

Op-ed 

The clash of fear and hope in the 2023 Turkish elections

By Azar Mahdavan

Although the words of Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the Turkish presidential candidate, give hope to his supporters, some post-election social challenges have created fear in the Turkish society.

As we get closer to the presidential elections in Turkey, the political advertising furnace heats up and the Turkish society pays more attention to the future of the elections. These days, the streets and alleys of Turkey are filled with the colors and smells of elections, and what is observed is the opposition's determination to defeat Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Although Kilicdaroglu, Erdogan, Muharrem Ince, and Sinan Ogan are the four main presidential candidates, opinion polls and election monitoring show that the final winner of this marathon will be either Erdogan or Kilicdaroglu.

Kilicdaroglu's smart political advertising over the past two years has been such that he has been able to win various sections of the society, especially part of the conservatives. His coalition with the Saadet Party (Turkey's Islamic party), the Future Party, the Democrat Party, and the Good Party, known as the "Nation Alliance," ► Page 5

Op-ed 

Pioneers of nations

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN – Throughout history, the central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress and long-term development of nations. Women are the pioneers of the nations.

The traditional social roles of women and men have remained unchanged for many years. The traditional social role of women is that of the lady of the house, taking care of the family, and being focused on children and their happiness. However, in the last two decades, along with the deepening social and economic changes, the social roles of women and men began to undergo vivid modifications.

Since the mid-20th century, an increasing number of women can be observed in the labor market. Moreover, women have entered into male-dominated roles, e.g., leadership roles, including in politics. Since 1965, the proportion of women who have majored in business, medicine and law has risen significantly.

The role of women in the urban and rural workforce has expanded exponentially in recent decades. Of course, women's opportunities still lag behind those of men worldwide. But, the historic and current role of women is indisputable.

The issue of women and how they are treated in different communities has been one of the most discussed and challenging points in different communities and cultures for a long time. ► Page 7

A Big Step Forward

Iran and Russia bring Ankara and Damascus together ► Page 3



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Raisi urges full probe into assassination of anti-terror commanders

TEHRAN- President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday urges swift and thorough investigation into the 2020 assassinations of Iran's senior anti-terror commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis of Iraq.

In a meeting in Tehran with Faeq Zaidan, chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council of Iraq, Raisi issued a warning against wasting time in the ongoing attempts to bring the culprits of the terrorist act to justice.

Raisi also said that "pursuance of the case until

the achievement of result will show that Iran and Iraq stop at nothing in their bid to enforce administration of justice against those behind the assassination."

He added Iran is aware of Iraq's determination to deal with the Americans' "appalling" misconduct and its attempts to bring those responsible for the crime to justice.

The Iraqi official, for his part, said that one of the most significant instances of Tehran and Baghdad's judicial collaboration is the effort to bring individuals who had participated in the "terrorist crime" to justice.

On January 3, 2020, General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), were assassinated in a U.S. drone strike close to Baghdad International Airport. The strike was ordered by former U.S. President Donald Trump.

Due to their crucial contributions in the fight against the Daesh terrorists, notably in Iraq and Syria, both commanders enjoyed great respect throughout West Asia.

Tehran, Dodoma looking to broaden mining, agricultural co-op

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Trade (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie has said the basis is provided for the expansion of economic cooperation between Iran and Tanzania in various fields including agriculture, mining as well as technical and engineering services.

Shafeie made the remarks in a meeting with Director General of Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) Latifa M. Khamis in

Tehran on Tuesday, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"It is possible for Iranian companies to invest in the fields of technical and engineering services, agricultural machinery, and mining activities in Tanzania," the official said.

The ICCIMA head considered the development of relations with African countries as a main strategy of the Iranian government and said: "Despite this special view, unfortunately, the level of Iran's relations with this region is unfavourable and should be improved."

Further in the meeting, Khamis, who visited Iran on top of a trade delegation, stated that the purpose of her trip to Iran was to consult with Iranian officials and to identify areas for economic cooperation and investment between the two countries. She noted that her accompanying delegation is seeking to sign memorandums and cooperation agreements with their Iranian counterparts. ► Page 4



Palestinians fire barrage of rockets after Israel bombs Gaza

► Page 5

Report 

Butcher of Palestinian children

By Ali Karbalaee

Children are the most vulnerable group in critical situations. The deeper the crisis, the deeper and wider the damage to children.

When a country is hit by a natural disaster or a war is imposed on a country or the country is occupied, children are among groups that suffer the most.

These damages are caused by the fact that the international organizations active in protecting children's rights do not work well, which increases their vulnerability and sometimes reaches disaster level.

In history, we see many examples of crimes against children. ► Page 5



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Iran holds international conference on new world order

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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.

Proposing regional agreement a joint trick of the West and Westerners

Kayhan reacted to an article written by Ali Vaez and Vali Nasr in Foreign Affairs and criticized it. ► Page 2

Tehran Intl. Book Fair opens with Tajikistan as guest of honor

TEHRAN – The 34th edition of the Tehran International Book Fair opened on Wednesday at Imam Khomeini Mosalla with Persian-speaking Tajikistan the guest of honor of the major Iranian trade fair for books.

