 species of wetland waterfowls; there are 26 species of mammals belonging to 6 orders, 12 families and 23 genera, 4 widely distributed species, 13 Oriental species, 9 Palaearctic species.

Besides the rare species listed in Criteria 2, the other

rare species recorded in the wetland include: 1 species of bird (*Aquila chrysaetos*) listed in the 1st level of national protected wild animal; 9 species of bird listed in the 2nd level of national protected wild animal, namely *Anser albifrons*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Grus grus*, *Centropus sinensis*, *Otus scops*, *Bubo bubo*, *Cygnus columbianus* and *Aix galericulata*.

Heilongjiang Youhao Wetlands

Located in the middle part of the main vein of Lesser Khingan Mountains in Northeast China, Heilongjiang Youhao Wetlands stretch over the north and south-facing slopes of the mountains. Of the rivers on the south-facing slope, Youhao River and Shuangzi River flow into Tangwang River and then Songhua River, belonging to the Songhua River system.

Of the rivers on the north-facing slope, the main river is Dulu River; rising in East and West Dulu River, flows into Zhan River, Xun River and then Heilongjiang River, belonging to the Heilongjiang River system.

Source: Ramsar.org

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$3b approved for improving safety of schools

The sixth five-year national development plan (2016-2021) has predicted a total budget of \$3 billion to be allocated for rebuilding and retrofitting old schools across the country, director of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools has said.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards, ISNA quoted Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Wednesday.

"However, after 2 years the budget has not been allocated yet," he lamented.

He went on explain that 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

Renovation of schools and meeting the necessary standards requires a considerable amount of budget, however, current government funding and annual budgets are by no means enough, he added.

درخواست تخصیص ۳ میلیارد دلار برای ایمن سازی مدارس

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور با اشاره به وجود ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس ناایمن در سطح کشور خواستار تخصیص بودجه سه میلیارد دلاری تصویب شده در قالب برنامه ششم توسعه برای ایمن سازی مدارس شد.

مهراوه رخشانی مهر در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه حدود ۱۰۷ هزار مدرسه با ۵۳۰ هزار کلاس درس در کشور داریم اظهار کرد: از این میزان، ۳۰ درصد مدارس نیازمند مقاوم سازی و تخریب و بازسازی‌اند که به تفکیک می‌توان گفت ۱۸ درصد مدارس باید مقاوم سازی و ۱۲ درصد تخریب و بازسازی شوند.

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور با بیان اینکه حجم نیازها بسیار بالاست اما اعتبارات فعلی دولتی و بودجه‌های سنواتی به هیچ عنوان پاسخگوی نیازها نیست گفت: تا کنون و با گذشت نزدیک به دو سال از تصویب قانون برنامه ششم محقق نشده است.



Just for the love of teaching

A dedicated teacher travels for three hours, crossing rivers and mountainous areas, to teach students in a tribe living in the Tange Dez region, southwestern Khuzestan province.

TEHRAN TIMES



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MAY 2, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Every religion has its distinct characteristic, and the distinct characteristic of Islam is modesty.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:10 Dawn: 3:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:12 (tomorrow)

Iranian studies in German: Pre-Islamic period

Part 2

Introduction: Notwithstanding early travelers (like the Bavarian soldier Hans Schiltberger, who was for many years in the employ of the Timurid kings), German research on Iran (or Persia, as it was called up till the 1930s) began in the 17th century.

Among the early researchers, one may mention Heinrich von Poser (1599-1661), Adam Olearius/Ölschläger (ca. 1600-71), Johann Albrecht von Mandelslo (1616-44), Engelbert Kaempfer (1651-1716), and other travelers, who in Safavid times came to Persia, spread and deepened knowledge about the land, its ancient culture and history, and often reported on important and informative details.

The German-speaking countries, and above all Germany itself, had a great tradition in Iranian studies from its very beginning as an independent discipline within Oriental studies in the first half of the 19th century.

In fact, Iranian studies in Europe were stimulated and reinforced by three epoch making events:

(1) The nascent knowledge of the Avesta, the sacred scripture of Zoroastrians, the first information about which was brought to the West in 1771 by Abraham Hyacinthe Anquetil-Duperron (1731-1805) and the antiquity and authenticity of which were proven by Rasmus Rask in 1826, before Eugene Burnouf (1801-52) published for the first time an Avestan text in the original language with the lithographic edition of the Vendidad in 1829.

