

Brothers of Hard Days



*Long live the resistance
Hail to victory*

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-chief

About ten years ago, when the sound of bullets from multi-national terrorists reached the vicinity of the presidential palace in Damascus, even the most optimistic people thought

that Bashar al-Assad's reign had come to an end. Even his supporters believed that they should think about the post-Assad era. From America to European countries and often Arab leaders, they said Assad had to go.

Rumors surfaced that Assad had fled to another country. Some political

figures and even senior military commanders of the country had fled and even formed a government outside Syria. Most of Syria's land was under the control of opponents, and Syria's enemies were preparing for a victory celebration to eliminate one of the key links in the axis of resistance. ▶ Page 3

Syrian people and authorities warmly welcomed Raisi

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN - For the first time in more than a decade, the Iranian president paid a visit to Syria in what appears to be the starting point of a new phase in Tehran-Damascus relations.

In his two-day visit, President Ebrahim Raisi is accompanied by a large political and economic delegation including many ministers.

Upon his arrival in Damascus, President Raisi was keen to highlight the strategic nature of the visit, which he hailed as being in line with the strategic relations between Iran and Syria.

The visit comes at a time when Syria is rising from the ashes of a devastating war

whose primary goal was to topple the government of Syria and replace it with a Western-friendly one. Iran, a staunch ally of Syria, rose up to the challenge from day one, providing Damascus with all kind of support to help it fend off the war.

Much has been said about the reasons why Iran stood by Syria during its long ordeal. Although Iran-Syria relations have always been driven by mutual interests, one aspect of these relations has been

particularly neglected which is the historical bond between Tehran and Damascus.

The Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s played an important role in cementing Iranian-Syrian ties as the Syrian government was the only Arab country that wholeheartedly supported Iran in the face of the Ba'athist aggression.

This is while almost all other Arab countries not only refused to stand with Iran but also sided with the Saddam regime, supplying him with

weapons and money.

The Syrian crisis which began in 2011 was an opportunity for Iran to reciprocate. Iran threw its full weight behind the Syrian government as a way to show its gratitude.

The counterterrorism hero

And General Qassem Soleimani the key figure in this effort. He rushed to help the Syrians who were facing a global war on their country. He helped stabilize Damascus and ensured that terrorist groups never take over the Syrian capital. Over the years, he mobilized the Axis Resistance against terrorism, trouncing numerous terror outfits across Syria and the broader region. ▶ Page 3

Tehran Papers

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

Iran never forgets its allies

In its editorial, Etemad addressed Iran-Syria relations. It wrote: Iran has great capacities in all infrastructure fields that can provide to Syria in reconstruction efforts. In the past, Syria has proven it is a strategic ally of Iran, and despite the huge costs it has paid, Damascus never retreats from its principles. ▶ Page 2

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Support for British monarchy at historic low

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN - As Britain prepares to crown King Charles in a costly ceremony on Saturday, public support for the institution hits a historic low.

The British public have been asked to pledge allegiance to King Charles, who has taken over the hereditary public office, when he is crowned on Saturday.

People have been told to say the words: "I swear that I will pay true allegiance to Your Majesty, and to your heirs and successors according to law - so help me God."

The Archbishop of Canterbury has called on those watching or listening to the costly ceremonial coronation to take part in a "great cry around the nation and around the world of support for the King".

The plan has been strongly condemned by anti-monarchy groups.

This comes on the backdrop of a new study, which has revealed that fewer than one in three believe the monarchy is "very important".

The National Center for Social Research (NatCen) which has released the research says it collected the data during 2022 and 2023, and is identifying changes in attitudes towards the royal family.

NatCen says those who deem the monarchy to be very important has dropped to its lowest point of 29% since it began collecting data 40 years ago. Almost half of the British public now believe it is time for the monarchy to be abolished completely. ▶ Page 5

IRGC seizes foreign oil tanker in Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has seized a foreign oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, Tasnim reported.

The U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said the oil tanker is a Panama-flagged merchant vessel.

The foreign oil tanker, which has apparently broken the rules, was captured by the IRGC Navy forces in the Strait of Hormuz waters on Wednesday, the news agency said.

The AP quoted the US Navy's 5th Fleet as saying that the vessel was a Panama-flagged oil tanker identified as the Niovi.

Iran often seizes vessels that break the rules or fail to abide by international maritime law.

Last week, the Iranian Navy seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Sea of Oman and directed it toward Iran's territorial waters after the tanker hit an Iranian vessel and tried to flee in violation of maritime regulations.

The foreign oil tanker collided with an Iranian fishing boat in the Persian Gulf on the night of April 26, the public relations department of the Iranian Army said on April 27. ▶ Page 3

Israel lost deterrence: spokesman

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Wednesday that Israel has lost its deterrence capabilities vis-à-vis the enemies.

Kanaani made the remarks in reaction to a study by Tel Aviv University.

"The Security Research Center of Tel Aviv University announced that Israel's deterrence power against its enemies has greatly decreased," Kanaani said on Twitter.

He added that the Israeli regime is "flimsier than a spider web."

The spokesman also shared a viral video of a crow taking down the Israeli flag from a pole.

Iran calls on France to listen to protestors

Kanaani has also reacted to angry protests in France, calling on Paris to listen to the voices of the protestors and avoid violence against them.

He said the French suppression of protests is regrettable. "The violent crackdown by the French police on citizens and workers who were holding protests on May Day is deeply regrettable," Kanaani said on Twitter.

He added, "We still advise the French government to listen to the voices of the protestors and avoid resorting to violence against them." ▶ Page 3

'Iran Expo 2023 to help country boost its non-oil exports'

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said that the fifth edition of the Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran EXPO 2023) is going to help Iran boost its non-oil exports.

Iran EXPO 2023 is set to be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during May 7-10.

The exhibition will cover 12 specialized fields, including food industries, agriculture, livestock, poultry and fisheries, automobiles, electricity, carpets, household appliances, textiles, leather and clothing, chemical and petrochemicals, cellulose and sanitary products, handicrafts and tourism, medicine, medical and laboratory equipment, mining, construction industry, and technical and engineering services, as well as petrochemical and knowledge-based enterprises.

Speaking at a press conference about this exhibition held at the place of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) on Wednesday Safari said, "The major policy of the 13th government is to increase trade exchanges with neighbors along with African, Asian, and Latin American countries, and this exhibition focuses on the export of non-oil products". ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

Iran never forgets its allies

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

From page 1 ► Damascus has refused to compromise with the Zionist regime, and does not want to deviate from its principles. Bashar al-Assad has particularly expressed, both publicly and in private meetings, that Iran is the only country that behaved realistically and honestly with us in these difficult times. Iran also has vast expertise in infrastructure fields, especially in building power plant and refineries, which can help the Syrian brothers. Considering that Syria's relations with the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab world are improving, there is a possibility of joint Iranian-Arab-Syrian cooperation to reconstruct Syria.

Shargh: The policy of 'look to the East'

In its editorial, Shargh addressed the issue of relations with China. It wrote: How can we organize our interactions and communications with the Chinese?

First, economically advanced countries like China have a national social project, which is called the proper arrangement between society, government and economy (market and industry). Like China, we also need to achieve a suitable arrangement between the three areas.

Second, we should know that China's social and cultural system, which lacks democracy and is based on social control, does not work for Iran's diverse society.

Third, as a country like Brazil that tries to establish extensive economic relations with China, as it has with the United States and Europe, we also, which have extensive economic relations with China, should not neglect economic relations with other countries and not just limit economic relations with China and a few other countries.

Iran: An opportunity that should not be lost

The Iran newspaper addressed the issue of the president's visit to Damascus. It wrote: The meeting of the high-ranking officials of Iran and Syria to increase the level of political and security cooperation can help activate the various economic sectors of the two influential countries and also avoid the bitter experience of losing the markets of some countries in the region in favor of others. After years of militancy which completely ruined Syria's vital infrastructure, now there is no doubt that Syria is in the process of rebuilding the ruins left by the

war. Reconstruction gives a special welcome to the active participation of Syria's close allies such as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Raisi's Damascus trip shows victory over foreign-backed militarism

In a note, Vatan-e-Emrooz analyzed Raisi's trip to Syria. It wrote: Hojjat-ul-Islam Raisi's strategic trip to Syria, which is being done for the first time since the foreign-backed war started in Syria, carries the message of Syria's victory in the war and will declare the complete failure of American-European-Arab-Israeli projects.

After the travel of Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the minister of foreign affairs of our country, to Lebanon and his visit to the borders of occupied Palestine, now Hojjat-ul-Islam Raisi's trip to another neighbor of the occupied territories is a bad news for the provisional Zionist regime in terms of security and military, and in a way it shows Tehran's efforts to create coordination among the resistance front members, including the "Tehran-Hezbollah-Damascus" alliance, against Tel Aviv and to surround this regime as much as possible. The trip of Mr. Raisi to Damascus will definitely lead to more stability of the relations between the two countries in the military field as well as strengthening the political cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Syria. It is a nightmare that will not let usurper Zionists sleep.

Sobh-e-No: Baku in the trap of the Zionists

In its editorial, Sobh-e-No discussed Baku's hostile policies against Tehran. It wrote: Tensions between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have reached their peak in the past two years. During this period, Baku has been working hard to destroy its relations with Iran and does not want to continue diplomatic relations with Iran and is uninterested to the peaceful behavior of the Iranian side. Some experts consider the root of the problem the close relations between Azerbaijan and the Zionist regime, but Baku denies it. The special plan by the members of the Knesset and Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, who seek a futile plot to disintegrate Iran, reveals behind-the-scene moves of Baku's tense and hostile behavior against Iran. It also shows how Baku has been working in tandem with the provisional Zionist regime's goals and Western conspiracies.

Why a terrorist group can never condemn a terrorist regime?

By Habilian Association Staff Writers

The issue of Palestine has always been a hot topic in countries of the region. Over 7 decades have elapsed since the occupation of Palestinian lands by the Israeli regime. Meanwhile, the regime's violence against the natives of the land, slaughtering them and expelling a significant number of them from their hometown to neighboring or other foreign countries have drawn the attention of the public opinion as well as human rights activists all over the world. Besides arousing humanitarian objections, Israel's measures against Palestinian people have always led to the issuance of a significant number of resolutions by the United Nations and the Security Council.