Over 3000 foreign and Iranian publishers and over 200 major Iranian bookstores are showcasing their latest offerings at the book fair, which promotes the slogan "The Future Is Readable".

Directors of several book fairs, including the Doha International Book Fair, New Delhi World Book Fair and Muscat International Book Fair, attended the opening ceremony of the fair running for 11 days.

In addition, culture ministers of Tajikistan and Venezuela are in Tehran to visit the event.

In a press release published by the organizers, Tajik Ambassador Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda called the book fair the largest cultural event in the region, which aims to improve cultural ties in the region by showcasing the latest publications.

"We have much in common with Iran on cultural, historical and religious issues, and the joint cultural and historical values provide the ground for more cultural interactions between the two countries," he said. ► Page 8

Op-ed 

Oman's 2040 vision & security in the region

By Javad Mirgaloubayat

During his trip to Oman, Major General Baqeri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, was met with an unprecedented welcome by the Omani officials. Baqeri had a meeting with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq during this important visit.

Baqeri and his accompanying delegation also held important meetings with other high-ranking Omani officials. It can be said that the reception for Baqeri and the level of his meetings in Oman were higher than any non-presidential official since the Islamic Revolution. ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Proposing regional agreement a joint trick of the West and Westerners

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

Kayhan reacted to an article written by Ali Vaez and Vali Nasr in Foreign Affairs and criticized it. It wrote: America, which is much weaker than the past and is declining, needs to negotiate with Iran more than ever. It is because Washington is seeing the increasing progress of the Islamic Republic in various fields and the expansion of its influence and authority in the region and the world. It is in addition to that fact that the U.S. is realizing that its two options - military attack and economic embargo - have also failed. Even in the article, the obsolescence and inefficiency of this actions have been admitted.

America tried to sell at a high price its basic need to negotiate in the false form of special privileges to Iran. But when it failed, now it is seeking to seize the successes without the JCPOA in the form of a new agreement.

Meanwhile, some domestic Westerners are also excited by the new proposal of the West and have welcomed it. Because if this agreement is inked, they can say all the achievements that the government has achieved by looking inside, were due to this agreement. This proposal has been offered while recently a group of former American diplomats have demanded to continue the policy of maximum pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran in a letter to Joe Biden.

Iran: An opportunity that is not permanent for Washington

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper also addressed the article in Foreign Affairs and said: After months of delay in accomplishing the nuclear case and the unpleasant results of the Iran-Saudi agreement for America and Israel, the U.S. government raised a new regional pact, and immediately the newspapers defending the JCPOA republished it inside the country. The most important reasons that have put the U.S. and its regional ally, the Zionist regime, in a "vortex of anxiety" against Iran and the Middle East, are as follows: "Rejecting the reasonable conditions of Iran in terms of the JCPOA", "The failure of the project of street riots and creating insecurity", "The failure in the international meetings against Iran under the pretext of human rights", "The failure to disrupt Iran-China-Russia relations under the pretext of the Ukraine war" and finally "The failure in the normalization project between Israel and Arabs".

'Big events are just around the corner': IRGC chief

TEHRAN- Israel and the United States are imploding, according to the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who also denounced the most recent Israeli offensive against the besieged Gaza Strip.

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks during a meeting of the Basij in the shrine city of Mashhad on Tuesday.

Major General Hossein Salami made the comments hours after three prominent commanders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance groups lost their lives in the pre-dawn Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.

The top general went on to add, "The Zionists who were boastful a few months ago are now shocked to see that more than 30 armed attacks take place in the occupied territories each day."

"Big events are just around the corner. Justice will return to the region, and hopes have been renewed. This is the pattern of the unexpected fall of powers," he pointed out.

At least three prominent commanders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad were killed in a series of targeted attacks on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday night by Israeli military aircraft.

Based on Palestinians' reports, at least 15 Palestinians were killed and 20 more were injured as a result of the Israeli airstrikes, which also struck a number of targets in Khan Yunis, Rafah, and Gaza City.

The Palestinian resistance groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad promised to exact retribution for the blood of those who were killed in Gaza.

The assaults received considerable world-wide opprobrium.

The IRGC chief said that the Zionists them-

Shargh: Does the king of Oman brings an ultimatum message?

Shargh devoted its analysis to the possible visit of the Omani sultan to Iran. It wrote: If we see the visit of the Omani sultan to Iran in the coming days, it should be considered as the "last opportunity for negotiations". Considering the current movements and the events of the past few months, "opportunity" will not necessarily mean a new platform to revitalize the JCPOA. "Opportunity" is not created as a chance to reduce adverse conditions and the Omani king is now traveling to Iran only by this purpose to convey Washington's ultimatum to Iran about accepting the new JCPOA with new conditions.

Etemad: Erdogan's election diplomacy!

