

Iraq to release findings into Gen. Soleimani assassination

TEHRAN- A member of the Coordination Framework Alliance in the Iraqi parliament announced on Monday that the judicial proceedings relevant to the assassination of senior Iranian anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi PMU deputy chief Abu Mahid al-Muhandis are continuing and the results will be released soon.

Jabbar Odeh noted that the U.S., the Israeli regime, and their mercenaries were directly engaged in the assassinations outside Baghdad International Airport.

A fair trial and legal means of retaliation are required to exact justice for the martyrs' pure blood, the MP said, adding that all Iraqi political organizations would not tolerate any delay or inactivity in this issue under any circumstances.

In a drone strike on January 3, 2020, the U.S. assassinated General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) al-Muhandis and their companions.

Despite his military advisers' warnings against the reckless action, then-U.S. President Donald Trump approved the operation.

The Iraqi lawmaker highlighted that the probe would not be impacted by the U.S. and its allies' attempts to spread false information about the crime since everyone is aware of the two commanders' tremendous achievements in the battle against the Daesh terrorist group throughout Iraq.

The window to revive JCPOA will not remain open forever: Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN- An Iranian deputy foreign minister says the 2015 nuclear agreement has a possibility of being fully implemented anew if the European troika demonstrates "credible political will" and resumes respecting their obligations.

JCPOA can be implementable if EU3 countries show political will

In a post on his Twitter account on Tuesday, Ali Baqeri Kani said, "A critical reminder: 5 years ago, the U.S. rendered a fatal blow to 'rule of law at the international level' by unlawfully withdrawing from JCPOA. Ever since, the U.S. has failed to reverse its wrongful act. Iran's legitimate remedial measures will continue."

He went on to add, "The full implementation of JCPOA (with effective sanctions lifting at its core) could be resumed, should the reneging party (and EU/E3) demonstrate credible political will to that effect. No opportunity is forever!"

Multiple rounds of negotiations took place from April 2021 to September 2022 between Iran and the JCPOA's five remaining signatories — Britain, France, Germany, ▶ Page 2



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Glorious Return

What are the messages of Dashmaq's return to the Arab League?

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- On May 7, Arab League foreign ministers adopted a resolution based on which they decided to readmit the Syrian Arab Republic to the Arab League, also called the League of Arab States (LAS).

The ministers voted for Syria's return into the fold at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo on Sunday.

The decision was made in advance of the Arab League summit in Saudi Arabia on May 19 and amid a flurry of normalization of regional countries' ties with Damascus in

recent weeks.

The move is further evidence of a thaw in relations between Damascus and other Arab governments.

Arab League statement

Following is the text of the statement issued by the Arab League:

Reiterate the commitment to the preservation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and stability of Syria, under the Charter of the Arab League and its principles. ▶ Page 5

ICOPMAS 2022 running in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iran's 14th International Conference on Coast, Ports and Marine Structures (ICOPMAS 2022) kicked off in Tehran on Tuesday, the portal of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by senior officials including Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, Commander of

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy Alireza Tangsiri, and PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei.

As reported, more than 135 specialized articles are going to be presented and become available to researchers during the two-day conference.

Also, an exhibition of the capabilities of knowledge-based companies active in the

maritime industry is held on the sidelines of the conference with the aim of presenting and showcasing new technologies in the mentioned sector.

Iran looking to transform its macro policies in maritime economy

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference, Safaei mentioned Iran's special geographical position and the ▶ Page 4

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Tehran Papers

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

Secret letters between Iran and America?

Arman-e-Emrooz in a confused report made claims about secret correspondence between Iran and the America and wrote about the advantages of ▶ Page 2

Raisi applauds resistance front for helping Syria to abort US, Israeli plots

TEHRAN- Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, has praised the resistance movement in the region for its significant role in helping Syria prevail against a U.S. and Israeli-led terror campaign.

"The axis of evil, led by the Zionist regime and the U.S., plotted and implemented various conspiracies against Syria," Raisi said in an interview with the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) during his recent official visit to Syria.

Raisi also emphasized how many nations that had previously worked together against Damascus had changed their minds on the Arab nation in light of its effective resistance to the extensive campaign of terrorism supported by foreign powers.

In other parts of his interview, Raisi cited statements by many U.S. officials that Washington had founded Daesh.

Meanwhile, Raisi questioned "how the Americans, who have admitted to creating Daesh, had the nerve to later claim that they were seeking to fight Daesh and terrorism?" ▶ Page 2

Interview

Iran ice hockey captain Sanaei praises performance in Asia



By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Azam Sanaei, captain of Iran national women's ice hockey team, says that the Iranian girls need more support to shine in the international competitions.

Iran finished runners-up at the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championships. The team lost to defending champions Thailand 3-1 in the final match of the tournament.

"The players did their utmost in the games and proved their qualities," said Sanaei in his exclusive interview with the Tehran Times.

Sanaei is at the same time the assistant coach and the captain of the national women's team. ▶ Page 3

Iran denounces Israeli strikes on Gaza that kill 13, including four children

TEHRAN - The airstrikes by the Zionist regime, which left at least 13 Palestinians dead in the Gaza Strip, were heavily condemned by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

More than 40 Israeli warplanes carried out attacks for nearly two hours starting at 2: am on Tuesday (23:00 GMT Monday), Al Jazeera reported.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said the attacks were carried out in advance of the Al-Nakba (Catastrophe) Day anniversary and were intended to ▶ Page 2



Mayar (right) and Ali (left), along with their father, were brutally murdered in an Israeli airstrike on their family home in Gaza while they were asleep last night! The rest of their family are in intensive care.

INOTEX 2023 kicks off in Tehran

TEHRAN - The 12th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2023) opened at Tehran's Pardis Technology Park on Tuesday and will run until May 12.

With the theme of 'innovation ecosystem under one roof', INOTEX is Iran's biggest technology event and the forerunner in the region, bringing technology and innovation experts around the world together to bridge the gap between innovators, investors, and traders.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Technology and Innovation Report 2021 has placed Iran among upper-middle countries in terms of readiness for frontier technologies.

The index yielded results for 158 countries with the United States, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom receiving the highest scores on a scale of 0 to 1. Based on their rankings, countries are placed within one of four 25-percentile score groups: low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high values of the index.

The report has put Iran in the 71st position with a total score of 0.46, higher than Qatar, Oman, and Morocco.

Iran was also placed 82 in ICT, 74 in skills, 37 in R&D, 130 in industry, and 53 in finance sectors, according to Iran National Innovations Team. ▶ Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

Secret letters between Iran and America?

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

Arman-e-Emrooz in a confused report made claims about secret correspondence between Iran and the America and wrote about the advantages of a regional agreement. It said: One of the advantages of a regional agreement is that a strong economic relations can convert the scenario of conflict between Iran and its neighbors into a more costly option. With an economic interdependence, the rich Arab countries of the Persian Gulf will gain more leverage to control Tehran's behavior. On the other hand, Iran will have the opportunity to rebuild its economy.

One of the benefits for America in the case of a broader regional agreement is that a regional nuclear competition will be avoided.

In other words, this agreement will be more stable and powerful than the JCPOA. If such an agreement lessens tensions between Iran and its neighbors, it will allow the United States to focus more on important issues such as climate change and competition between great powers. An agreement may have started from the exchange of secret letters between Iran and America, and the parties are negotiating to reach an agreement in which China will undoubtedly be one of its players.

Shargh: Cairo's view to Riyadh

In a note, Shargh addressed the issue of Iran-Egypt relations. It wrote: The agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia on March 10 can provide the possibility of negotiations to heal the rift between Iran and Egypt. If the normalization of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia provides the possibility of solving several regional issues, especially in Syria and Yemen, it will naturally be imaginable to improve mutual relations between Iran and Egypt.

Like Sharq, the Etemad newspaper also pointed to dialogue between Tehran and Cairo mediated by Iraq. Etemad quoted an expert's analysis who said: "There is a feeling in Iran that we need to put aside some of our actions abroad and start new moves and policies. I think that if we consider the conditions of time, it is a good opportunity to normalize the relations between Tehran and Cairo."

Kayhan: America's confrontation with regional politics or Iran

In its editorial, Kayhan discussed the America's determination to confront Iran's regionalism policy and emphasized that America will fail in this campaign. It wrote: Israelis and Americans will certainly take actions to bring the new Iranian policy in the region to a failure, but brave and

prudent steps from regional countries, especially by Iran and Saudi Arabia, will not allow them to cause trouble for the great achievements of regionalism, Asianism and neighborhood policy.