Hence, the occupation of Palestine has not been a subject of controversy only between Muslims or Arabs with the Israeli regime. Rather, it has major judicial and human rights aspects which captures the attention of the international community.

The MEK leader, Maryam Rajavi, in line with the group's pro-Palestinian slogans, has recently made a statement about the widely-criticized trip of the deposed Shah's son to the occupied Palestinian territories, saying, "Everyone knows about the brotherly ties between the Mujahedin (MEK) and Fatah and PLO since the Shah's reign. Our policy is to fully support President Mahmoud Abbas." Clearly, Rajavi's policy is not aimed at criticizing policies of the Israeli regime but overtly aimed at supporting the President of Fatah (and not the Palestinian people). Rajavi continued, "I congratulated Yasser Arafat, PLO, and the Palestinian people

on behalf of the Iranian resistance (MEK) on the progress of the process of peace and recognition of Palestinian people's national rights in the Oslo I Accord."

It is clear that what links the MEK terrorist group to Palestine is merely their relations with the PLO in the early years its establishment, while it has not taken any position in supporting the rights of the Palestinians especially the displaced ones, or condemning settlement constructions or other Israeli measures in conflict with resolutions of the Security Council.

The UN Security Council has issued multiple resolutions, although non-binding, in support of the Palestinians' rights condemning the Israeli regime's measures. Yet, in line with these resolutions and international attempts, the MEK has not, even once, denounced Israel's racial and violent acts. The 1322, 1435, 1559, and 2334 resolutions have all been introduced in the past two decades, to which MEK paid no heed. The 2334 resolution of the Security Council in 2016 emphasizing the necessity of terminating Israel's settlement constructions was approved with 14 favorable votes and one abstention by the U.S. However, fearing the Israel's dissatisfaction and weakening of their ties with this regime, the MEK did not react to this resolution just like they did not to other resolutions. If one takes into account statements of some Western journalists and diplomats regarding the cooperation of the MEK with Israel in assassinating Iranian nuclear scientists, it becomes apparent why the MEK is not willing to slam Israel's policies against the Palestinian people.

Syria advancing despite threats, sanctions: Raisi

From page 1 ► As it did during the fight against terrorism, Raisi emphasized, the Islamic Republic will support its Syrian brothers throughout the period of rehabilitation and growth following more than a decade of war.

Assad says Syria-Iran relations are rich

Assad, for his part, praised Iran for its support of Syria during the turmoil and declared that the Syrians will never forget Iran's help through their times of trouble.

As this relationship has remained stable even during tough times when there have been significant political and security storms in West Asia, "Syria-Iran relations are rich and full of experience," the Syrian leader pointed out.

Iran was urged by President Assad to take a more active position in bringing about long-term peace to his country and rebuild the war-torn regions.

In order to advance the inter-



ests of the two countries as well as those of other nations in the

region, the two presidents additionally underlined the signifi-

cance of the long-term cooperation plan between Iran and Syria.

Iran, Syria ink long-term strategic partnership

A "long-term strategic comprehensive cooperation" agreement was signed by the presidents of Iran and Syria.

The importance of the Iran-Syria long-term cooperation plan for furthering the interests of the two countries and other nations in the region was emphasized at a meeting between the two presidents earlier in the day.

In the meantime, representatives from the two states signed 14 documents covering a range of topics, including trade, energy and environment, engineering, housing, rail and air travel, free zones, communications and technology, earthquake relief, and the facilitation of pilgrimage to the two states' holy sites.

"Iran's policies founded on reason, resistance"

Before departing Tehran for Damascus, Raisi told reporters that today "it has become clear to everyone that the stances of Iran are based on rationality, prudence, truthfulness, resistance, and perseverance."

He described the relationship between Iran and Syria as "completely strategic" and said the purpose of his visit is to strengthen ties with the Arab nation on the economic, political, and security fronts.

Raisi emphasized the distinctive characteristics of the relationship between Iran and Syria, noting that opponents have constantly tried to split apart Syria and sour its relations with neighboring nations.

"Economic cooperation boosts resistance front"

Abbas Golroo, the chairman of the foreign relations subcommittee of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said on Wednesday that Raisi's visit to Syria is in line with strengthening the resistance front and signing trade deals with the Syrian side.

According to Golroo, the visit and signature of the agreements can improve Tehran-Damascus connections and give the resistance front more power to oppose the Zionist regime of Israel.

He also emphasized that political and economic ties between Iran and Syria are presently at their strongest level.

"Raisi's historic visit proves US failed policies in region"

Mohammad Jamshidi, Raisi's deputy chief of staff for political affairs, noted that the "historic visit" to Syria is regarded proof of Tehran's triumph over the U.S. failed policies in the region.

One of the subjects that will be discussed at the discussions, according to Jamshidi, is the presence of Iranian tourists and pilgrims in Syria as well as improvement of transit infrastructure.

Jamshidi stressed that Iran has faced geopolitical obstacles, including the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, the rise of Daesh, and spread of terrorism, over the last several years.

Israeli media: Felicity for resistance, failure for Israel

After such a historic visit, Israeli media outpoured with reactions as they believed that Raisi's visit is "an achievement" for the resistance front and "a weakness" for the Tel Aviv regime.

Retired Israeli general officer, General Amos Gilead, said in a radio interview that "the Iranians believe Israel is currently vulnerable."

Leading Israeli expert on Iran, Raz Zimm, called the visit "an influential issue," adding that everything else would be a "success" for the resistance front aside from the signing of significant commercial deals.

Another correspondent for the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot who covers the military, called the trip a "lost opportunity" for the occupying regime.

Israel's first error will be its final one: Raisi

TEHRAN - The Israeli regime's first possible act of aggression against Iran, President Ebrahim Raisi says, would be its final error because the regime would not be able to withstand Iran's retaliatory strike.

Speaking with Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network on Tuesday, he noted that "the threats made by the Zionist regime are empty words that no one in the world takes seriously."

"Our first counter action would equal the destruction of the Israeli regime if the Zionist enemy took the slightest action against us," President Raisi added.

The president went on to highlight that "the military might of the Islamic Republic is well known across the region" and "the Zionist regime's first possible foolish step against Iran will also be its last."

"The Zionist regime would not be able to survive even the initial moments of Iran's response," he said, adding that "the regime itself is aware of its incapacity to face the Islamic Republic."

The president stated that Iran has achieved military self-sufficiency, calling Iran a "talked-about country" in the defense sector.

He said since the Islamic Revolution's victory, Iran's adversaries have refrained from making any mistakes against the nation, not because they lack the will to do so but rather because they lack the necessary power.

"Israel unable to provide own security"

On the Israeli regime's threats against the resistance front in regional countries, Raisi stressed that Tel Aviv is incapable of meeting its own "internal security" needs, let alone dealing with the resistance.



The Zionist regime's warnings are empty and ineffective, he said, adding that the current situation favors the resistance.

"Currently," he added, this regime is unable to deal with the region's and the Palestinian resistance's youth."

He added despite the hostility of the occupying regime, Iran has not and will not regret its support for the resistance front.

"Enemies outraged over Iranian-Saudi reconciliation"

The president also praised continued efforts to improve relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which decided to reestablish diplomatic ties in March with China's sponsorship.

According to Raisi, the nations have significant regional roles, and their interactions will be advantageous for the region as a whole.

However, the official added, "Our enemies, including the Zionist regime, are outraged by the restoration of these relations because they are trying to sow discord among us."

Raisi stated that once Beijing notified Tehran of Riyadh's preference for detente, the two sides' reconciliation process got under way.

"World is bigger than the three or four nations"

Raisi continued by restating that Iran is opposed to American unilateralism.

"We think that the world is bigger than the three or four nations that see themselves as the world's leaders," he said.

The president went on to say that Americans have claimed to manage the terrorism in the world but such a bluff has been proved wrong by Iran.

Raisi cited the 2020 U.S. assassination of Iran's top anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani as an example.

He added contrary to what Washington had hoped for, the atrocity had failed to end the commander's legacy and that his story had come to serve as an inspiration for the region's young resistance members.

"Iranian president trip to Syria signals political success for resistance"

The trip to Syria by the Iranian president, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, is a sign that the political resolve of the resistance front has prevailed.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments on his Twitter account on Tuesday ahead of President Raisi's trip to Syria.

In addition to the important political, security, and economic factors, he said, the president's visit shows the triumph of the resistance front's political tenacity and the Iranian government's effective diplomacy in completing the regional convergence process.

Martyr commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and all other martyrs who provided security to Iran and the region were also honored by the foreign minister.

Frome Page 1 ▶ During his visit to Syria, Ayatollah Raisi was keen to pay a tribute to the legacy of General Soleimani, who was assassinated by the U.S. in the early days of 2020.

“We consider Martyr Soleimani the hero of fighting terrorism,” President Raisi said, adding, “He confronted the offensives of ISIS and the Takfiri groups through help from the popular resistance groups in Iraq and Syria, and he was successful.”

Raisi pointed out that in cooperation with the Iraqi and Syrian people, and in cooperation with Lebanon’s Hezbollah, General Soleimani was able to eradicate the stream of terrorists. “Who assassinated him? The US President at the time,” he continued.

The Iranian president stated, “They though that by assassinating Haj Qasem Soleimani, they



would assassinate his thoughts, and they are today seeing the ramifications of this all over the

region. The people of the region and its youth are very proud of Soleimani, and he has become a

school of thought for our people and the resistance’s youth all over the region.”

Israel lost deterrence: spokesman



Frome Page 1 ▶ Riot police in France fired tear gas to disperse protesters in the capital Paris and other major cities on the first day of May as public anger rages over Macron’s unpop-

ular pension reform.

Media reports said police had detained a total of 291 people nationwide during massive French Labor Day demonstrations on Monday, 111 of whom were arrested in Paris, Press TV reported.

The western city of Nantes and the central city of Lyon were also the scene of police violence on Monday as protesting workers and social activists, backed by labor unions, thronged the streets in their thousands to mark the first day of May.