(2) The decipherment and publication of the first Sassanid inscriptions by Silvestre de Sacy (1758-1838) in 1793.

(3) The decipherment of the Old Persian cuneiform writing initiated by Georg Friedrich Grotefend (1775-1853) in 1802 and completed by others by 1847.

Iranian studies pursued in a scholarly manner arose especially from the first of these three stimuli by “the Indo-Iranian perspective” (as Duchesne-Guillemin, p. 20, has put it) when the first connections of Avestan words with those of the Sanskrit language were noticed and when, in consequence of that, the common origin of those languages and furthermore the common origin of the civilization of both Iran and Aryan India became the focus of attention.

The main topics of 19th century research were thus the publication and understanding of the Avesta and the Old Persian inscriptions, in both of which German scholars took part from the outset.

This first period in the research on pre-Islamic Iran culminated in (1) the publication of the monumental volumes of the Grundriss by Wilhelm Geiger and Ernst Kuhn, which summarized the entire knowledge of its time about the languages and literatures, history, and culture of Iran.

(2) The great three-volume edition of the Avestaby Karl Friedrich Geldner.

(3) The magnificent dictionary of the Avestan and Old Persian languages, Altiranisches Wörterbuch, by Christian Bartholomae.

This period essentially came to an end in 1904. That year is an important watershed in the history of Iranian studies, since after it entirely new fields of research came to the

Tehran embellished with huge sculpture of Persian poet Sadi

TEHRAN – A massive sculpture of Sadi, one of the greatest figures in classical Persian literature, was unveiled in Tehran on Sunday.

The 3.2-meter high bronze statue mounted on a 4-meter stone base has been placed at the junction of Sadi Street and Enqelab Avenue.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, Academy of Persian Language and Literature director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel and members of the Tehran City Council.

“Sadi is the eternal teacher of the Persian language... whoever has learned the language is a disciple of Sadi,” said Haddad-Adel who is also the director of the Sadi Foundation, a Tehran-based organization that promotes the Persian language abroad.

Sculptor Dehqan Mohammadi spent a year and a half making the sculpture, which is said to be the tallest bronze statue ever set up in the city.

His design for the sculpture was selected from among submissions sent to the Beautification Organization of the Tehran Municipality by over 40 obscure artists.

“This was a unique event that even young and obscure artists were allowed to enter a fair competition to produce a cultural symbol for the

Employees of the Beautification Organization of the Tehran Municipality clad in ancient Persian costumes attend the unveiling ceremony of a sculpture of the Persian poet Sadi in Tehran on April 30, 2023. (ISNA/Parisa Behzadi)

capital,” Mohammadi said.

He said that his design had been inspired by a statue of Sadi created by the renowned Iranian artist Abolhassan Sediqi.

“The sculpture produced by master Sediqi features Sadi at age 30, but my statue of Sadi shows him at 70,” he explained.

The statue depicts Sadi walking with a book in his hand.

“My sculpture of Sadi shows Sadi walking, because Sadi was in the habit of traveling all his life,” said Mohammadi, who has produced a number of statues located at various public places in Tehran.

The stone base of the sculpture bears a Persian-English inscription providing a brief biography of Sadi.

There is also an inscription near the statue with a verse from his famous poem, “The sons of Adam

are limbs of each other.”

Sadi, the byname of Musharraf ad-Din ibn Muslih ad-Din, is famous worldwide for his Bustan (The Orchard) and Gulistan (The Rose Garden), which have been translated into many languages.

Iranians celebrate Sadi Day on 1st Ordibehesht (21 April this year) on their national calendar every year. The day marks the anniversary of the completion of the Gulistan.

2023 Tehran Intl. Book Fair names Tajikistan guest of honor

A combination photo shows the flags of Tajikistan and Iran.

From Page 1 ► Ahmadvand expressed his hope that the choice would help improve the book trade between Iran and Tajikistan.

Last October, a large cultural delegation led by the Tajik Culture Minister, Zulfiya Davlatzoda, visited Tehran to attend a Tajik cultural festival held at the Abbasabad Cultural Complex in the Iranian capital.

In her sojourn in Tehran, Davlatzoda joined her Iranian counterpart, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, signing a memorandum of understanding to expand cultural relations.

As part of the cultural festival, artists from the country also visited the Iranian cities of Shiraz and Tabriz to showcase collections of handicrafts and introduce aspects of their cultural heritage to the Iranian people.

In November, Esmaeili led a cultural delegation on a reciprocal visit to Tajikistan for the opening of a weeklong Iranian cultural festival in Dushanbe.