Iran: The new order of the region without Western influence

The Iran newspaper devoted its headline to the issue of confrontation between America and Iran in the region and said: Although America had tried to limit Iran's scope of action by strengthening its allies in the Middle East in recent years, it has failed in a self-made conflict with our country, either with direct military presence or with the leverage of Takfiri terrorism. After Washington became helpless in the proxy wars and admitted the failure of maximum pressure against Iran in the areas of diplomacy and sanctions, it found an appropriate time to focus on another strategy in the Middle East. This strategy was to support normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab countries and also take major intelligence and proxy operations against the Islamic Republic's military forces overseas. This strategy has practically lost its significance with the agreement between Tehran and Riyadh as two important players in the region. It has forced the decisionmakers in America to take hasty positions and to go on injudicious trips to the region. The recent position of the U.S. National Security Adviser is because of this. Sul-livan used the nuclear case and the unfinished Vienna negotiations as an excuse to provoke new diplomatic tensions and proved that America is responsible for all Israel's destructive actions against Iran's nuclear activities.

Hamshahri: Six moves

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed the foreign policy achievements of the Raisi government. It wrote: The Islamic Republic of Iran's move in adopting a new foreign policy in recent months is bearing fruit, and the course of regional and global developments, especially in ??West Asia, indicates formation of new arrangements in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

Hamshahri cited six reasons for this. They are: Setting a new foreign policy agenda, taking steps toward relations between Tehran and Arab governments, strategic triangle between Tehran, Moscow and Beijing, relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, a warning to the American-Zionist axis, and the last one is clearing up misunderstandings with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



lifting of sanctions against Iran.

He also cautioned the Europeans that this window will not remain open forever.

The window to revive JCPOA will not remain open forever: diplomat

From page 1 ► China, and Russia — in an effort to convince the U.S. to rejoin the agreement. However, the U.S. did not show seriousness to bring the deal to life.

Diplomats from that nation were not participating in the discussions as the United States departed from the agreement in May 2018.

The U.S. and Iran are sending messages through intermediaries to resurrect the deal but nothing serious has happened so far.

Nasser Kanaani, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, on Monday reaffirmed Tehran's preparedness for the conclusion of the talks on the nuclear agreement and the

Chemical weapons pose threat to world peace, Iran cautions

TEHRAN - The use of chemical weapons is a grave breach of international law, a crime against humanity, and a danger to world peace and security, Iran's ambassador to the UN said on Monday.

Saeed Iravani stated that Iran, as the primary victim of chemical weapons, strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances,

He made the remarks while speaking during a UN Security Council session on the situation in West Asia with a focus on Syria.

The following is text of the ambassador's speech:

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran denounces Israeli strikes on Gaza that kill 13, including four children

From page 1 ► draw attention away from the Israeli regime's critical and unstable domestic situation.

The Israeli airstrikes resulted in the deaths and injuries of numerous civilians, including women and children, as well as the martyrdom of three leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement.

Such strikes reveal the aggressive Zionist regime's frustration and weakness in the face of the heroic resistance by young Palestinians in the West Bank and al-Quds, Kanaani said.

A major factor that has emboldened the apartheid Israeli regime to continue its crimes, according to Kanaani, is the silence and inaction of Western nations and international organizations in the face of the Zionist regime's increasing atrocities against the Palestinians in recent months.

He said that such a silence would go down in history as a "dark and shameful" conduct by those who claimed to be human rights aficionados.

Finally, the Iranian official said it



is necessary that Islamic nations take prompt, effective, deterrent, and coordinated measures to halt the Zionist regime's criminal and killing machine.

Days after a ferocious escalation of hostilities put the embattled coastal enclave on edge, Israeli warplanes initiated a series of targeted attacks on the Gaza Strip

early on Tuesday.

Based on the Palestinian reports, the attacks targeted a variety of areas in Gaza City, Rafah, and Khan Yunis, among other places, and at least 13 Palestinians were killed and 20 others were injured.

According to a statement from the Zionist regime's military, the Is-

lamic Jihad resistance commanders in the strikes include Khalil Bahitini, the commander of the al-Quds Brigades in the northern Gaza Strip; Tareq Ezzaldin, a spokesperson for the movement who also manages retaliatory operations in the West Bank and Gaza; and Jihad Ghanem, secretary of the movement's military council.

Raisi applauds resistance front for helping Syria to abort US, Israeli plots



From page 1 ► Meanwhile, Raisi questioned "how the Americans, who have admitted to creating Daesh, had the nerve to later claim that they were seeking to fight Daesh and terrorism?"

The Iranian president also stated that Iran was prepared to mediate between Syria and its neighbor Turkey in an effort to ease tensions between the two nations.

Raisi pointed out how Iran had emphasized Syria's sovereignty over all of its soil during the most recent round of talks between the Islamic Republic, Turkey, and Russia in the Kazakh capital of Astana, and

placed emphasis on the need for the Syrian state to be given the responsibility of establishing security across the Arab nation's border with Turkey.

When asked about Iran's recent reconciliation with Saudi Arabia, the president stated, "We have never identified Saudi Arabia as our enemy and will never do so either," adding, "This is Iran's principled position."

"Iran and Saudi Arabia are two great countries in the region," Raisi said, emphasizing that their connections might help to regional standing equations.

Getting rid of Israel nukes only way to stop proliferation in ME: physicist

'Diplomats worried that a messianic dictatorship could gain control over Israel's nuclear arms'

TEHRAN - In an article in Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a physicist says the only way to stop nuclear proliferation in the Middle East is to get rid of Israeli nukes.

Victor Gilinsky, who was a commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission during the Ford, Carter, and Reagan administrations, says the "whole world knows about open secret of Israel's nuclear arsenal yet U.S. presidents have to pretend that they know nothing about it."

The article, titled "The U.S. silence on Israeli nuclear weapons and the right-wing Israeli government", is as follows:

The Israeli protests against its new right-wing government have now touched on Israel's nuclear weapons. To underline what is at stake, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak cast aside Israeli ambiguity over whether it possesses nuclear weapons to warn his compatriots that Western diplomats are worried that a Jewish messianic dictatorship could gain control over Israel's nuclear weapons.

One thing we can be sure of is that the United States was not officially represented among those Western diplomats. American diplomats—in fact all U.S. government employees—are forced to pretend they know nothing about Israeli nuclear weapons. Since everyone knows it's not true, the pretense hobbles America's policy on restraining the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Barak's acknowledgment of Israel's weapons, backhanded as it was, should free the United States from this outdated omerta.

The popular explanation of the U.S. gag on Israeli nuclear weapons is that it is required by a September 1969 deal between Richard Nixon and Israel's then-prime minister Golda Meir in which America would accept a nuclear-armed Israel and both would keep Israel's nuclear weapons secret. U.S. policy toward Israeli nuclear weapons was indeed eased after their meeting, but judging by Nixon's memoirs, it was because he didn't care much

whether Israeli had them. His main interest was to gain Israeli support in the Cold War.

They spoke alone, kept no notes, and told no one what they talked about. A memorandum days later to the president from Henry Kissinger, then his national security advisor, shows even he knew little about the conversation. As to maintaining secrecy, they didn't need a formal agreement. Nixon and Meir both understood a declared Israeli nuclear arsenal would have led to pressure on Moscow to provide their Arab allies with nuclear weapons.

The U.S. bureaucracy and academics later created a myth about a nuclear deal, turning a convenient accommodation into a perpetual obligation, and subsequent presidents fell in line. But an international deal of which there is no record is no deal at all.

Nevertheless, U.S. presidents since Bill Clinton are said to have signed a secret letter that they will not interfere with Israel's nuclear weapons, and Israel acted as if it was entitled to such a commitment from every incoming U.S. president. It got the commitment. When President Obama took office in 2009, the first question at his first televised press conference, from veteran reporter Helen Thomas, was: "Do you know of any country in the Middle East that has nuclear weapons?" The president's slippery reply was: "I don't want to speculate." Helen Thomas got fired soon after, and while this was for her anti-Israeli remarks on a different occasion, no reporter has asked the question since. In February 2017 Israeli ambassador Ron Dermer managed to infuriate even the newly arrived Trump White House staff, sympathetic to Israel, with his heavy-handed demands the new president sign "the letter." Still, it worked.

A change won't come easily. A realistic U.S. government assessment of Israel's nuclear weapons will have to overcome not only Israeli intervention for its own reasons, but also State Department and White House resistance, in part



because of the embarrassment of such an admission after years of denial, but also because such an admission could lead to complications under U.S. law.

There is persuasive evidence that Israel detonated at least one test nuclear explosion on September 22, 1979, about a thousand miles south of South Africa. The signal, detected by a U.S. Vela satellite, with corroborating evidence, was widely interpreted by the U.S. intelligence community and most analysts as coming from an Israeli nuclear test explosion.