The protesters pelted stones and projectiles at the riot police, smashed shop windows and damaged bus stops in response to the police firing teargas canisters.

In the northern city of Calais and the southern city of Toulouse, environmental activists and other groups fighting for economic justice were in the streets amid growing discontent with Macron’s policies.

According to France’s Interior Ministry, some 782,000 people protested across France on Monday for May Day in a new show of anger against Macron’s contentious pension reform, including 112,000 in Paris alone.

The CGT union, however, said it counted 2.3 million protesters across France, including 550,000 in the capital. The turnout was massively higher than May Day last year.

IRGC seizes foreign oil tanker in Strait of Hormuz

Frome Page 1 ▶ “The seizure came after an unknown ship collided with an Iranian vessel last night on Wednesday in the Persian Gulf, causing several Iranian crew members to go missing and

get injured,” the Army said.

According to international law, in such cases the vessel responsible for the incident is tasked to rush to the help of the crew and provide medical services to the injured.

Recovering from the shock, the fishermen managed to issue a distress call. The Iranian Navy shortly after seized the tanker in the Sea of Oman after having been contacted by the Maritime Surveillance and Rescue

Center (MRCC), Press TV reported.

The vessel was intercepted by Bayandor corvette of the Iranian Navy in compliance with a confiscation order issued by judicial authorities.

Army craving for state-of-the-art military technology: commander

TEHRAN- The Iranian Army is seeking to get access to more advanced weapons and precision-guided munitions in the near future, Army Ground Force Commander Kioumars Heidari told a meeting of a group of military attachés from 35 friendly nations on Tuesday.

Heidari said that the employment of precision-guided munitions and smart equipment are two of the tactics the Iranian Army Ground Force is pursuing in order to increase its military strength.



The brigadier general emphasized that the Army will employ a variety of tactics in the future, including modern combat and surveillance drones, anti-armor weaponry, and updated helicopters.

He also mentioned the use of smart technology and precision-guided ammunition.

Military attachés commended the Iranian Army’s independence and assistance to neighboring nations in times of need during the meeting.

IRGC, Army to hold joint drills soon

TEHRAN – General Aziz Nasirzadeh, deputy chairman of the chiefs of staff of the Iranian armed forces, announced on Wednesday that plans are afoot to hold joint military exercises between the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

He said the IRGC and the Army are not separated entities. “Each of these two forces performs different assigned missions and we have passed the issue that a person is a member of the IRGC, the army or a member of another corps,” General Nasirzadeh said, according to Iranian media.

The brigadier general added, “The policies of the chiefs of staff of the armed forces are on the same lines, and the commanders of the Army and the IRGC also follow the same line. In fact, there is a strong alliance between the

armed forces. And the Army and the IRGC are a divine army that operates under the banner of the Leader of the Revolution.”

He considered the unity of the armed forces as the reason for the strength of Iran’s deterrence power.

“We have seen that guests from both sides participated in Army or IRGC exercises, but the plan is based on planning and defining exercises jointly with the presence of the Army and the IRGC. This will be done in the future with the participation of units from both sides. Of course, we witnessed that in the joint exercise that was conducted with the presence of Iran, Russia and China, our navy was composed of the Army and the IRGC,” he continued.

During coordinated naval exercises in the northern Indian Ocean,

the armed forces of Iran, China, and Russia have conducted a variety of tactics and operations, including rescuing hijacked vessels.

In March, the Iranian, Chinese, and Russian navies participated in the major stage of the 2023 Maritime Security Belt naval drills in the northern Indian Ocean.

Rear Admiral Mostafa Tajoddini, a spokesman for the exercises, said that the naval forces of the three nations had trained under realistic circumstances in a coordinated effort to free two trade boats that had been seized in international seas by pirates.

An Iranian Navy SH-3 helicopter was dispatched for reconnaissance and search after the two target liners sent mayday signals to the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) of Chabahar port in southeast Iran, he added.

The Iranian Navy’s “Sahand” destroyer then acted as the command ship to undertake the operation.

China hailed the recent joint naval exercises with Russia and Iran in the Sea of Oman, saying the drills boosted the ability of their navies to conduct diversified maritime missions.

The military drills further deepened friendship and practical cooperation among the three countries, Chinese defense ministry spokesman Tan Kefei told a news briefing.

Senior Colonel Tan said the three nations sent forces including 12 ships, special operations and diving units to participate in the drills.

China, Iran and Russia conducted joint naval exercises in the Sea of Oman from March 15-19.

Syria and its few supporters have paid a heavy price for resistance, but they have also achieved a great victory. If that resistance did not exist, the cost would have been much heavier for everyone and of course there would have been no achievement.

The two-day visit by President Ebrahim Raisi to Damascus, which began on Wednesday, is a step towards completing the victory. Syria is facing deep problems due to a decade of civil war and needs reconstruction. Some areas of the country are still under the control of terrorists, and the Americans have an illegal presence in the northeast of the country and are stealing Syrian oil. A new chapter has been opened in the Tehran-Damascus cooperation, and there are many unexplored avenues, particularly in the economic and cultural spheres.

importance of such an army is not just related to its tangible achievements but also to its deterrent achievements. Tel Aviv, which once thought that the war in Syria would lead to weakening the resistance movement, now sees itself more besieged.

Bashar al-Assad, a man who everyone said “must go,” not only did not go, but even his yesterday opponents are now laying out the red carpet for him and he is not even willing to give in to one of their conditions for restoring relations. Syria today is stronger than ever before.

All of this is the achievement of resistance. Something that some try to portray as pointless and crazy. Yes!

Russia’s air force into a supporter of resistance ground forces. Iran and Russia’s cooperation in Syria was very painful and costly for America and even more so for the Israeli regime. They used every tool to weaken this cooperation, from military and political measures to media lies.

Syria’s victory over terrorists was not just Assad’s victory and is having effects beyond Syria’s borders. Hezbollah has become a different force in this war that Israelis better understand more than anyone else. The war against terrorists, including ISIS in Syria and Iraq, led to the formation of a multinational army of resistance fighters. This army was tested in this war. The

Frome Page 1 ▶ Even in Iran, some believed that they should come to terms with the new reality in Syria and not put all their eggs in the Assad basket. But the resistance fighters changed the equation with their courage over time. Syria’s victory against the enemies’ plan is owed to the perseverance and sacrifice of many individuals; from Bashar al-Assad to the army of the country, the People’s Defense Forces, and borderless fighters from different countries such as Iran, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan who fought under the command of martyr General Qassem Soleimani.

General Soleimani played a key role in Syria’s victory over its enemies. He spent more than two hours negotiating with Putin in the Kremlin and explained the consequences of Syria’s fall to Moscow. Thus, he turned

Iran water polo ready for Berlin event: Ghasemi

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iranian water polo star, Shayan Ghasemi, says that the Men’s Water Polo World Cup 2023, Division 2 is an excellent opportunity for the Iranian national team to gain international experience.

Iran will participate in the Men’s Water Polo World Cup 2023, Division 2, which takes place from May 5 to 7 in Berlin, Germany.

“Surely the World Cup has a higher level than the Asian competitions. It can help a lot to the progress of Iran’s national team,” said Ghasemi in his exclusive interview with the Tehran Times.

“In world competitions, we battle with stronger teams, especially European teams such as Germany and Romania, and I hope we gain great experiences from this tournament and take advantage of them in the upcoming tournaments,” he added.

Iran are in Group B of the Men’s Water Polo World Cup 2023, Division 2, along with Romania, New Zealand, and Kazakhstan.

Ghasemi shared his opinion about Team Melli’s opponents.

“We played against Kazakhstan last month and defeated them. However, they have a more prepared team right now. New Zealand are somehow unknown for us but Romania are a strong opponents in our group and we will face them in the first game which is a big challenge,” Shayan said.

Iran secured their berth at the 2023 FINA Water Polo World Cup after a runner-up finish at the 2023 Asian Water Polo Championship in Singapore.

Serbian coach Aleksandar Ciric is no longer at the helm of the Iranian national team. The team will take part in the World Cup tournament under leadership of Iranian head coach Danial Khakban.

“Mr. Ciric was like a diamond for the Iranian water polo and the style that the Iran national team are currently playing is also the result of his efforts,” said the French side Nautic Club Angerien (NCA) goalkeeper.

When asked about the future goals of Iran’s national team, Ghasemi responded: “Obviously the Berlin tournament is so important for us. At the same time, the Water Polo World Cup 2023 can serve as a good preparation for the 2023 Asian Games, in which we want to get the best results,” concluded the star of the Iran national team.

Esteghlal, Sa Pinto reach verbal agreement

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football club and Ricardo Sa Pinto have reached a verbal agreement to continue cooperation in the next season.

The Blues are still the favorites to defend title in the Iran Professional League and they have also qualified for Hazfi Cup semifinals under leadership of the Portuguese coach.

Esteghlal’s caretaker Hojjat Karimi has held a meeting with Sa Pinto to discuss about the next season.

Ricardo Sa Pinto was named Esteghlal coach in June 2022 as Farhad Majidi’s replacement.

Iran into 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women’s Asia SFs

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 26-0 at the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women’s Asia and Oceania Championship on Wednesday.

Team Melli had previously defeated India 17-1 and Kuwait 20-0 in their first two matches 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.

Iran beat Iraq at 2023 Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal Tournament

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Iraq 4-3 at the 2023 Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal Tournament Tuesday night.

Ali Asghar Mahboubi (two goals), Mehdi Karamali and Mostafa Ferdowsinejad scored for Iran.

Team Melli will play Malaysia and China on Wednesday and Friday, respectively.

Group B consists of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Japan and Kyrgyzstan.

The Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal Tournament 2023 is being held in Tehran from May 1 to 9, 2023.

Ahmad Nourollahi linked with Al Ittihad

TEHRAN – Iranian international midfielder Ahmad Nourollahi has been reportedly linked with a move to Saudi Arabian giant Ahmad Nourollahi.

Local media reports suggest that Al Ittihad have shown interest in signing Nourollahi in the summer.

The 30-year-old currently plays at Emirati club Shabab Al Ahli.