Over 50 Iranian painters, calligraphers, storytellers, musicians and artists from other fields attended the cultural festival, holding workshops, exhibitions and performances.

2023 Tehran Intl. Book Fair: “The Future Is Readable”

The Tehran International Book Fair will take

place at Imam Khomeini Mosalla from May 10 to 20.

Over 3000 foreign and Iranian publishing houses and over 200 major Iranian bookstores have applied to participate in the fair, the fair’s deputy spokesman, Ali Ramezani, said in a press release published on Sunday.

He said that different committees, publishers and bookstores have taken measures designed to organize an “amazing fair.”

“The Future Is Readable” is the motto of this year’s book fair.

In a call published on his Twitter account in early April, Ahmadvand asked Iranian people to suggest slogans for this year’s book fair.

The motto has been selected from 40 slogans shortlisted from a large number of submissions.

Slavoj Zizek’s “Indivisible Remainder” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “The Indivisible Remainder: On Schelling and Related Matters” by the Slovenian philosopher and cultural critic Slavoj Zizek has been published in Persian.

Qoqnus is the publisher of the book originally published in 1996. It has been translated into Persian by Ali Hassanzadeh.

The feature which distinguishes the great works of materialist thought, from Lucretius’ “De rerum natura” through “Capital” to the writings of Lacan, is their unfinished character: again and again they tackle their chosen problem.

Schelling’s “Weltalter” drafts belong to this same series, with their repeated attempts at the formulation of the “beginning of the world,” of the passage from the pre-symbolic pulsation of the Real to the universe of logos.

F.W.J. Schelling, the German idealist

A combination photo shows Slavoj Zizek and the front cover of the Persian edition of his book “The Indivisible Remainder”.

who for too long dwelled in the shadows of Kant and Hegel, was the first to formulate the post-idealistic motifs of finitude, contingency and temporality.

His unique work announces Marx’s critique of speculative idealism, as

well as the properly Freudian notion of drive, of a blind compulsion to repeat which can never be sublated in the ideal medium of language.

“The Indivisible Remainder” begins with a detailed examination of the two works in which Schelling’s speculative

audacity reached its peak: his essay on human freedom and his drafts on the “Ages of the World.”

After reconstituting their line of argumentation, Slavoj Zizek confronts Schelling with Hegel, and concludes by throwing a Schellingian light on some “related matters”: the consequences of the computerization of daily life for sexual experience; cynicism as today’s predominant form of ideology; the epistemological deadlocks of quantum physics.

Although the book is packed with examples from politics and popular culture — the unmistakable token of Zizek’s style — from “Speed” and “Groundhog Day” to “Forrest Gump,” it signals a major shift towards a systematic concern with the basic questions of philosophy and the roots of the crisis of our late-capitalist universe, centered around the enigma of modern subjectivity.

Elucidating the Events of the Imposed War

An interview with Gol Ali Babaei

“The American Dream” is the latest work of author and researcher in the field of holy defense documentary literature, Gol Ali Babaei.

In ten chapters, this book has taken a new look at the roots, antecedents and results of the destructive relations between the United States and the war-mongering regime of Saddam Hussein from September 1980 to August 1988 in the 8-year war against the Iranian nation.

Babaei said that this book, in a fully documented and narrative manner, with a compilation of memories, deals with the grounds of the beginning of the imposed war, the course of the war, and the direct and

indirect involvement of the United States in the Iran-Iraq war.

He added that the book begins with a document from the New York Times that was published in 1987 and it was mentioned that the background of the Iran-Iraq war goes back to 1950 and the time of the nationalization of Iran’s oil industry, after which the British planned a plan that Iraq will occupy Khuzestan, which is an oil-rich region of Iran, with a lightning attack and separate this region from Iran.

But when the 1953 Iranian coup d’état took place and Shah returned to power, this plan was stopped, until 1978 and the escape of the Shah and the victory of the Islamic Revolution,

when the British plan was used again.

This author went on to say that Iraq’s attack on the border towns and occupation of Khorramshahr, how the popular forces resisted and formed combat units, imposing an attrition war and various disasters towards the Iranian people and the American sabotage are other events narrated in this book.

He also stated that in the rest of the book, the Persian Gulf War and the conflict of Iranian marines in the region are also discussed.

This author and researcher in the field of the holy defense added that the process of accepting Resolution 598 in the last year of the war and finally the Mersad operation are the last discussions of the present book.