While the Carter White House publicly argued otherwise, months after the event Carter wrote in his diary: "We have a growing belief among our scientists that the Israelis did indeed conduct a nuclear test explosion in the ocean near the southern end of Africa." Such an explosion was a violation of the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty, to which Israel was a party.

Confirmation of such a test would also trigger the 1977 Glenn Amendment to the Arms Export Control Act, which imposes tough economic and military sanctions on any state, other than the five nuclear powers authorized under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, that detonates a bomb post-1977. The president can waive the penalty, but not without political embarrassment.

While the U.S. government tiptoes around the issue, Israel brags about its nuclear force. At the 2016

ceremony for the arrival of the fifth German-built submarine which Israel outfits with long range nuclear-tipped missiles, Netanyahu said: "Our submarine fleet is used first and foremost to deter our enemies who strive to extinguish us. They must know that Israel is capable of hitting back hard against anyone who seeks to hurt us ..." No mention of "nuclear," but the message was unmistakable.

Who would have imagined that, just as we have been worrying about Pakistani weapons falling into the hands of Islamic fanatics, we would come to the point where we have to fear Israel's nuclear weapons falling into the hands of Israeli fanatics, who, as Ehud Barak explained, are "determined to attack Islam." Our government cannot deal with these issues if it ignores the existence of Israeli nuclear weapons.

In his book on Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, Wolf Blitzer wrote there is "a widely held attitude among Israeli officials that Israel can get away with the most outrageous things. There is a notion among many Israelis that their American counterparts are not too bright, that they can be 'handled.'" We should not any longer put up with that. The Cold War reasons for America to stay mum about Israeli nuclear weapons evaporated decades ago. What the Israeli government says about its nuclear weapons is its business—but what our government says about it is American business.

Khatibzadeh appointed ambassador to Croatia

TEHRAN – Saeed Khatibzadeh, the former spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry, has been appointed as Tehran's ambassador to Croatia.

The newly-appointed ambassador met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Tuesday on the eve of his departure to Croatia. They exchanged views about matters related to Iran-Croatia relations and bilateral cooperation.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian mentioned the importance of cooperation in the area of Balkan countries, especially Croatia and emphasized the all-round expansion of relations and Tehran's efforts to further strengthen relations with Zagreb, according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

Previously, Khatibzadeh held the positions of advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, spokesman and head of the Public Diplomacy Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Director General of the Office of Political and International Studies.



Iran enjoys good relations with Croatia, which are mostly dominated by arts, sports, and trade.

Last year in June, a delegation of Croatian lawmakers visited Tehran and met with Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. In this meeting, Qalibaf mostly spoke about U.S. sanctions on Iran but he also touched on the need to boost trade ties between Iran

and Croatia. He said, "Parliamentary friendship groups of the two countries can multiply the economic relations of the two countries by activating these relations more than before and facilitating trade relations."

In the meeting, Qalibaf offered congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the official establishment of relations between Iran

and Croatia and expressed hope that the parliamentary relations between the two countries would become more active.

Underlining that Iran and Croatia have recognized their friends in difficult times, Qalibaf said, "The difficult days of the Balkan War brought us together, sustained relations, and perpetuated it in the memory of states and nations."

Uzbek president to visit Iran in June

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has said that the Uzbek president will pay a visit to Iran in June in a bid to strengthen ties with Iran.

The lawmaker, Gholamreza Nouri, who is the head of the Iran-Uzbekistan parliamentary friendship group, said Uzbek officials are interested in boosting relations with Iran, according to IRNA.

Commenting on the recent visit by Uzbek Parliament Speaker Nurdinjon Ismoilov to Iran, Nouri said, "The level of cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan is increasing."

He pointed out that since the Samarkand Summit last year, which was held with the presence of the president, and Iran became an official member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, relations between Iran and Uzbekistan have been on the rise.

Underlining that many agreements have been signed between the two governments of Iran and Uzbekistan, Nouri said, "The visit of the Speaker of the Parliament of Uzbekistan was made at the invitation of [Mohammad Bagher] Ghalibaf and following the recent visit of the Speaker of the Islamic Majlis to Uzbekistan."

He added, "The Uzbek parties are interested in

using the 117-year experience of legislation in Iran, in these meetings it was decided to carry out parliamentary cooperation at different levels, especially the issue of experience transfer."

He continued, "During his trip to Iran, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uzbekistan met with the President and also visited the two provinces of Isfahan and Khorasan Razavi and had meetings with the governors and agreements were made with the provinces especially in the field of tourism. The Uzbek side is interested in Isfahan for more and closer cooperation with the provinces, especially in the field of tourism, and is looking for the exchange of tourist guides to introduce the works of the two countries. Uzbekistan also has rich historical works that Iranian artists are interested in helping to restore their works."

Referring to the visit of the Uzbekistan parliamentary delegation to Mashhad, Nouri said, "In addition to visiting the shrine of Imam Reza, several production units of Danesh Banyan and Science and Technology Park were visited during this trip, and two countries are interested in benefiting from medical knowledge-based equipment of Iran."

Stating that the Uzbek president will pay a visit to Iran in June, Nouri said, "During this trip, new agreements will be made while following

up on past agreements."

He noted, "Uzbekistan is interested in cooperation with the Islamic Republic, and we hope that during this trip, the necessary infrastructure for the travel between the citizens of the two countries will be facilitated."

Ismoilov arrived in Tehran late on Friday and met Saturday with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf.

Qalibaf and Ismoilov held a joint press conference after their meeting. Speaking at a presser, Qalibaf said improving relations with Iran's neighbors is a priority of Iran's foreign policy.

At the beginning of the presser, Qalibaf welcomed his Uzbek counterpart. "We are very happy that today we are hosting the Speaker of the Parliament of Uzbekistan and that he has made his trip to Iran. According to the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has prioritized the development of relations with neighboring countries and the region, especially Islamic countries, the development of relations with Uzbekistan is one of our priorities," he said.

He added, "One of the important axes of our interactions in the development of relations with Uzbekistan is the political, economic and cultural spheres, and as our dear nation knows, the friendly and brotherly country of Uzbekistan ranks first among Central Asian countries in terms of population."

The Uzbek official met with President Ebrahim Raisi. In this meeting, Raisi underlined the need for the implementation of agreement between the two countries.

"18 cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan, and the acceleration of their implementation will greatly increase the level of relations," he said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

that Iran's complete and definitive membership will be announced at the July meeting of this organization in Delhi."

According to Amouei, in this meeting, 11 lawmakers expressed their views on matters related to the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the conditions of Iranian students abroad, Tehran-Baku relations, the conditions of the axis of resistance, the demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran in foreign countries, and border waters.

A senior Iranian lawmaker said in late April that preparations for reopening the embassy of Iran and Saudi Arabia were underway, noting that the two countries would name ambassadors.

Vahid Jalalzadeh, who is the head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, implied that thaw in Iran-Saudi relations is part of the Raisi administration's "neighborhood policy."

"The policy of strengthening relations with neighbors has been followed well by the government.

So far, we have established a balanced relationship with the majority of our neighbors in Central Asia, in the Persian Gulf and in the east of the country," Jalalzadeh said in remarks to Mehr News. "Many of the problems we had with some countries in Central Asia have been resolved in the 13th government, and we are now in a good relationship with these countries."

He added, "The government's recent policy in de-escalating tensions with some countries in the Persian Gulf region, including the UAE, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, has been a good policy. Of course, we expect this approach to be exploited in the economic and political fields."

Commenting on the latest developments regarding the reopening of embassies of Iran and Saudi Arabia, Jalalzadeh said, "In order to activate the embassies and representatives of the two countries, a series of measures and preparations are necessary, which are being carried out, and then the exchange of ambassadors of the two countries will take place."

Soltani bags gold at 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Hossein Soltani of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships on Tuesday.

He lifted 154kg in the snatch and 184kg in the clean and jerk and finished in first place with a total of 338kg.

Chuang Sheng-Min from Chinese Taipei seized the silver with 154-180-334 and Korean Park Hyeongo won the bronze by lifting 143-181-324.

The 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships take place in Jinju, Republic of Korea from May 5 to 13.

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

Iran crowned champions of 2023 Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal

TEHRAN – Iran came from three goals down to beat Kuwait 6-4 in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal Tournament final on Tuesday in Tehran.

Earlier in the day, Japan beat Iraq 5-2 in the third-place match.

Team Melli defeated Thailand, Iraq, China, Japan and Kuwait in the event and suffered a defeat against Malaysia.

Iran's women's futsal team also won a silver medal in the competition.

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

Iran U17 football team to play Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN – Iran U17 football team will play two friendly matches with Saudi Arabia in Dubai, the UAE.

The first match will be held on Wednesday and two teams lock horn once again on Saturday.