Nourollahi’s deal with Shabab Al Ahli will expire in the summer and he has not yet extended his contract.

Iran to send 10 lifters to 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – A total of 10 men lifters will represent Iran at the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships.

The Asian Weightlifting Championships will take place in Jinju, Republic of Korea from May 5 to 13.

Hossein Soltani (81kg), Kianoush Rostami and Mostafa Javadi (89kg), Ayoub Mousavi (96kg), Sohrab Moradi and Reza Dehdar (102kg), Mehdi Karami and Amir Azizi (109kg) and Ayat Sharifi and Alireza Yousefi (+109kg) will represent Iran in the competition.

The continental championship will be the second qualifying event for the Paris Olympic Games after the World Weightlifting Championships 2022.

Hosseini elected as AWF Athletes’ Commission member

TEHRAN – Elham Hosseini, Iranian female weightlifting medalist, was elected as a member of the Asian Weightlifting Confederation (AWF)’s Athletes Commission.

She was one of the candidates nominated by the Iran Weightlifting Federation in the meeting which was held in Jinju, South Korea.

Other members of this commission are from Chinese Taipei, Iraq and Nepal, and the Saudi athlete was chosen as the president.

Also, Reza Pourali was introduced as a member of the Media Commission and Hossein Maghami also became a member of the Development Commission of the Asian Federation.

Earlier, during the elections of the Asian Weightlifting Federation, Sajjad Anoushirvani was elected as an Executive Board Member, and Behdad Salimi, Korosh Bagheri and Amin Norouzi were also appointed as members of the Technical, the Research and Education and Medical Committees, respectively.

In this way, the number of Iranians in various positions of the Asian Federation, including the executive board, committees and commissions, reached 7 in less than a few months, which is unprecedented in recent years.

Tehran to host 14th edition of ICOPMAS next week



TEHRAN- Iran's 14th International Conference on Coast, Ports and Marine Structures (ICOPMAS) will be held at the IRIB Conference Hall in Tehran on May 9-10 with the presence of governmental and military officials, foreign guests, academics and experts of the society of consulting engineers, the deputy head of Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) for engineering and infrastructure development announced.

Making the remarks in a press conference about the exhibition, Ali Fathi said that in the 32nd year since holding the first edition of this event, the Ports and Maritime Organization will hold the 14th edition of ICOPMAS with the participation and cooperation of domestic and foreign international maritime organizations.

He mentioned the promotion of marine engineering knowledge and marine structures as well as the export of technical and engineering services to other countries as the most important goals of this scientific conference.

He stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently considered the only self-sufficient

country in the region in terms of design and implementation of engineering projects and marine structures.

Saying that the Ports and Maritime Organization has taken constructive measures in the field of supplying marine and port equipment and parts, Fathi added the main approach and strategy of the government in the field of supplying strategic equipment for ports is to use the capacities and capabilities of domestic knowledge-based companies to bring the technology of these equipment into the country.

Iran, India finalizing deal on Chabahar port

Further in the press conference, the PMO official told IRNA that a long-term agreement between Iran and India for operating the Islamic Republic's southeastern Chabahar port is at the final stages.

"The contract with India for the development of Chabahar port is in the final drafting stages," Fathi stated.

The move for the India-Iran long-term agreement on operating heavy loading and unloading equipment at Chabahar port comes at a time when China has also been showing a growing interest in investments in ports and other coastal infrastructure in Iran.

According to Fathi, PMO is ready to cooperate with foreign companies from all over the world including the Persian Gulf countries, as well as the countries in the region.

Nearly 226,000 tons of alumina powder produced in a year

TEHRAN- Iran has produced 225,942 tons of alumina powder in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

As reported, the figure shows a two percent drop as compared to the output in 1400.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear



and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

Commodities worth \$2.76b exported from Kermanshah province in a year



TEHRAN- Over 6.893 million tons of products worth \$2.76 billion were exported from Kermanshah province in the west of Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), an official with the province's customs department announced.

Ali-Asghar Abbaszadeh said that the annual export from the province rose one percent in terms of value, and six percent in terms of weight.

He named rebar and ironware, tiles and ceramics, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, plastic products and disposable containers as the major exported items.

The official further announced that 7.893 million tons of commodities worth over \$55.917 million were imported to the province in the past year, with 16 percent fall in value and 69 percent drop in weight, year on year.

He named aluminum alloy, labeling machine parts, production line equipment, filters and compressors as the main imported products.

As announced by the spokesman of Trade

TEHRAN- The value of trade between Iran and Africa rose two percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the vice president of Iran and Africa Merchants Club Ruhollah Latifi announced.

He put Iran-Africa annual trade at 2.545 million tons worth \$1.278 billion.

Iran exported 2.452 million tons of products valued at \$1.183 billion to 49 African countries in the past year, showing one percent fall, and imported 92,898 tons of goods worth \$95.316 million from 23 African countries, indicating 59 percent growth, year on year, according to Latifi.

He said that South Africa with the purchase of \$305.411 million (20 percent growth), Mozambique with \$190.517 million (94 percent growth), Ghana with \$165.014 million (53 percent decrease), Sudan with \$142.702 million (96 percent growth), Nigeria with \$129.332 million (three percent growth), Kenya with \$53.203 million (31 percent decrease), and Ivory Coast with \$41.605 million (183 percent growth) were the first seven destinations of Iranian goods in the African continent in 1401.

Latifi further announced that Tanzania with sales of \$20.899 million (43 percent growth), Kenya with \$17.277 million (174 percent growth), South Africa with \$16.637 million (158 percent growth), Ghana with \$9.136 million (22 percent growth), Seychelles with \$7.285



Iran-Africa annual trade up 2%

million (82 percent growth), Egypt with \$5.727 million (60 percent growth), and Congo with \$4.742 million (1,424 percent growth) were the first seven African sources of imports for Iran in the past year.

Latifi, who is the former spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), further announced that Burundi, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone are four export destinations that were not in the list of Iran's export destinations in 1400, to which Iranian goods were

exported in 1401.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said that the economies of Iran and the African continent are complementary to each other, and due to their abundant capacities, significant achievements can be achieved in this due.

He made the remarks at the Scientific and Economic Cooperation Meeting Between Iran and West African Countries (IRAN WAC) which was held in Tehran in mid-March.

Referring to the Leader's

'Iran Expo 2023 to help country boost its non-oil exports'

from page 1 ► According to the official, more than 750 Iranian companies are going to participate in this year's exhibition to showcase the country's export potential and capacities to foreign trade partners.

Safari said officials and businessmen

from 60 different countries have expressed readiness to visit the exhibition and 15 ministers and deputies are set to travel to Tehran to tour the exhibit.

Addressing the press conference, Mehdi Zheyghami, the chairman of the policy council of

this exhibition as well as the TPO deputy head, said the purpose of holding this exhibition is to facilitate the movement of the private sector through the support and development of exports.

Goods with higher added value will be offered in this exhibition, he added.

Iran's deposits with foreign banks grow by 13% in 2022

TEHRAN – The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has announced a 13-percent growth in Iran's deposits with foreign banks and financial institutions during 2022, as compared to 2021, IRNA reported.

According to the BIS's latest report, Iran's deposits with foreign banks and financial institutions at the end of 2022 exceeded \$21 billion.

The Islamic Republic's deposits with foreign banks and financial institutions in Q4 2022 amounted to \$19.804 billion.

According to BIS, Iran's deposits abroad stood at \$17.558 billion at the end of 2021.

As reported, of Iran's total deposits with foreign banks and financial institutions at the end of 2022, \$11.114 billion were with foreign banks and the rest with non-banking financial institutions.

Based on the BIS data, equal to \$8.59 billion of the Islamic Republic's foreign deposits in the mentioned period were in the form of Euros while the share of the dollar was only \$273 million.

According to the BSI report, Iran's commitments to foreign banks and financial institutions at the end of 2022 also registered a five-percent growth compared to 2021, reaching \$1.768 billion.

As reported, of Iran's total financial commitments at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022, \$876 million were related to foreign banks, and the rest included Iran's commitments to non-banking financial institutions.

Iran's total transactions with foreign banks and financial institutions also reached \$21.572 billion in 2022 registering a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year. The country's exchanges with foreign banks and institutions were reported to be \$19.233 billion in 2021.

The Islamic Republic's total financial transactions with banks and financial institutions in 44 countries across the globe were



valued at \$19.963 billion in the first six months of 2022.

The Bank for International Settlements is an international financial institution owned by central banks that "fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks".

Establishment of industrial parks increased 58% in a year: ISIPO head



TEHRAN – The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO)

announced that the establishment of industrial parks in the country increased by 58 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20) as compared to its preceding year.

According to Ali Rasoulia, on average, 72 percent of the total budget allocated to the organization in the previous year has been spent on establishing new industrial parks and zones across the country, IRNA reported.

Rasoulia said 98 percent of his organization's goals set for the previous year have been achieved by the end of the year.

The official noted that overall, more than 5,130 hectares were added to the country's industrial parks and zones in the previous year.

According to Rasoulia, some 2,967 new units also went operational in the country's industrial parks and zones last year, which created jobs for 49,883 people.

Regarding the provision of necessary infrastructure, including water and electricity to industrial parks and zones last year, he noted that the amount of the supplied water was 788 liters per second and the supplied electricity amounted to 653 megawatts.

TEDPIX drops 3,600 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 3,651 points to 2.514 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 26.686 billion securities worth 189.473 trillion rials (about \$451 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."

Support for British monarchy at historic low

From page 1 ▶ The latest research is reflective of a longer-term trend of declining support for the monarchy. As the king's coronation approaches, a YouGov poll this month revealed that 64% of the public don't care very much or care at all about the pompous ceremony, while only 9% care a great deal.

It is estimated that the coronation (a tradition that dates back to a thousand years) will cost up to £100 million, in addition to £369 million for a refurbishment of Buckingham Palace with gold-plated bells and whistles, among other things.

As with all royal events and palace refurbishments, the bill will be picked up by taxpayers' money.

This comes at a time when British households are facing a cost-of-living crisis amid record inflation levels in the aftermath of the Ukraine war that erupted last year.