Hossein Abdi's side have previously participated at the Belarus "Development Cup" in February. Iran prepare for the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup, where the team have been drawn in Group B along with South Korea, Afghanistan and Qatar.

Iran hold a one-week training camp in Dubai.

Vladimir Kramnik nominated to lead Iran chess

TEHRAN – Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik has been nominated to lead Iran national chess team.

The Iranian chess federation has reportedly reached an agreement with the 48-year-old coach and he will travel to Tehran in late June to finalize his deal.

Kramnik was the Classical World Chess Champion from 2000 to 2006, and the undisputed World Chess Champion from 2006 to 2007. He has won three team gold medals and three individual medals at Chess Olympiads.

He will lead Team Melli in the 2022 Asian Games.

Ghotbi new candidate for Iran U23 football team

TEHRAN – Ex-Persepolis football team head coach Afshin Ghotbi is a candidate to take charge of coachless Iran U23 football team.

The U23 team director Habib Kashani has previously worked with Ghotbi in Persepolis, where the Iranian-American coach inspired the giants club to a title in domestic league in 2008.

Ghotbi, 59, has also worked as head coach in Iran national football team and Foolad club.

Paykan coach Mojtaba Hosseini and Zob Ahan trainer Mehdi Tartar are also two candidates to lead the team. Mehdi Mahdavia resigned from his post as head coach of the U23 team in October 2022 and the team are without a coach with four months remaining until the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification. The competition will be held from Sept. 4 to 12 in Qatar.

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

FIBA World Cup Trophy to travel to Iran

TEHRAN – The FIBA World Cup Trophy will travel to Tehran, capital of Iran on May 12.

The trophy will also travel to Isfahan after two days. The FIBA World Cup trophy will make stops in 30 nations during its tour, before returning to the host countries in time for the global basketball showcase.

The Trophy Tour, presented by J9, officially launched last weekend as part of the festivities that was highlighted by the FIBA World Cup Draw at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

The Trophy Tour sees the FIBA Basketball World Cup Naismith Trophy - named in honor of basketball's inventor, Dr James Naismith - embark on a journey across the globe for the second time.

It will return to Japan in mid-July, followed by Indonesia, and finally, the Philippines, where the final phase of the FIBA Basketball World Cup will be held.

The 19th edition of FIBA's flagship event, the FIBA Basketball World Cup, will take place for the first time across three host nations in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia from August 25 to September 10.

"The Trophy Tour is also an important opportunity to grow even more interest in the tournament and also in basketball more generally worldwide," said Frank Leenders, Director General of FIBA Media and Marketing Services. Iran are drawn in Group G along with Spain, Ivory Coast and Brazil.

Iran ice hockey captain Sanaei praises performance in Asia

From Page 1 ► "It's only three years that we have trained in a standard-sized ice rink in Iran. We held training camps and with hard-working we could reach this level of Asian ice hockey. The girls performed strongly during the tournament and proved they have huge potential to shine in future international tournaments," she added.

Speaking about the quality of the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship, Sanaei said: "The level of the tournament was so high. It became more difficult game by game. As the defending champions, Thailand were obviously our strongest opponents," Sanaei said.

Team Melli defeated India 17-1, Kuwait 20-0, Kyrgyzstan 26-0, the UAE 14-0, and Singapore 3-0 in the competition before reaching the final.

"The game against Singapore was also hard for us. They had an organized team," she added.

Iran women's team were not supported in the best way before the tournament. They went to Thailand without financial support from the Ministry of Sports and the National Olympic Committee, and the team members paid for their flight tickets.

However, it is reported that Hamid Sajadi, Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth, has ordered that the expenses of the national women's ice hockey team will be paid, and the national players will also be awarded.

"We focus on achieving success instead of thinking about the problems. Fortunately, the financial problems were resolved by the order of the Minister of Sports. We expect that these financial supports will continue in the future so that Iranian girls can show their abilities in upcoming international competitions," Sanaei concluded.



Iran, Saudi reach agreement on reopening embassies, consulates

TEHRAN – A lawmaker has quoted the foreign minister as saying that Iran and Saudi Arabia have totally agreed to reopen their diplomatic missions.

The lawmaker, Abolfazl Amouei, provided details about a briefing meeting held on Monday in which Hossein Amir Abdollahian briefed lawmakers on a number of foreign affairs.

Amouei said the briefing addressed the latest developments related to Iran's diplomacy, particularly with neighboring countries. In this meeting, Amir Abdollahian also offered details on the Saudi-Iranian normalization.

"In this meeting, the head of the diplomatic service discussed the process of resuming relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia as an indicator of strengthening regional cooperation in the 13th government," Amouei told IRNA.

He added, "In addition to the bilateral and political aspect of this relationship, including discussing the resumption of the Umrah and the

full establishment of embassies and consulates, we are also interested in strengthening the economic perspective of the agreement between the two Islamic countries."

He noted, "In this meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs reviewed the process of international and regional developments and said that the world is moving towards the multiplicity of effective actors and the rise of regional powers and that with the change of the international order, the application of American hegemony in different regions of the world, including our region, has faced a fundamental challenge."

Amouei continued, "Amir Abdollahian pointed to strengthening the role of multilateral institutions in the cooperation of southern countries, including the cooperation of Shanghai and BRICS in the world. And he expressed his gratitude for the quick approval of the membership documents of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Shanghai Organization in the parliament and expressed his hope

Iranian crude oil output stands at 2.56m bpd in March: OPEC



TEHRAN- Iran's crude oil production stood at 2.567 million barrels per day (bpd) in March, 8,000 bpd less than the figure for the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report.

According to OPEC data, daily production by the members of the organization also decreased by 86,000 bpd in the said month in comparison to February.

In the third month of the current year, the price of Iranian heavy crude oil registered a 3.8 percent decline to stand at \$78.8 per barrel.

According to the report, the country's average heavy crude price was \$80.67 from the beginning of 2023 up to the report's publishing day, in comparison to \$97.55 in the previous year's same period.

Iran, Oman explore new trade partnerships in business forum

TEHRAN - A Joint Iran-Oman Business Forum was held at the place of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Monday in a bid to boost trade exchange between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Sultanate of Oman.

As the ICCIMA portal reported, the forum aimed at consolidating bilateral business relations, conducting strategic partnerships to augment the volume of investments and business activity, and accessing new economic fields.

Several B2B meetings were held during the forum between Omani and Iranian businesspeople. The meetings targeted striking business and investment deals. As many as 250 Iranian firms took part in the event.

The forum was attended by members of the Joint Oman-Iran Business Council and a delegation of Omani private sector that is taking part at Iran Expo 2023.

Prior to the forum, ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie met with his Omani counterpart to discuss avenues of mutual cooperation between the two countries' private sectors.

In this meeting, while emphasizing the need to remove trade obstacles, Shafeie said: "Attention should be paid to multilateral cooperation and joint investments so that the markets of the two countries can take advantage of each other's business opportunities in any situation."

Meanwhile, in a meeting between the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the senior trade delegation from Oman on Monday, the Iranian side expressed complete readiness for eliminating the dollar from the two countries' trade transactions.

Speaking in this meeting, CBI Governor Mohammadreza Farzin, who is also the head of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee, said the strategic policy of the Central Bank of Iran is to cut ties with the dollar in foreign exchange and trade, the CBI portal reported.

"We have sound economic and political reasons for this strategy, because, on one hand, the U.S. uses the dollar as a political tool, and on the other hand, other currencies, especially in Asia are getting stronger against the dollar," Farzin explained.

Referring to the complete readiness of the CBI to reduce and eliminate dollar exchanges from the cycle of commercial and economic transactions between Iran and Oman, the official said: "The grounds for conducting economic and commercial transactions based on the national currencies of the two countries are fully prepared."

Referring to the positive negotiations between Iran and Oman last year regarding the development of monetary and banking relations along with trade relations between the two countries, Frazin stated: "Iran is ready for international methods like clearinghouses, multilateral monetary agreements and bilateral

OPEC Basket prices also fell 4.2 percent or \$3.43 to \$78.45 a barrel in March.

Iran's oil production in 2022 increased by seven percent compared to the previous year, according to OPEC's first monthly report released in 2023.

Based on the OPEC data, the Islamic Republic produced 2.554 million bpd of crude oil in 2022, 162,000 bpd more than the figure for 2021, when the output stood at 2.392 million bpd.

Citing secondary sources, the report put Iranian crude output for December 2022 at 2.574 million bpd indicating a 9,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for November.

The country's heavy crude oil price also increased by \$30.12 in 2022 to register a 43-percent rise compared to the previous year, according to OPEC.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$99.92 per barrel on average in the mentioned year, compared to 2021 when the average price was \$69.8 per barrel.

In the last month of 2022, the average price of Iranian heavy oil was reported to be \$79.11, which has decreased by \$9.62 compared to the previous month.



monetary agreements in trade transactions with Oman."

The CBI governor further mentioned the expansion of trade relations between Iran and Oman in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) and said: "The trade between the two countries grew by 40 percent in the past year and reached \$1.8 billion."

He further emphasized the necessity of using joint credit cards between the monetary and banking networks of Iran and Oman in order to facilitate the commercial relations and economic activities of the two countries' businessmen and stated: "The negotiations in this regard have also been carried out with the Central Bank of Oman and Iran is ready to put the use of joint credit cards on the agenda as soon as possible."

Also, Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Youssef, who traveled to Iran on top of a senior business delegation, expressed his country's interest in investment in Iran's industry sector.

Youssef made the remarks on the sidelines of a visit to an industrial park near the capital Tehran on Saturday, accompanied by Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Ali Rasouljan, IRNA reported.

During the tour, Rasouljan briefed the delegation about Iran's industrial capabilities and capacities and said: "Considering the fact that 858 industrial parks and zones are active in the country, this area can lay the ground for promoting industrial relations between the two countries."

According to the official more than 51,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are active in Iran's industrial parks and zones, which has provided employment for more than one million people.

He stressed the need for connecting the two countries' SMEs as another way of boosting economic relations between the two countries.

Further during the visit, the Omani minister and the accompanying delegation also welcomed the purchase of Iranian goods, including electrical and household appliances, electronic products, tiles and ceramics, medicine, etc.

Mohammad Al Youssef visited Tehran to attend the opening ceremony of the Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran EXPO 2023) and also the business forum at the place of ICCIMA.

ICOPMAS 2022 running in Tehran

from page 1 ► country's capacities in the maritime sector, saying that the government is taking the necessary measures to transform the country's macro policies with regard to the maritime economy.

The government and Expediency Council are in the process of formulating macro-economic policies for the maritime economy, which will cause a big change in the country's economy and can increase the share of the maritime industry in the country's GDP significantly, Safaei explained.

"This new policy is not only a new horizon for the country, but it creates new opportunities for neighboring countries and the



PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei

region," he added.

He stated that the government

is seeking to facilitate the activities of all the bodies involved in the maritime industry,

saying: "Other strategies have also been considered in relation to the empowerment of various maritime sectors and facilitating the business environment for all bodies active in this area, including engineers and consulting companies."

Regarding the collaboration with international bodies and active participation in international treaties, Safaei said: "Following more than 50 international conventions, treaties and regulations, we are always trying to ensure the improvement of safety, preservation of the marine environment and maritime security in the country's territorial waters."

UAE seeking to become Iran's top trade partner in region

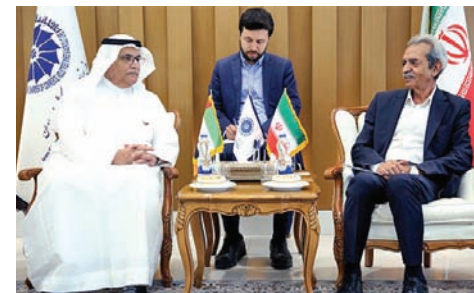
TEHRAN - Head of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said his country is seeking to become Iran's top trading partner in the region, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Abdullah Mohamed Al Mazrouei, who visited Iran at the head of a business delegation, made the remarks in a meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie in Tehran on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the common fields of

cooperation, economic relations, and how to expand commercial relations between the private sectors of Iran and the UAE.

Stating that the UAE is one of the most important neighboring countries of Iran with a deep historical relationship, Shafeie said: "The UAE is Iran's second trading partner in the world after China, and the volume of our annual exchanges has reached about 24 billion dollars. Despite all the restrictions of the past and the heavy shadow of political issues on economic relations, the UAE has always maintained its good position in relation to Iran and the mentioned issues have not been able to have a deep impact on our business relations."



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Head of UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Mohamed Al Mazrouei

Over 7.3m tons of steel ingots exported in a year



TEHRAN- Iran exported 7.372 million tons of steel ingots in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) announced.

The country's steel ingot export fell four percent in 1401, as compared to 1400 when the figure was 7.678 million tons.

The World Steel Association (WSA) in its latest report announced that Iran's steel production registered a significant growth of 21 percent in the first two months of 2023, compared to the same period last year.

Based on the WSA data, Iran produced 5.1 million tons of steel in the two-month period of this year, while the figure was 4.21 million tons in the same time span of the previous year.

With the growth of its steel production by more than 21 percent in the first two months of this year, Iran has been recognized as the ninth largest steel producer in this period, the report added.

Also, among the 10 largest steel producers, Iran had the highest production growth in

the two months of 2023. In fact, out of these 10 countries, seven countries have faced a drop in production, and three countries, Iran, China and India, have seen an increase in their production in this period, the international association announced.

The World Steel Association had announced in late February that Iran was ranked ninth among the world's top steel-producing countries, rising one place in the list of the world's top steel-makers.

As reported by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), based on the WSA data the Islamic Republic produced 2.7 million tons of steel in the first month of 2023.

The figure shows a 27.7 percent hike compared to the

corresponding month of the preceding year.

As reported, the world's top steel-producing countries produced 145.3 million tons of crude steel in January to register a 3.3-percent decline, year-on-year.

During the mentioned month, China produced 79.5 million tons, becoming the top steelmaking country in the world.

India produced 10.5 million, ranking second, followed by Japan with the production of 7.2 million tons of crude steel.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

In early February, the WSA reported that Iran's crude steel production increased by eight percent in 2022 when the production by the world's top 64 steelmakers declined by 4.2 percent.

Iran was ranked first among

the world's top steel producers in terms of production growth in the previous year.

Based on the WSA data, Iran produced 30.6 million tons of crude steel in the mentioned year.

Meanwhile, WSA stated that crude steel production by the world's top 64 producers fell 4.2 percent to stand at 1.787 billion in 2022.

Production by Europe's major steel producers also declined significantly last year so that Germany's production declined by 8.4 percent, Italy experienced negative growth of 11.6 percent, France's output declined by 13.1 percent, Spain registered a negative 19.2 percent growth and the UK a 15.6 percent decline in steel production.

According to the World Steel Association, Iran was the world's 10th top steel producer over the past two years, after countries like China, India, Japan, and Russia.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

Trade between Iran, U.S. stands at \$13.6m in Q1 2023



TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and the U.S. stood at \$13.6 million in the first three months of 2023, registering a nine percent decline, IRNA reported citing the latest statistics released by the

American Statistical Association (ASA).

The trade between the two countries was reported to be over \$15 billion in the same period of 2022.

According to the ASA data, the U.S. exported commodities worth \$13.4 million to Iran in Q1 2023, up 30 percent year on year. Iran's export to the U.S. stood at \$200,000 during January-March 2023.

TEDPIX drops 8,500 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 8,570 points to 2.305 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 26.296 billion securities worth 186.916 trillion rials (about \$445 million) were traded at the TSE.

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

A member of the Iranian Parliament's Planning and Budget Committee has said that a prosperous future is expected for the stock market by using modern financial instruments.

Mohammadreza Mirtajedini said shareholders need to invest indirectly in the capital market using financial instruments such as investment funds before directly entering the market.

Pointing out that education is a necessity for people who want to enter the market, Mirtajedini said: "With the help of investment funds and with a long-term view, shareholders can inject their capital into the market to bring the country's production to the required prosperity."

"In general, good measures have been taken or are being taken by the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to protect the shareholders and their capital, among which we can mention the implementation of the



stock insurance plan," the official noted.

"By using modern financial instruments in the capital market, we can envision a prosperous future for the market and witness the re-entry of liquidity to the stock market," he added.

Glorious Return

What are the messages of Dashaq's return to the Arab League?

From page 1 ► Continue and intensify the Arab efforts aimed at helping Syria to emerge from its crisis and end the suffering of the brotherly Syrian people that has lasted over the past years, and in line with the common Arab interest and the fraternal relations that unite all Arab peoples, including the Syrians.

Welcome the Arab statements issued by the Jeddah meeting in Syria on April 14, 2023, and the Amman meeting in Syria on May 1, 2023.

Assuming a pioneering Arab role in efforts to resolve the humanitarian, political, and security consequences of the Syrian crisis on the Syrians and address its implications on other neighboring countries mainly when it comes to terrorism, drug smuggling, and refugees.

Welcome the Syrian Arab Republic's willingness to cooperate with the Arab States to implement outputs relevant to Arab statements and the need to implement the commitments and consensus reached in the Amman meeting as well as adopting the necessary mechanisms to activate the Arab role.