Critics argue that there is no constitutional requirement to hold a coronation in the first place, as Charles was declared King after the Queen's death at the accession council.

Anti-monarchy movements have also argued the real purpose of the event, which will see the placing of a crown being placed upon the monarch's head and a family being driven around in gold coaches, is purely a PR stunt for the monarchy to polish its public image.

A monarchy that they view as super rich, powerful and influential behind the scenes, with no democratic values attached to it whatsoever.

Both King Charles and his son, Prince William, have private estates that are worth more than £1 billion. Which raises the question of why the king can't foot the bill for his own coronation.

An investigation by The Guardian found the opaque finances of the royal family and has put the king's personal wealth at almost 2 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion).

The main argument among supporters of the British royal family is that the monarchy brings in tourists, which in turn brings in revenue.

But tourists don't shake hands with the royal family when they visit Buckingham Palace. And they can still visit the massive palace without the monarchy,



perhaps even more tourists can get in if the royal family wasn't there. Also, is the British parliament seriously basing its constitutional priorities on what the tourists want.

The monarchy, as has been revealed in several reports, enjoy significant lobbying power to influence both domestic and foreign policy while also changing the law in their favor to take as much public money as they can and pay out as little as possible from their own pockets.

Apart from the power and pomp that comes with this unelected institution, along with not paying certain taxes, it does pretty much nothing else.

In the newest poll, among the younger generation, only 12% of 18- to 34-year-olds view the monarchy as "very important". There is an increasing number in this generation that question the relevance of this system of governance.

In his autobiography, King Charles's second son prince Harry, boasted about how many people he had killed when he briefly joined the British Army Air Corps in the war on Afghanistan.

This is how the United Kingdom projects its version of democracy to the rest of the world, in this case Afghanistan by sending a prince to fire at and kill Afghans from an Apache helicopter.

The British monarchy has a dark history of its once military colonial rule around the world and the suffering which that colonialism brought to tens of millions of people, which

seriously puts into question the credibility of this household.

But even in modern history, apart from Prince Harry's bizarre public admission, King Charles, as head of the British Army, was formerly head of its parachute regiment when he was prince. This is the same regiment that committed multiple massacres in Northern Ireland against unarmed civilians in the 1970's.

Meanwhile, the growing anti-monarchy movement Republic has accused the British state-funded broadcaster the BBC of lacking impartiality in its recent coverage of the royal family ahead of the coronation.

The campaign group, which states that it wants "to see the monarchy abolished and the King replaced with an elected, democratic head of state," has accused the broadcaster of failing to hold the monarchy to account.

Republic has accused the BBC of failing "to give voice to a reasonable balance of views on the issue".

In a letter to the state-owned media, Republic chief executive Graham Smith said "evidence suggests the BBC not only fails to be impartial, but makes no attempt to be impartial or balanced and, most shockingly, openly colludes with the palace in its coverage."

"It should be a source of deep shame for all those involved that, instead of such fearless reporting, we have insipid, vacuous and dishonest coverage from a BBC that is fearful of

public opprobrium and palace influence."

"A recent YouGov poll showed only 15% of the public are enthusiastic about the coronation, with a majority not interested. The BBC's coverage will suggest the opposite is true," Smith said.

In the YouGov poll support for abolition of the monarchy has clearly climbed while support for the monarchy among people under 40 has dropped. None of that information has been reflected in the BBC's coverage.

Anti-monarchy groups have slammed the plan to pledge allegiance to King Charles, branding the move as an "offensive, tone deaf and a gesture that holds the people to contempt". Instead, they say "in a democracy it is the head of state who should be pledging allegiance to the people, not the other way around."

Protests are being planned for the day of the coronation, with organizers demanding a swift end to what they view as the UK's system of constitutional monarchy and believe the monarchy goes against every democratic principle.

Anti-monarch groups such as Republic also see the British monarchy as an anachronistic institution with no place in a 21st century democracy, particularly at a time when people are facing the worst cost of living crisis in decades.

They are essentially campaigning for an elected head of state.

WORLD HEADLINES

Palestinian succumbs to wounds from Israeli aggression on Gaza

A Palestinian on Wednesday morning succumbed to the wounds he sustained during an Israeli warplane bombing of a site northwest of the city of Gaza, medical sources confirmed.

The sources said that Hashel Mubarak, 58, died after he was severely injured from shrapnel during an Israeli bombing of a site northwest of the Gaza city, adding that five others also suffered shrapnel wounds from Israeli missiles to the east of Beit Hanoun town in the northern besieged coastal strip.

Israeli fighter jets embarked on a series of airstrikes last night across the Gaza Strip, causing massive damage to multiple targets.

Russia says to retaliate in case NATO uses Finnish territory

Russia will be forced to take military-technical and other retaliatory measures if NATO uses Finland's territory, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"We are closely following NATO's plans regarding Finland. We confirm that Russia will be forced to take retaliatory measures of both military-technical and other nature to curb threats to our national security that appear in this connection," the diplomat said at the briefing on Wednesday, commenting on the plans to conclude an agreement allowing the US military to use Finnish territory.

The spokeswoman also pointed out that Moscow regarded such plans as Helsinki's loss of sovereignty. "However, both Finland itself and NATO must realize that pumping Northern Europe with troops will only contribute to growing military and political tensions in this region as well," Zakharova concluded.

Ukraine launched drones targeting Kremlin – Moscow



Ukraine launched two drone attacks overnight intended to strike the Kremlin residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, his office has reported.

The aircraft was downed using measures designed to counter electronic warfare and caused no casualties or damage, according to a statement. Moscow considers the incident an act of terrorism.

The incident occurred late on Tuesday night, and both unmanned aircraft fell on the grounds of the iconic Moscow complex, according to the president's office. Putin's schedule was not affected, and he was working on Wednesday, at his residence outside Moscow.

Russia reserves the right to retaliate in a manner, place, and time of its choosing, the statement noted.

NATO to open its 1st Asian office in Japan: report

In its outreach to Asia Pacific, NATO will open its first Asian office in Japan, a media report claimed on Wednesday.

The one-person liaison office in Tokyo, said Nikkei Asia in a report, "will allow the military alliance to conduct periodic consultations with Japan and key partners in the region, such as South Korea, Australia and New Zealand as China emerges as a new challenge, alongside its traditional focus on Russia."

It added that NATO has already "circulated a draft proposal among its 31 members" regarding the opening of the office which was "first" discussed by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg when the latter visited Japan in January.

Tokyo and NATO are also working to upgrade their cooperation, aiming to sign an Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP) before the NATO Summit in Lithuania in July, the report added.

UN relief chief arrives in Sudan amid unrest

UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator Martin Griffiths arrived in Sudan on Wednesday amid clashes between the Sudanese army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"Just arrived in Port Sudan to reaffirm the UN's commitment to the Sudanese people," Griffiths said on Twitter.

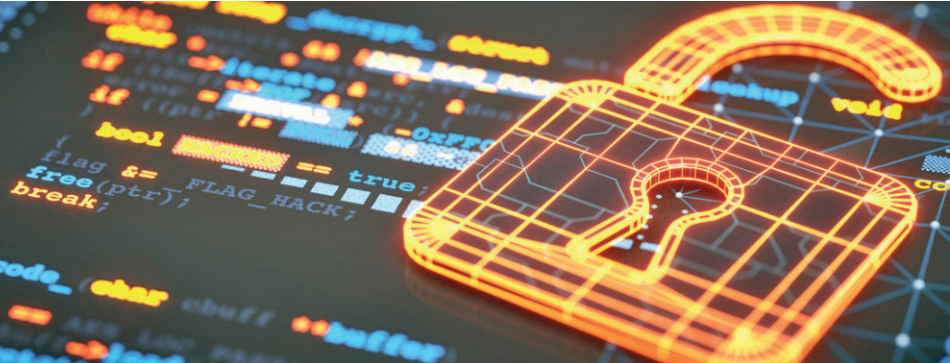
The UN official hailed humanitarian efforts provided in Sudan amid the ongoing fighting.

"In awe of the unwavering dedication of the humanitarian community & local volunteers doing their best to help," he said.

Griffiths, however, didn't provide further details about his mission in Sudan or with whom he would meet. At least 550 people have been killed and more than 4,900 injured in the fighting between the Sudanese army and RSF since April 15, according to Sudan's Health Ministry.

The two warring rivals are set to start a 7-day cease-fire midnight Wednesday.

Massive power outage in Tel Aviv, other cities after cyberattack; regime's sites hacked



A Sudanese hacker group says it has broken into the electricity network in major cities across the occupied territories in support of the Palestinian nation and the resistance front in the besieged Gaza Strip, causing wide-ranging power outages.

The group, which identifies itself as "Anonymous Sudan," announced that it cut off the electricity in the Mediterranean coastal cities of Netanya and Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening.

Anonymous Sudan, which had previously hacked several strategic centers of the Israeli regime, also warned that it will launch more extensive attacks against the

Zionist apartheid entity.

Additionally, the Sudanese hackers took down the Hebrew-language Israeli military news website 0404.

Palestinian news outlets said that the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack, during which websites are targeted by overwhelming their servers with too many requests to connect, made the website unavailable for a while, before it was brought back into service.

Also on Tuesday, Anonymous Sudan announced it had successfully conducted a massive cyber attack against the occupying regime, breaking

into the servers of Bezeq Group, the largest and leading communications group in Israel, as well as several political parties like Shas, Kulanu, Agudat Yisrael and the Jewish Home, and struck the website of the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and the English newspaper Jerusalem Post.

This came only a day after several Israeli websites, including those of the Knesset (parliament) and two major ports in the occupied territories, were taken down by the same hacker group.

Israeli outlets reported on Sunday that an attack had targeted the regime's Radio 103FM station and the website of Check Point Software Technologies Ltd., an American-Israeli multinational provider of software and combined hardware and software products for cyber security.

The cyber attack took place a day after the websites of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel Weapon Industries (IWI), an Israeli firearms manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., and Evigilo Ltd., which develops and delivers emergency mass-notification and alert multi-channel solutions, were hacked.