Stress the need for taking practical and effective action to solve the crisis based on a "step for step" principle and in light of UN Security Council Resolution 2254, starting with moving forward with the steps that allow delivering humanitarian aid to those in need in Syria in accordance with relevant mechanisms adopted by the Security Council.

Form a ministerial joint liaison committee of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Secretary-General of the League to follow up on the implementation of the Amman Statement and to continue a direct dialogue with the Syrian government to find a comprehensive solution that addresses the implications of the Syrian crisis in accordance with "step for step" principle and in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

The committee should submit periodic ministerial-level reports to the Council of the Arab League.

Resume the participation of Syrian government delegations in the meetings of the Arab League Council and all the affiliated organizations and bodies as of the day of 7th May 2023.

Request the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation



of this decision and inform the council of developments.

Suspension of founder: Why and when

Since March 2011, Syria has been gripped by a campaign of militancy and destruction sponsored by the U.S. and its allies.

Syria was suspended from the Arab League in 2011 amidst the eruption of war in the country.

In recent years, however, Syrian forces have managed to win back control of almost all regions from terrorist groups.

The Arab League suspended the membership of Syria - one of the organization's founding members - in November 2011, citing alleged crackdown by Damascus on opposition protests.

Syria denounced the move as "illegal and a violation of the organization's charter."

In recent months, an increasing number of countries and political parties had called for the reversal of Syria's suspension from the Arab League.

The rapprochements come as the United States is losing its influence in the region. Back in 2011, Washington had major sway on Arab states but as the dynamics in West Asia changed and Syria emerged triumphant over foreign-backed terrorists, some Arab states are taking matters into their own hands, despite the anger of Washington.

Will President Assad head to Riyadh?

Saudi Arabia has invited Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to the

Arab League summit that Riyadh will be hosting on May 19.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud traveled to Damascus on April 18 to hand al-Assad a formal invitation to attend the summit.

Syria's President Bashar Assad may participate in the summit, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the organization's secretary-general, said on Sunday.

"Bashar Assad may participate in the next LAS summit if he so desires," Gheit said at a press conference aired by Al Hadath.

US, UK criticize readmission but Russia hails it

The US and UK are among the Western countries that have recently stated they will not restore relations with President Assad's government.

A State Department spokesman said Syria did not deserve to be reinstated but the US supported the Arab League's long-term objective of solving the crisis in Syria.

The UK's Minister of State Lord Ahmad said Britain remained "opposed to engagement with the Assad regime". He claimed that Assad continued to "detain, torture and kill innocent Syrians".

However, Russia has welcomed the decision by the Arab League, expressing hopes that the move would bring about a "healthier atmosphere" to the West Asia region.

"Moscow welcomes this long-awaited step which became a logical result of the process of

returning Syria to the 'Arab family' which is gaining momentum," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said late on Sunday.

"We proceed from the premise that reinstating Syria's participation in the operations of the [Arab League], with it being one of its founding countries, will facilitate a healthier atmosphere in the Middle Eastern region and the swiftest overcoming of the consequences of the Syrian crisis," Zakharova was quoted as saying by TASS news agency.

She also called on Arab countries to increase their support for Syria to resolve the issues about its post-conflict recovery which is hindered by illegitimate unilateral sanctions against Damascus.

Last word

Undoubtedly, the return of Syria to the Arab League as one of the founders of the alliance will not only help stabilize the regional position of the Arab bloc but also will strengthen the axis of resistance in the region.

Initially after some Arab states normalized relations with Israel, it seemed that it will take long years that Arab countries restore ties with Syria. However, the recent decision by the Arab League coupled with efforts by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq showed that new alignments are being formed in West Asia. Additionally, due to the support of Russia and China very important developments in the Middle East and the entire Asia will be seen in the future.



the Russian leader said.

Putin said the Ukrainian people fell hostage to the state coup and the West's plans that are the root cause of the current disaster in Ukraine.

"Exorbitant ambitions, arrogance and permissiveness inevitably turn into a tragedy. This is the cause of the catastrophe, which the Ukrainian people is living through," he pointed out.

"It [the Ukrainian people] became a hostage to the state coup and the criminal regime of its

Western handlers that emerged on its basis, a bargaining chip in the implementation of their cruel and selfish plans," Putin said.

He added the demolition of memorials to fallen Soviet soldiers in some countries is a crime and the desecration of their feats.

"We see that memorials to Soviet soldiers are ruthlessly and cold-bloodedly destroyed, monuments to great commanders are pulled down and a real cult of Nazis and their accomplices is being created while there are attempts to erase the memory about true heroes and smear them."

WORLD HEADLINES

Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan arrested

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has been arrested as he appeared in court in Islamabad to face charges in a separate corruption case, with scores of security forces in riot gear dragging the high-profile politician into an armored vehicle.

The arrest of Khan - who was ousted from power last year and has evaded arrest several times since - came hours after he released a video message reiterating his allegations that the country's powerful military establishment had tried to assassinate him twice.

Khan's arrest is the latest twist in a political and economic crisis that pits the popular former prime minister against the military and the government, led by his successor, Shehbaz Sharif, whom Khan alleges conspired to both remove him from power and make threats on his life, charges they deny.

Hours after his arrest, protests began to erupt across the country, with the army accused of orchestrating his detention. Officials told the Guardian that one protester in the city of Quetta had been killed after they were shot by an officer near a military checkpoint. In Lahore, supporters broke into the house of the military corps commander, smashing windows and set furniture on fire, while shouting, "We warned you not to touch Imran Khan".

Khan had travelled to Islamabad on Tuesday morning to seek bail in two corruption cases, some of dozens involving corruption, sedition and terrorism that he is facing.

China expels Canadian diplomat in worsening bilateral ties

China on Tuesday expelled a Canadian diplomat in Shanghai in a tit-for-tat after Ottawa told a Toronto-based Chinese diplomat to leave the country, escalating already tense bilateral relations amid concerns about Chinese influence in Canada.

Canada on Monday expelled Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei after an intelligence report accused him of trying to target a Canadian lawmaker critical of China's treatment of its Uyghur Muslim minority.

"We will not tolerate any form of foreign interference," Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said on Monday.

In response to Canada's "unreasonable actions", China told Jennifer Lynn Lalonde, consul of the Canadian consulate in Shanghai, to leave China by May 13, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

China reserves the right to respond further, the foreign ministry added.

Diplomatic tensions have been running high since the detention of Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou in 2018 and Beijing's subsequent arrest of two Canadians on spying charges. All three were freed in 2021.

More than 600 people killed in Haiti gang violence in April, UN says

More than 600 people were killed last month in violence in the capital of Haiti, which is in the grip of a political-economic crisis, the United Nations said on Monday.

"In the month of April alone, more than 600 people were killed in a new wave of extreme violence that hit several districts across the capital," said the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"This follows the killing of at least 846 people in the first three months of 2023, in addition to 393 injured and 395 kidnapped during that period - a 28-percent increase in violence on the previous quarter."

The Caribbean nation, the poorest in the Americas, has been gripped by a political and economic crisis since the July 2021 assassination of president Jovenel Moise, with gangs now controlling most of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

UN officials have for months asked the Security Council to send a specialised non-UN international armed force to help police restore order.

Tension continues in Sudan despite truce efforts

The UNHCR said the agency and its partners will need 445 million U.S. dollars to support an outflow of refugees from Sudan and asked neighboring countries to keep their borders open to those fleeing the violence. It also requested the suspension of forced returns to Sudan, including those who previously had their asylum claims rejected.

During a high-level global meeting on April 20, 2023, the United Nations (UN) and regional organizations including the African Union (AU), the Arab League, and Sudan's neighboring countries agreed to exert pressure on the belligerent two sides to silence the guns.

Mexico urges U.S. to tackle gun violence on border

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Monday urged U.S. decision-makers to adopt effective policies to stop gun violence on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border.

Speaking at his daily press conference, Lopez Obrador called in particular on Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to pursue gun control and slow arms trafficking across the border.

"That is a good initiative to prevent these unfortunate murders, these shootings that are constantly taking place" in the United States, Lopez Obrador told reporters at the National Palace in Mexico City.

Khizr Adnan in Tehran's Palestine Square

Palestine Square in Tehran is decorated with the picture of martyr Khizr Adnan, one of the leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement.

Adnan died in an Israeli prison on May 2, after 87 days of hunger strike in an Israeli jail.

Israeli forces arrested Adnan on February 5th during a pre-dawn raid on his house in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus.

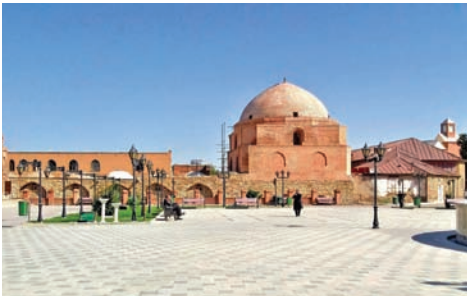
Adnan was known for his struggles and activities against the occupation.

He had been arrested by the Zionist regime's forces 12 times, spending a total of eight years behind bars, mostly under Israel's so-called "administrative detention".

During his various detentions, the iconic figure had gone on hunger strike five times, the longest of which was 67 days in 2012.



Jameh Mosque of Urmia undergoes landscaping project



TEHRAN – The historical Jameh Mosque of Urmia has undergone a landscaping project in the course of an extensive restoration work that commenced in 2014.

“Landscaping of the ancient mosque is underway at a fast pace,” West Azarbaijan province’s tourism chief said on Monday.

Jameh Mosque of Urmia is one of the significant historical monuments of the province, whose restoration and restoration work started a few years ago and is still ongoing, the official said.

So far, the restoration work has included damaged decorations of the walls, dome, facade, interior spaces, the rooftop as well as a foundation reinforcement.

It was built in the Seljuk era, and the famous altar that is located in this section is attributed to the Ilkhanate era. The stucco on the altar is one of the highlights of this building. Chehelsotun Hall, literally meaning a hall with forty columns, is newer than the sanctuary and is connected to it.

The materials used in different parts vary,

too. The main materials of the sanctuary and Chehelsotun Hall are bricks mostly seen in the upper parts. There are chambers located around the yard of the Jame Mosque of Urmia that, according to the tablets over there, belong to 1184 AH, the early years of the Zand era.

Traditionally, mosques and bazaars have long been two important social centers of Iran. Tourists usually visit these places during their trips to Iran for a better understanding of the social aspects and lifestyles of people in each region.

By the advent of Islam, a lot of mosques replaced fire temples. It is said that it was the same for the Jameh Mosque of Urmia. The construction of the building began in the seventh century AH because the pictorial decorations of this mosque, such as stucco, columns, and vaults, match the architectural style of the Seljuk era.

The altar is estimated to be built in 676 AH. During different eras, much damage has been inflicted on the body of the building.

Many repairs have been conducted, too. But their dates are not known. Even though the date of the restoration of this building is not known, this mosque has certainly been repaired and restored along with other old parts of the city, the bazaar in particular.

The terms “Jameh Mosque”, “Masjed-e Jameh” and “Friday Mosque” are used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

Handicrafts vital to consistent tourism, minister says



TEHRAN – Iran’s tourism relies heavily on handicrafts to remain consistent, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Monday.

He made the remarks while visiting the handicrafts section of the fifth edition of the Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran Expo 2023), which is currently underway in Tehran.

There is a strong dependence on handicrafts in the tourism industry, he explained.

Handicrafts also contribute to strengthening the country’s cultural identity, he added.

Such exhibitions are useful for introducing handicraft capacities and improving export conditions, he noted.

The value of Iran’s handicraft exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (Mar. 21, 2022 – Jan. 20, 2023), the deputy tourism minister said in February.

Compared with the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth, Jalali said.

“The Islamic Republic exported \$400 million worth of handicrafts during the first ten months of the current year, which shows a 30 percent increase year on year.”

Iran exported some \$320 million worth of handicrafts during the past Iranian year (1400), the official stated.

The Islamic Republic has the most cities and towns registered with the World Crafts Council (WCC), followed by China with seven, Chile with four, and India with three designated ones.

The WCC-Asia-Pacific Region designated Shiraz, Malayer, Zanjan, and the village of Qasemabad in January 2020, bringing the total number of craft cities and towns in Iran from 10 to 14. Shiraz has been dubbed “the world city of [various] handicrafts.”

Malayer became a center for woodcarving and carved wood furniture on a global scale. The designation “world city of filigree” was given to Zanjan. The village of Qasemabad, which is renowned throughout the country for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a major handicrafts center on an international scale.

Ceramics, porcelain, handwoven clothing, jewelry, and semi-precious stones are among Iranian handicrafts traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., and the Persian Gulf coastal states, to name a few.

Museum laboratory restores Qajar coins



TEHRAN –A number of historical coins, being kept in museums across the South Khorasan province, eastern Iran, have been restored to their original state in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), a local tourism official has said.

A total of 50 historical coins, dating back to the Qajar-era (1789-1925), have been restored

over the past year, Hamzeh Hamzeh explained on Tuesday.

In about 220 CE the Sasanian dynasty of Iran introduced the concept of thin flan coins, issues that were struck in relief on both sides. In order not to produce intolerable stresses in the dies, since the thinner the material the more force necessary to make it flow into the recesses of the die’s design, the depth of relief on such coins was of necessity much shallower than with earlier currency. Such techniques spread by way of Byzantium to northern Europe, where the emperor Charlemagne struck thin flan deniers (small silver coins), or pennies, which became characteristic of both his own and neighboring kingdoms.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Poland Desert.

The province is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Iran sets up anthropology museum of Baluchi people in Mombasa



TEHRAN – Iran’s embassy in Kenya has established an anthropology museum in Mombasa aimed to spotlight the cultural heritage and arts of Baluchi people who migrated eastern coasts of the Dark Continent centuries ago.

The museum features arrays of wax figures, statues, figurines, handicrafts, textiles, photographs as well as objects donated to the

locals of Baluchi origin, Mehr quoted Tehran’s ambassador to Nairobi as saying on Tuesday.

Covering 100 square meters in area, the museum showcases scenes of rich cultural heritage and historical monuments of Iran’s Sistan-Baluchestan province as well, Jafar Barmaki said.

Sistan-Baluchestan is a collective

province: Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south. In ancient times, the region was a crossword in the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations. The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic transit location, especially Chabahar, which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free

waters.

The migration of groups of Iranian-descent Baluchis to Africa took place in different eras including the 17th century and the early 19th century.

They settled in some parts of East African coasts and, through their hardworking and tireless efforts, gained high-profile positions in East African countries, including Kenya, Tanzania(Zanzibar), and Uganda.

Historically speaking, the Baluchi people have been famous for their hard-working spirit and resistance to natural disasters. The story of Baluchis migration to East Africa dates back to the era of Oman’s expansionist tendencies in Africa, which started in the 17th century and culminated in the 19th century.

Due to Baluchi’s ability to withstand difficult conditions, expertise in using weapons, and adaptability to nature and rugged environments they were hired as soldiers, and guardians by Omanis and set off to Zanzibar and gradually expanded to other parts of East African countries, which led to their sustainable settlement there.

Ancient relics recovered by police



TEHRAN– Iranian authorities have recently confiscated some coins and other antiquities from the home of a suspect in the ancient city of Neyshabur.

Following receiving reports from cultural heritage enthusiasts, police forces recovered 50 historical objects, including 42 coins that date

from the early Islamic era, CHTN reported on Monday.

The accused was traced and arrested after the police had received reports from cultural heritage aficionados about the [illegal] possession of the relics.

The police detained and surrendered him to the judicial system for further investigation, the report added.

In ancient times, Neyshabur was home to many great men of science, art and culture and today it hosts tourists who go to visit the relics of that period.

Situated some 70 km west of Mashhad, northeast Iran, Neyshabur was founded around the third century CE. Narratives say the town derived its name from its alleged founder, the Sasanian king Shapur I. The city was once

situated on the famed Silk Road, which ran from China to the Mediterranean Sea, crossing Central Asia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey along the way.

Neyshabur grew to prominence in the eighth century and was ruined by invasions and earthquakes in the thirteenth century. After that time, a much smaller settlement was established just north of the ancient town, and the once-bustling metropolis lay underground—until a team of excavators from the Metropolitan Museum arrived in the mid-twentieth century.

Neyshabur underwent rounds of excavation as of 1935 by experts from the Department of Near Eastern Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. According to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, its affiliated archaeologists worked at Neyshabur between 1935 and 1940, returning for a final season in the winter of 1947–48.

Yasuj to host festival featuring nomadic lifestyle

TEHRAN –The seventh edition of the national tribal festival of Kuch, dedicated to the ethnic culture is planned to be held in Yasuj, the capital of southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The three-day festival will be inaugurated in one of the vast parks of the city on May 17, Saeid Talebipur said on Tuesday.

Over 15 provinces have announced their readiness to participate in this festival, which is open to all nomadic tribes in Iran, he explained.

One of the most effective ways to promote and introduce Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province and its capabilities in the field of nomadic tourism is to host festivals and conferences in this field at the national level, the official added.

Through the Kuch festival in recent years, its visitors have had the

opportunity to experience parts of the nomadic lifestyle, he mentioned.

The southwestern province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Tribe tourism, also known as ethno-tourism or ethnic tourism, provides the ground for potential sightseers to feel like indigenous people by living with a nomad or rural family or enjoying an independent stay. However, as the name implies, it’s a trip for recreational purposes rather than an expedition for anthropological research.