(Source: Press TV)

Isfahan mayor hails special relationship with Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh



TEHRAN – Isfahan Mayor has said his municipality is ready to establish closer ties with Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh based on interests and mutual needs.

Ali Ghasemzadeh on Monday proposed that Isfahan and Ho Chi Minh may even become sister cities after they tried their hands at tourism, cultural and economic interactions.

The mayor made the remarks during a meeting with the Vietnamese ambassador to Iran, Luong Quoc Huy, IMNA reported.

"Isfahan has always welcomed interaction with other cities in a bid to define closer ties based on mutual respect," the mayor said.

Ghasemzadeh stressed the need for finding common ground to establish special ties with the Vietnamese city. "In addition to being a historical and cultural city, Isfahan is an industrial hub with prestigious universities, so we can define collaborations in these two latter frameworks."

To provide much-needed examples, Ghasemzadeh said: "Isfahan is one of the top cities in terms of urban development, services, and garbage collection, therefore we can share our experiences with other countries."

Speaking to the mayor, the ambassador pointed to 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and said: "My goal is to forge [closer] ties between the two nations, the two countries, and our cities."

Gilan's Zeytoon Parvardeh selected as world's best vegan dish



TEHRAN – The Iranian dish Zeytoon Parvardeh, which is made in the northern province of Gilan, has been named the world's best vegan dish.

It was ranked first among the top 50 best traditional vegan dishes in the world by TasteAtlas, an online travel guide for traditional food.

The list which was published last week, contains food from different countries including Turkey, Italy, Iraq, the U.S., and India.

Mehr Caravanserai to be leased out to private investors

TEHRAN – The centuries-old Mehr Caravanserai is to be leased out to private investors for a couple of years.

The tourism directorate of Khorasan Razavi province has decided to rent out the landmark caravanserai for commercial use, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

The two-story caravanserai covers an area of 5,200 square meters and it has 20 cozy chambers that encircle the courtyard.

Staying at or even just visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a memorable experience for many visitors to Iran because it allows them to experience the past and travel back in time. Narratives say it is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chew hay!

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were built during the Achaemenid era (550 – 330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais

"There are many arenas for cooperation, but we are particularly interested in Isfahan's urban management," the ambassador said.

"In this regard, I have held fruitful discussions with some businesspersons [and private investors] to foster commercial relations."

Moreover, the envoy invited the mayor and an economic delegation to visit Ho Chi Minh City to formulate principles for establishing a sisterhood relation between the two cities.

Soaked in a rich history, Isfahan was once a crossroad of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Moreover, Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility.

The ancient city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

Apart from being a cultural heritage gem, modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem. The city is also home to a gigantic, professional, and state-of-the-art healthcare city, which is a major destination in the realm of medical tourism.

From the Iranian Gilan province, Zeytoon Parvardeh combines pitted olives with pomegranate molasses. Ground walnuts, garlic, fresh herbs like cilantro and mint, pomegranate seeds, and generous amounts of olive oil are also included.

Traditionally served chilled, Zeytoon Parvardeh is usually eaten as an appetizer or snack with lavash bread.

Founded in 2015 by Croatian journalist and entrepreneur Matija Babi?, TasteAtlas collates authentic recipes, food critic reviews, and research articles about popular ingredients and dishes.

Describing itself as 'a world atlas of traditional dishes, local ingredients, and authentic restaurants', it features an interactive global food map with dish icons shown in their respective regions and purportedly contains nearly 10,000 dishes, drinks, and ingredients, as well as 9,000 restaurants.



across the country. Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods and animals. The former Silk Road may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

The Islamic Republic has submitted an inclusive dossier on its caravanserais to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The dossier comprises obligatory data about a selection of 56 caravanserais, which are scattered across the ancient land. And the shortlist includes qualified caravanserais located in at least 24 provinces.

Orange blossom festival added to national heritage list

TEHRAN – A local festival dedicated to orange blossoms in northern Gilan province has recently been added to the national heritage list.

One of the main objectives of this festival is to introduce subcultures related to orange blossom in the traditional rituals of the people of this region, the provincial tourism chief has said.

It also aims to introduce tourists to the various attractions of Gilan province, Vali Jahani explained on Wednesday.

The festival is one of the celebrations held in gratitude for this immense and fragrant blessing in the province, the official added.

It provides tourists with a chance to breathe in the fragrance of orange blossoms, and it serves as a catalyst for the development of tourism,



entrepreneurship, and the creation of an identity for this area, he noted.

Gilan is known for its tourist attractions and warm-hearted and

hospitable people. The people of Gilan from different ethnic groups, including Gilak, Talesh, and Tat, have come together and formed a very rich and diverse culture and

Ancient relics discovered on construction site in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of an ancient workshop and arrays of artifacts on a construction site near the Great Wall of Gorgan in northern Iran.

The excavated objects date back to various historical epochs, including Qajarid, Safavid, and Timurid eras. IRNA quoted Iranian archaeologist Habib Rezaei as saying on Tuesday.

The excavated objects include potteries, metal and glass pieces, two copper coins, an oil lamp, metal ornaments and animal remains, the archaeologist said.

Also, the ruins of an industrial workshop and kiln and their related elements were found at the site, which may be one of the various industrial workshops once constructed on the outskirts of the ancient city of Astarabad, the archaeologist said.

Astarabad is situated along a small tributary of the Qareh River, 37 km from the Caspian Sea. The city, in existence since Achaemenian times, long suffered from inroads of the Turkmen tribes who occupied the plain north of the Qareh River, and it was subjected to incessant Qajar-Turkmen tribal conflicts in the 19th century. It was renamed Gorgan in the 1930s after being devastated by an

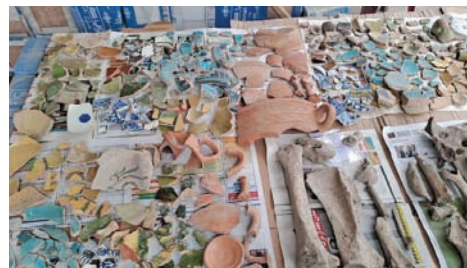
earthquake.

Furthermore, the city is famed for being home to an ancient defensive wall of the same name ("The Great Wall of Gorgan") which stretched some 200 km in length and was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes.

Also known as the Red Wall or the Red Snake, it is the longest ancient barrier between Central Europe and China, longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together, and the third-largest wall in the world after the walls of China and Germany. However, most parts of the gigantic monument are still hidden underneath the surface through some segments that have so far been unearthed and even restored to their former glory.

The gigantic barrier is also more than three times the length of the longest late Roman defensive wall built from scratch, the Anastasian Wall west of Constantinople. The combined area of the forts on the Gorgan Wall exceeds that of those on Hadrian's Wall, about threefold.

According to UNESCO, the Gorgan Wall is remarkable not only in terms of its physical scale but even more so in terms of its technical sophistication. To enable construction works, canals had to be dug along the course of the



defensive barrier to provide the water needed for brick production. These canals received their water from supplier canals, which bridged the Gorgan River via qanats. One of these, the Sadd-e Garkaz, survives to 700 m in length and 20 m in height but was originally almost one kilometer long.

The Gorgan Wall and its associated ancient military monuments provide a unique testimony to the engineering skills and military organization of the Sassanian Empire. They help to explain its geographic extent, from Mesopotamia to the west of the Indian Subcontinent, and how effective border defense contributed to the Empire's prosperity in the interior and its longevity. These monuments are, in terms of their scale, historical importance, and sophistication, of global significance.

Iranian scholar Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan's house named national heritage site



TEHRAN –The house garden of the late Persian language scholar and expert on Ferdowsi's Shahnameh Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Located in the village of Sadrabad, Nadushan county, the central province of Yazd, the house was added to the prestigious list on the first death anniversary of the scholar, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Dating back to the Qajar-era

(1789-1925), the house was a summer resort for the family, Abdolmajid Shakeri explained on Wednesday.

However, Eslami Nodushan donated the house to a cultural center at the end of his life, the official added.

Born in Nodushan, Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan left his hometown for France to study private international law. He then returned home and began a teaching career in law, literary criticism, and comparative literature at the University of Tehran.

He spent his life studying the scientific and literary works of Iranian writers and translating books by the world's great writers, all of which have been published in over 50 books.

"Iran's Conscience: Ferdowsi,

Rumi, Sadi, Hafiz" is one of his wonderful books. This book covers a series of lectures Eslami Nodushan gave at the Book City Institute in Tehran in the late 1990s.

His studies of Persian poet Hafez are among the most useful sources of information for Persian literature scholars. Among them are "Endless Story of Hafez" and "Contemplation on Hafez".

Some of his massive studies on the Shahnameh (The Book of Kings), the epic masterpiece of the Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi, are contained in the books "The Story of Stories: Rostam and Esfndiar in the Shahnameh" and "Heroes' Death and Life in the Shahnameh".

"Days", his autobiography covering his life story from age 4 to 53, was turned into a bestseller in 2016 when

customs.

The northern region was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Besides, its sophisticated capital city of Rasht has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action—it's the largest and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz range.

“Ardabil 2023” strengthens tourism capacity

TEHRAN – The “Ardabil 2023” event, which was recently held in the northwestern Iranian city has the potential to strengthen the region's tourism capacity, the spokesman for the Iranian government has said.

Foreign tourists can benefit greatly from this event in gaining knowledge of the tourism capabilities of the country, especially those of Ardabil, ISNA quoted Ali Bahadori Jahromi as saying on Wednesday.

Moreover, as part of bilateral and multilateral negotiations with different countries, the Iranian government is waiving visas for some tourism target countries to boost tourism, the official added.

Last Thursday, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami, inaugurated the "Ardabil 2023" event.

The opening ceremony was attended by the ministers and representatives from the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as well as foreign ambassadors and Iranian

cultural and tourism officials.

Last July, Zarghami said that the “Ardabil 2023” would be a great opportunity to promote the province on an international scale.

As “Ardabil 2023” approaches, it is necessary to make the most of the opportunity to introduce the province internationally and to build infrastructure in the province, the minister said.

Ardabil province is rich in cultural heritage and tourism, but suffers from a lack of investment and infrastructure, he added.

Ardabil's potential in tourism, as well as tourists' interest in visiting this province, has created the need for better infrastructure and investments in this field, he explained.

In 2019, Ardabil along with Sari, the capital of Mazandaran province, were selected as the cultural capitals of the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Last April, the tourism authorities of the province announced that they had developed



extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

The province is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Universities of Tehran and Moscow to build joint research satellite

TEHRAN – The University of Tehran and the Moscow State University will start working on building a research satellite in the near future.

Mohammad Moqimi, the president of the University of Tehran said the implementation of the project will begin in the next 2 weeks, IRNA reported.

“Preliminary measures are projected to start within the next two weeks so that we can send a joint scientific research satellite into space in the near future. An initial agreement has also been made regarding its financial discussions,” he explained.

Implementing the project will start within the next two weeks.

On April 27, Moqimi held a meeting with Viktor Sadovnichy, the rector of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, discussing ways to expand bilateral relations.

The meeting was held at the Sixth Forum of Rectors of Russian and Iranian Universities aiming to expand and deepen international cooperation in scientific, research, and academic fields between the top universities of the two countries.

Scientific cooperation between Iran and Russia is based on five models in various fields of nanotechnology, aviation, electronic equipment, and telecommunications, and the establishment of the Iranian House of Innovation in Russia is the latest example of this cooperation.

Technological advances in accordance with modern needs, increasing productivity, and competitiveness are strong reasons for technological interactions between countries. Various countries such as Russia, China, Germany, and others have interacted with Iran so far, the result of which is satisfactory, and in some cases, communication through joint science and technology projects is still ongoing.

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

During the last 5-6 years, the capacity of international interactions has been considered by Iran and Russia,



and this cooperation has expanded by forming bilateral agreements through inter-sectoral coordination.

Designing and creating a set of necessary infrastructures between Iran and Russia for technological cooperation, including the joint fund of knowledge, skills, and technology of Iran and Russia, designing incentive mechanisms to strengthen science and technology interactions, and holding technology exchange meetings.

Aviation

The deployment of humans to space, the launch of a house of innovation in Russia, the construction of aircraft and satellites, and joint research, are some of the results of Russian-Iranian cooperation, some of which are being operated and some are in the early stages of understanding.

The issue of cooperation between the two countries in the field of aerospace has a long history. Science and technology officials of the two countries held consultations at the 2015 MAKS air show to cooperate in the field of localization of aircraft construction, upgrade of defense and space systems, satellites, and satellite-based missiles so that this field also plays its share and economic value in promoting relations between the two countries.

Research

Iran-Russia cooperation with the support of the Fund for Support of Researchers and Technologists has also led to the implementation of 59 projects, which have now been completed.

Nanotech

The two nations also cooperate in the field of nanotechnology which dates back to 2005. Holding a joint conference in 2005, concluding a memorandum of understanding between the Nanotechnology Innovation Council on certification and labeling of nanotechnology in 2016, Russia's participation in the strategic committee of the International Nanotechnology Olympiad in 2017 as a member of the company has been the fields of cooperation.

Source: Ramsar.org

WORLD RAMSAR SITES

Ecological character

Youhao Wetlands consist of a large area of permanent freshwater marshes, permanent rivers, shrub-dominated marshes and tree-dominated marshes.

The main wetland plants found here include *Phragmites communis*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex schmidtii* and *Deyeuxia angustifolia*.

The wetland is the important breeding places and habitats of waterbirds in Lesser Khingan Mountains.

A large area of marshes is covered by wetland vegeta-

tion, such as *Picea jezoensis*, *Larix gmelinii*, *Salix rosmarinifolia* and *Care appendiculata*, retaining relatively completed multi-gradient ecosystem of forest-shrub-herb freshwater marshes, providing habitats and foraging places for birds like *Emberiza aureola*, *Tetrao tetrix*, and *Bonasia bonasia*.

Many waterbirds, such as *Mergus squamatus*, *Ciconia boyciana*, *Grus japonensis*, and *Grus monacha*, forage, inhabit, and breed in dense river networks and dotted lakes and bogs in the site.



Strawberry farming in northern Iran

A man is carrying a basket of strawberries picked at a farm in Ramyan, northern Golestan province, May 3. Golestan produces some 9,000 tons of strawberries per year, ranking third after Kordestan and Mazandaran provinces.

Zakat collection rises 34% year on year



in 2020 as a response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Benefactors have also donated money to free prisoners of unintentional crimes and help develop the health sector.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 23 this year).

A total of 6,875 prisoners of unintentional crimes have been released over the past 12 months, Asadollah Joulaei, the head of the Blood Money Organization, said on March 26, Mehr reported.

Of the total released prisoners, 320 were male and the rest were female incarcerated due to inability to pay financial debts or inability to pay dues (workshop accidents and traffic accidents), Joulaei added.

The prisoners had a sum of 48.257 trillion rials (nearly \$96 million) in debt, he noted.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

The contribution of benevolent people and non-government organizations (NGOs) to the healthcare sector rose by 100 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year that ended on March 20.

Benevolent people and NGOs hold a 30 percent share of development projects in the healthcare sector, Mohammad-Javad Heidaripour, an official with the Ministry of Health, has said.

“In the past year, we experienced a 100 percent growth in charitable donations, which is very promising and heralds a new era in the field of public participation in the health system.”

As much as 80 percent of the collected zakat is spent to provide basic foods for the needy.

Referring to the strong presence of benefactors for providing medical equipment and building medical centers in all the cities of the country, Heidaripour said: “Iran's rank in the field of philanthropy is very significant in such a way that the country's philanthropy rank in the world in the 10-year period ending in 2021 was 22”

Marriage loans jump 55% to \$2.5 billion



TEHRAN – Some 1,240 trillion rials (about \$2.5 billion) was paid in marriage loans in the past Iranian calendar year that ended on March 20, showing 55 percent rise year on year.

Vahid Yaminpour, the deputy sports and youth minister, said the banking system paid 800 trillion rials (about \$1.6 billion) in loans to newly-wed couples in the year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022), ISNA reported.

Official statistics of the country and the forecast of demographic experts indicate that if the trend of decreasing fertility rate, increasing single-child families, declining marriage rate, and increasing divorce rate continues for the next 30 years, old age will prevail in the country and one in three people will be over 60-years-old, which will be the beginning of a crisis.

Several socioeconomic factors, including urbanization, education, financial issues, first marriage age, increasing divorce rate, as well as increased access to family planning services along with increased time gap between

the firstborn and marriage, lead to decreased fertility rate.

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) approved on March 16, 2022, to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) has approved a bill to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

As the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has emphasized that the national development plans should focus

on population growth, and on the other hand, the Expediency Council seeks a one-year extension of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), it was decided to implement the plan for 7 years.

The downward trend of population growth gradually decreases and reaches zero, then becomes negative. Negative population growth causes the population to disappear in the long run.

It is estimated that population growth will reach zero in 2040 and then becomes negative, so the biggest concern is that Iran's population will age in the coming years, fertility will decline, and the population of youth will decrease.

By a decree issued by President Ebrahim Raisi, the “Law on Family and Youth Support” approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) was notified to the Ministry of Health and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

The Guardian Council approved the law on November 17 last year to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

Some 56 percent of the total motorcycles in the country are running in only five provinces, Ali Mohammadi, a senior traffic police official has said.

Of all 32.9 million vehicles in the country, motorcycles amount to 11.6 million, accounting for 35 percent of the total vehicles moving in the country, he stated.

According to the statistics, 56 percent of motorcycles are plying the roads in 5 provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars and Khuzestan, he added.

There are 2 million motorcycles in Tehran, 1.3 million in Khorasan Razavi, 1.2 million in Isfahan, 916,000 in Fars, and 564,000 in Khuzestan, he also said.

The capital city of Tehran alone has the biggest share of motorcyclists constituting 21 percent of the estimated 56 percent, he noted, IRNA reported on Sunday.

۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند.

سرهنگ علی محمدی روز یکشنبه افزود: از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند.

وی اظهار داشت: برابر آمارها تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند. رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: تهران بزرگ با حدود ۲ میلیون دستگاه موتورسیکلت، خراسان رضوی ۱.۳ میلیون دستگاه، اصفهان ۱.۲ میلیون دستگاه، فارس ۹۱۶ هزار دستگاه و خوزستان با ۵۶۴ هزار دستگاه موتورسیکلت بیشترین موتورسیکلت های کشور را به خود اختصاص دادند.

محمدی با بیان اینکه بیش از ۲۱ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور در تهران بزرگ تردد می کنند، اظهار داشت: تهران بیشترین سهم موتورسیکلت را در سطح کشور داراست.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Each fruit of the tree you have planted will be appreciated by a reward from Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:12 Dawn: 3:36 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:10 (tomorrow)

Iranian studies in German: Pre-Islamic period

Part 4

Archeology: Iranian archeology has always been situated within the wider field of Ancient Near Eastern archeology, even in the case of Ernst Herzfeld (1879-1948), who held such a chair in Berlin from 1917 to 1935, when he emigrated (first to the United Kingdom and then later to the United States), and is literally the founder of Iranian archeology.

Mention may also be made here of Klaus Schippmann (Göttingen, 1972-90) and Leo Trümpelmann (Munich, 1980-89).

The main German institution for archeological research on Iran has been for some time the Tehran branch (Abteilung Teheran, founded in 1961) of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut under Heinz Luschey (1910-92), Wolfram Kleiss, and Peter Calmeyer (1930-95).

In consequence of political developments in Persia since 1978, which resulted in working conditions becoming more and more difficult there, and because of financial constraints this branch in 1996 became part of a newly-founded Eurasia department with particular research interests in Central Asia.

Manuscript collections:

Apart from the university facilities, there is the famous Berlin Turfan Collection, the core of which consists of the manuscript fragments from various sites in the Turfan basin brought back by the four expeditions (under Albert Grünwedel and Albert von Le Coq) that the Museum of Ethnology (Museum für Völkerkunde) had sent to Chinese Turkestan between 1902 and 1914 (Boyce).

The archeological material from the expeditions remained in the Museum of Ethnology's possession, but most of the manuscripts became the property of the then Prussian Academy of Sciences.