Experts say this branch of tourism has gained a lot of support and attention in the country over the

past couple of years. Many tour operators believe that tribal regions could be deemed as the legacy of human authenticity in their novel cultural and human aspects.

Iran has a culturally-diverse society dominated by a wide range of interethnic relations. Native speakers of Persian (Farsi language) are considered as the predominant ethnic generally of mixed ancestry, and the country has important Turkic, Kurd, and Arab elements in addition to the Lurs, Baloch, Bakhtiari, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, and Jews.

Persians, Kurds, and speakers of other Indo-European languages in Iran are descendants of the Aryan tribes who began migrating from Central Asia into what is now Iran in the second millennium BC.

Accompanying nomads during their migration, even for a day or



two, maybe a lifetime experience. As a traveler, one has the chance to visit, live, eat, and sleep in a nomadic camp with a real nomadic family. Colorful dresses, vast black tents, colored-eyed children with rosy cheeks, a modest lifestyle, scenic landscape, and local dishes are probably among the delights of such visits.

Language, music, indigenous cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, live performances, and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always spurred many to experience life among the tribes.

Mosque, public bathhouse in Marand to undergo restoration



by petty dynasties.

Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore

TEHRAN –The Jameh Mosque of Marand as well as a historical public bathhouse in East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran are scheduled to undergo some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.

A total budget of 59 billion rials (\$118,000) has been allocated to the restoration projects, Abdolali Mohammadi explained on Tuesday.

The projects will be carried out by experienced restorers under the supervision of cultural heritage experts, the official added.

Jameh Mosque of Marand is estimated to date back to the Ilkhanate times (1256–1335/1353). Hulegu, a grandson of Genghis Khan, was given the task of capturing Iran by the paramount Mongol chieftain Mongke. Hulegu set out in about 1253 with a Mongol army of about 130,000. He founded the Il-Khanid dynasty in 1256, and by 1258 he had captured Baghdad and all of Iran. The Il-Khans consolidated their position in Iran and reunited the region as a political and territorial entity after several centuries of fragmented rule

since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

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

INOTEX 2023 kicks off in Tehran

From page 1 ► Only a few countries currently create frontier technologies, but all countries need to prepare for them.

To assess national capabilities to equitably use, adopt and adapt these technologies this report has developed a 'readiness index'. The index comprises five building blocks: ICT deployment, skills, R&D activity, industry activity, and access to finance, according to the report.

According to the Global Innovation Index (GII 2022) report, Iran is the second most innovative country in the Central and South Asian region and the third among low-middle income countries.

The Global Innovation Index says Iran is the second most innovative country in the Central and South Asian region.

Iran ranked 53rd in the world with 7 steps up compared to 2021.



According to the 2022 GI, Switzerland, the United States of America, Sweden, England, and the Netherlands are the most innovative economies in the world, and China is on the verge of entering the world's 10 most innovative countries.

The top global companies increased their R&D spending by almost 10 percent to more than \$900 billion in 2021, more than in 2019 (before the pandemic).

The drivers of this increase were mainly four industries of "Information and Communication Technology Hardware and Electrical Equipment", "Information and Communication Technology Software and Services", "Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology" and "Construction and Industrial Metals".

In the annual ranking of innovation capacity and output of world economies, key changes are observed in the top 15 countries. Vietnam (48th), Iran (53rd), and the Philippines (59th) are middle-income economies with the fastest growth in innovation performance to date.

With 7 ranks of promotion compared to 2021, Iran has been ranked 53rd in the world, second in the Central and South Asian region, and third in low-middle income countries, and for the second consecutive year, the innovation development rate is higher than expected.

Iran is leading in indicators such as trademark registration (rank 1) and science and engineering graduates (rank 2). In terms of innovation outputs,

Iran has a performance similar to high-income European economies such as Latvia (rank 41) and Croatia (rank 42).

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year (March 2022-March 2023) as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating". Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

In this regard, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and 154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration of 23 national mega projects.

Moreover, in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem development, 65 creative houses and innovation centers, and 30 specialized accelerators have been established with the aim of empowering and strengthening the export capacity of knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies.

Knowledge-based companies and creative startups have grown over the past five years, and Iran has risen 45 places in the Global Innovation Index, according to the UNESCO 2021 Report.

Iran urges global cooperation to sustainably manage forests



TEHRAN - Amir Saeed Iravani, the permanent representative of Iran to the United Nations, has emphasized the need for international cooperation to sustainably manage forests.

Referring to some of the country's measures taken toward sustainable forest management, he pointed to deforestation, climate change, and limited access to markets and financial resources as the main challenges of countries in this regard, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks at the 18th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF18) which is being held from May 8 to 12 in New York.

Enumerating the capacity of forests to deal with economic, social, and environmental crises and the damage and negative effects of dust storms on sustainable forest management, he said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with the United Nations, is hosting the international conference on combating dust storms."

This conference will be held in Tehran on September 9-10 this year aiming to examine the challenges and problems of countries affected

by dust storms and to provide practical solutions to deal with this challenge and global problem, he added.

Enhancing forest-based economic, social, and environmental benefits, and increasing significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests, are among the thematic priorities for UNFF18.

Mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation, promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation, and enhancing cooperation, coordination, and coherence, for sustainable forest management are some other key topics of the event.

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

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

One of the approvals of the regional meeting of environment ministers, which was held in Iran last summer, was the establishment of a regional dust organization, he highlighted.

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

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

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

Tehran will host an international conference on combating sand and dust storms on September 9-10.

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

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Russia highlights cooperation with Iran in science and technology



TEHRAN - Andrei Fursenko, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation has emphasized the need to expand scientific and technological cooperation with Iran, especially in the field of artificial intelligence.

"We pay serious attention to the field of artificial intelligence as a widely used scientific and technological field, considering the technological capabilities that exist in Iran, we are ready to cooperate in these fields," IRNA quoted Fursenko as saying.

He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on Monday with Rouhollah Dehghani, the vice president for science and technology.

"In the field of environment, where we are facing challenges, we can make positive changes and reforms with the help of technology and at the same time adapt ourselves to the changes that are inevitable," Fursenko added.

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.

Scientific cooperation between Iran and Russia is mainly on nanotechnology, aviation, electronics, and telecommunications.

Dehqani, for his part, said in recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved significant success in various fields of technology such as biotechnology, telecommunications, nanotechnology, communication, and other fields.

"It seems that now is the right time for the formation of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in various scientific and technological issues."

It seems necessary to set up a joint committee and an investment fund for cooperation between Iran and Russia in the field of technology, Dehqani stressed.

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.

Scientific cooperation between Iran and Russia is based on five models in various fields of nanotechnology, aviation, electronics, and telecommunications, and the establishment of the Iranian house of innovation in Russia is the latest example of this cooperation.

The deployment of humans to space, the

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.

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.

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.

Iran also inaugurated a house of innovation and technology in Russia in July 2021 by supporting innovative ideas, holding technological and innovative events, and the centers, a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

ENGLISH IN USE

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COVID19- lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone

Strict COVID-19 restrictions which took effect on October 26 have caused 87 out of 89 infected cities to get out of the high-risk "red" zone.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country. Ten days later, decisions were made to set new limitations on highly-affected areas for another 10 days, through which 46 cities undergone restrictions.

The plan divided cities into three levels of alert, namely red, orange, and yellow.

All of the cities, except for two, are now out of the red condition and have turned orange or yellow so that the hospitalization rate has decreased, said Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, expressing hope that the death toll will also drop within two to three weeks.

اعمال محدودیت ها اکثر شهرها را از وضعیت قرمز خارج کرد

علیرضا رئیسی، سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: از ۸۹ شهری که از پنجم آبان محدودیت‌های کرونایی در آنها اعمال شده است، ۸۷ شهر از وضعیت قرمز خارج شده اند.

او با اشاره به محدودیت های کرونایی در ۸۹ شهری که (از ۱۵ آبان در ۴۳ شهر و از ۱۴ آبان در ۴۶ شهر) اعمال شده است، گفت: از این تعداد به جز دو شهر همه شهرها از حالت قرمز خارج و به نارنجی یا زرد تبدیل شده اند. با توجه به ورودی بیمارستان ها و اینکه میزان بستری هم کاهش یافته است امیدواریم روند فوتی ها هم تا سه هفته دیگر آثار خود را نشان دهد و روند کاهشی پیدا کند.



Foreign university students celebrate graduation

A group of foreign students from 19 countries celebrated graduation at the Sheikh Mofid Hall in the central city of Qom on Monday, May 8.

More than 94,000 foreign students from 91 countries are studying in Iranian universities.