Notwithstanding the vicissitudes of the Turfan Collection during and after World War II, all the texts are now again in the care of the "Turfan Project" of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Here may be added a short mention of the fact that the only notable German collection of Zoroastrian (i.e., Avestan and Middle Persian) manuscripts is the one of the Bavarian State Library in Munich, the basis of which is the collection of more than forty manuscripts from the estate of Martin Haug. They were catalogued in an exemplary manner by Bartholomae (1915).

Austria: The only Austrian research institution concerned with Iranian studies is the Committee of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, which was created in 1969 on the initiative of Manfred Mayrhofer, professor of general linguistics and Indo-European studies at the University of Vienna (1966-88).

Mayrhofer had previously taught in Würzburg (1958-62) and Saarbrücken (1962-66) and is the author of important publications on, e.g., Old Persian, its collateral tradition in Elamite sources, and Old Iranian anthroponomastics.

The special aim of the committee is to prepare a new multi-volume dictionary of Iranian personal names, of which two volumes and three additional fascicles have been published so far (1979-).

It is intended to replace Ferdinand Justi's outdated work from the late 19th century.

The Academy itself owes its foundation in 1847 to the impetus given by the great Austrian Orientalist Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall (1774-1856), who did not work,

however, on pre-Islamic Iran.

Apart from this particular case, the situation of Iranian studies at Austrian universities is similar to that in Germany.

Only for a time (since 1892) and under particular circumstances has there been a chair of Indo-Iranian studies at the University at Graz.

It was held by Johann Kirste (1851-1920), who, apart from his Indological studies, published works on Iranian (e.g., paleographic) subjects (though they were not always convincing).

The chair was canceled when his successor, Hans Reichelt (1920-26), left for Hamburg, but four years later Reichelt returned to Graz to hold the Indo-European chair (1930-39), which then covered Indo-Iranian philology and continued to do so under Wilhelm Brandenstein (1898-1967, professor since 1941).

At the University of Vienna, Bernhard Geiger (1881-1964), a native of then Austrian Silesia and a specialist in Avestan and Western Middle Iranian languages and Zoroastrian studies, had an extraordinary professorship in Iranian and Indian philology from 1919 to his emigration to the United States in 1938.

In addition to these, mention must be made of Friedrich Müller (1834-98), the author of a great number of studies on Iranian languages, who from 1869 to his death held the chair of Sanskrit and comparative philology at the University of Vienna.

Switzerland: Iranian studies, not being institutionalized anywhere in Switzerland, have been cultivated only by individual scholars such as Heinrich Brunnhofer (1841-1917), who repeatedly dealt with the problem of the original home of the Aryan peoples and their migrations; the Indologist Ernst Leumann (1859-1931), who did pioneering work in the field of making accessible the Khotanese language and literature (which he had called "North Aryan"); or the Indo-European scholars Jacob Wackernagel (1853-1938) of Basel (professor of Greek language and literature there in 1879-1902 and 1915-36), who, being professor in Göttingen in 1902-15, worked together with F. C. Andreas on the Gathas; and Eduard Schwyzer (1874-1943), who during his years in Bonn (1927-32) wrote some important Avestan studies.

Emigrants: Most of the expatriate German scholars who worked in the field of Iranian studies had left Germany at the time of the Nazi regime.

They included the future founder of the Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum, Walter Bruno Henning (1908-67), who was among the last of Andreas' students and became Lecturer in Iranian Studies at the School of Oriental Studies in London in 1936 and then (after 1961) Professor of Iranian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley; the archeologist Ernst Herzfeld (professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., in 1936-44); the Austrian scholar Bernhard Geiger, who in 1938-50 held a chair at the Asia Institute in New York (1938-50) and then was visiting professor of Iranian Studies at Columbia University; and Geiger's pupil Paul Maximilian Tedesco (1898-1980), a Viennese by birth, who in the days of his youth had dealt with problems of the Middle Iranian languages and from 1938 lived in the United States, where he taught at Yale University as professor of Indo-Iranian and Slavic Linguistics (from 1952), and later of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology (1960-66).

Source: Encyclopædia Iranica.

To be continued.

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art honors hyperrealism in new exhibit

TEHRAN – The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) is celebrating the genre of hyperrealism in its new exhibition that opened on Monday.

33 prized artworks representing the art form are on view at the showcase entitled "Hyperrealism: From Image to Reality – a review of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art's postmodern collection".

Hyperrealism is a genre of painting and sculpture in which the artworks have a resemblance to a high-resolution photograph. Hyperrealism is considered an advancement of photorealism by the methods used to create the resulting paintings or sculptures.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Mahmud Salari categorized any comparison between hyperrealism and photography as a serious affront to hyperrealism.

"The hyperrealism genre should be viewed as being somewhat like alchemy; its magnificence can be observed from such a perspective," he said and noted that his organization would carry out some measures to stop derogatory remarks offensive to this art form.

In an Instagram post published on Tuesday, Homa Gallery, a major art center in Tehran, praised the exhibition curated by Jamal Arabzadeh.

The gallery said that when the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art was inaugurated in 1977, it was among the world's top seven museums of contemporary art.

"The passage of time proved this fact," the gallery stated.

The TMCA is home to works by many august artists of the West, including Claude Monet, Francis Bacon, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, and notable in the world for its historical narration of art with the largest collection of

A poster for the exhibition "Hyperrealism: From Image to Reality" underway at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Western art that exists in the East.

The exhibition will run until June 25, and is concurrent with "Footprint", which has been called "a reflection on the relationship between artists and the surrounding world" by the organizers.

Over 80 works by foreign and Iranian

artists are on view at the exhibition.

During the opening ceremony of the exhibits, TMCA officials awarded Jamshid Nasser, the husband of artist and collector Manijeh Miremadi, with a plaque of honor for donating a collection her works to the museum.

“Katvoman” wins audience award for best short fiction at French festival

A scene from "Katvoman" by Iranian director Hadi Sheibani.

TEHRAN – The Iranian short drama "Katvoman" has won the audience award for best short fiction at the 10th edition of the Amnesty International France's Cinema for Human Rights Festival.

Written and directed by Hadi Sheibani, the

film shows a mom and son playing dressed up as Batman and Catwoman before dad returns for dinner. Through the play, the child discovers a difficult truth about his parents.

The film has been screened at numerous international events and has won several awards, including the award for best fiction at the Festival International du Film Amateur de Kelibia – FIFAK in Tunisia.

The Amnesty International France's Cinema for Human Rights Festival announced winners on Sunday. Films in this festival are judged by a jury from the audience.

The young audience prize was given to "Dounia and the Princess of Aleppo", an animated feature film co-directed by André Kadi and Marya Zarif.

In this movie co-produced by France and Canada, with a few nigella seeds tucked in the palm of her hand, six-year-old Dounia leaves

Aleppo with the Princess of Aleppo's help and travels towards a new world.

"It Rains" by Carolina Corral and Magali Rocha Donnadiou from Mexico won the audience award for best short documentary.

The animated documentary tells the story of Maria, a mother who discovers that the Morelos prosecutor's office buried her son and 115 other bodies in an irregular hidden grave. Maria and her sister ask the government to open the grave and manage to get it to remove the buried people from it. Maria is always guided by the rain; when it rains it means her son Oliver is sending her signs that she is on the right track in her fight for the return of the missing to their homes.

"Les a Perdues", a film by Stéphane Malterre and Garance Le Caisne from France, was given the audience award for best feature documentary.

“The Mechanical Mind” opens to Persian readers’ world

TEHRAN – “The Mechanical Mind: A Philosophical Introduction to Minds, Machines and Mental Representation” by Tim Crane has been published in Persian by Now.

Minu Zamanfar and Ahmad Lotfi are the translators of the book originally published in 1995.

How can the human mind represent the external world? What is thought, and can it be studied scientifically? Should we think of the mind as a kind of machine? Is the mind a computer? Can a computer think?

Crane sets out to answer these questions and more in a lively and straightforward way, presuming no prior knowledge of philosophy or related disciplines.

Since its first publication, “The Mechanical Mind” has introduced

Front cover of the Persian edition of Tim Crane's book "The Mechanical Mind".

thousands of people to some of the most important ideas in the contemporary philosophy of mind.

Crane explains the fundamental ideas that cut across the philosophy

of mind, artificial intelligence and cognitive science: what the mind-body problem is; what a computer is and how it works; what thoughts are and how computers and minds might have them.

He examines different theories of the mind from dualist to eliminativist, and questions whether there can be thought without language and whether the mind is subject to the same causal laws as natural phenomena. The result is a fascinating exploration of the theories and arguments surrounding the notions of thought and representation.

The third edition has been fully revised and updated, and includes a wholly new chapter on externalism about mental content and the extended and embodied mind. There is a stronger emphasis

on the environmental and bodily context in which thought occurs.

Many chapters have been reorganized to make the reader's passage through the book easier. The book now contains a much more detailed guide to further reading, and the chronology and the glossary of technical terms have also been updated.

“The Mechanical Mind” is accessible to anyone interested in the mechanisms of our minds, and essential reading for those studying philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology, or cognitive psychology.

Crane is a British philosopher specializing in the philosophy of mind, philosophy of perception, philosophy of psychology and metaphysics.

Frank Herbert’s “Dune” published in Persian

TEHRAN – American writer Frank Herbert's "Dune", frequently described as the bestselling science fiction novel in history, has been published in Persian.

Tandis is the publisher of the book originally published in 1965. It has been translated into Persian by Seyyed Mahyar Forutanfar.

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, "Dune" is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, heir to a noble family tasked with ruling an inhospitable world where the only thing of value is the "spice" mélange, a drug capable of extending life and enhancing consciousness.

When the House of Atreides is betrayed, the

destruction of Paul's family sets the boy on a journey toward a destiny greater than he could ever have imagined. And as he evolves into the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib, he will bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream.

A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, "Dune" won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction.

The story was adapted into a 1984 film, a 2000 television miniseries, and a 2021 film. The latter will be followed by a 2023 direct sequel.

A poster for the Persian edition of Frank Herbert's story "Dune".