Etemad addressed the Moscow meeting and wrote about Erdogan's point of view on it and said: The quadripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, Syria and Russia was held just four days before the decisive elections in Turkey, an election that its result will determine the fate of the power of Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party after two decades. The meeting of foreign ministers of the four countries was supposed to be held in Esfand (March 2023), but it was postponed unreasonably. The holding of this meeting on the eve of the presidential election in Turkey, in a situation that polls indicate a very close competition between Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his main rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu, has strengthened the suspicion that Erdogan is interested in utilizing this meeting for the election.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Clear but vague

In an article, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the nuclear developments. It wrote: Americans today know that diplomacy is the least costly approach to achieve their goals. Although the Americans today are aware of the necessity of continuation and revival the JCPOA negotiations, they are not implementing the plan. Today, the Europeans and the Americans know that if they consider the JCPOA finished, they will face unpredictable conditions in the region. The negotiations and agreements with Saudi Arabia indicated the management of tensions in the region. All of these factors have created new changes and apertures "although vague but clear".



selves are now talking about their own collapse.

"They wanted to push Syria into trouble, but President Bashar al-Assad survived and returned to the Arab League," General Salami underlined.

In remarks on April 22, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, urged the Muslim world to take advantage of the significant opportunity presented by the acceleration of the Zionist regime's fall, which has been underway for a few years.

The IRGC chief also said that "Americans are no longer willing to support the Zionists and none of them travels to the occupied Palestine anymore."

He added the U.S. now has only two military bases in Iraq, noting that Iran has made the Americans to stop prioritizing West Asia.

Salami remarked that Iranians have always seen resistance as "sweet," emphasizing that everyone who harbored ill will for the Iranian nation is now facing with their demise while the Islamic system is still in existence.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salami stated that the West "has recently realized that military warfare is not enough to win wars, but it is humans who can decide the fate of any war."

Iran holds international conference on new world order

TEHRAN- The University of National Defense is hosting a two-day event in Tehran to review issues related to formation of a new world order.

The conference, titled "Geometry of the New World Order", started on Wednesday and will last until Thursday.

General Esmail Ahmadi Moqaddam, the president of the University of National Defense, who greeted the attendees in his speech, said Leader of the Islamic Revolution's remarks following the breakout of the Ukraine conflict sparked the idea for hosting such a conference.

At the times, the Leader said a new era in human history is about to happen and that academia and universities should play a major role in bringing about this new era.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri were among the main lecturers at the conference.

182 academics, professionals, and thinkers from 36 nations, including China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Oman, Syria and Iraq, are participating in the conference.

"EU, allies descend into chaos if they pave U.S. traces"

General Baqeri told the conference that if Europe fails to free itself from dependence on the United States and recklessly follow Washington's policies, it will fall into an unstoppable downward spiral.

"Change has been the rule governing the universal order in different historical eras, and the continuation of an order does not necessarily translate into its accuracy. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the Eastern and Western blocs have sought to reap more benefits for themselves, dominate the West Asia region and exploit its



strategic potentials," he pointed out.

"There are signs that a unipolar order has never stabilized, and the world is on the verge of a new order," he continued.

Baqeri also said Iran's Islamic establishment is a major impediment to U.S. dominance in the world, saying that God's prophecies also signal the collapse of arrogant systems and the emergence of virtuous ones in their stead.

He also said the Israeli regime, which once cherished a treacherous plot for control of Muslim territories from the Nile to the Euphrates, is on the decline and has been plagued by numerous crises since a humiliating defeat in the 33-day onslaught on Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the military chief also said China has surpassed the United States as the world's largest economy, and its determination to invest across Asia, as well as some sections of Africa and Europe, plainly demonstrate that a new global order is taking shape.

Tehran-Muscat ties benefiting regional security: military chief

TEHRAN- Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, Iran's Iranian Armed Forces chief, has criticized the presence of foreign troops in the region and asserted that collaboration between Tehran and Muscat will enhance regional security.

Baqeri made the statement at a meeting with Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al Said on Tuesday in Muscat.

Iran's fundamental polices, according to General Baqeri, is to rely on local troops to maintain security in the region.

The general also said, "The joint actions by Iran and Oman can improve security and demonstrate

that outsiders are not required in the region."

Baqeri noted that the multipolar world order and the transfer of power from the West to Asia have an impact on West Asia and emphasized the need for closer military cooperation to maintain security in the Strait of Hormuz, the Sea of Oman, and the northwestern regions of the Indian Ocean.

The commander then praised Oman for its sensible foreign policy toward Yemen, emphasizing that more work must be done to establish a fair peace and safeguard Yemen's territorial integrity.

The Sultan of Oman, for his part, stressed the

need to strengthen military and defense cooperation with Iran.

Pointing to the Omani Navy's participation in joint international naval drills with Iran, he said only regional countries could guarantee the security of the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman.

In recent years, Iran and Oman have conducted a number of joint naval exercises.

High-level military representatives from the two neighbors signed a memorandum of understanding in April 2019 to expand collaboration in numerous military domains.

Iran has world class missiles and radar systems, air defense chief says



must be strengthened for emergency situations.

The commander went on to say that because of Iran's unique geographic, political, and strategic location, the adversaries have always had a covetous eye on it.

Military engineers and techni-

cians in Iran have achieved significant advancements in the production of a wide spectrum of homegrown weapons in recent years, making the armed services self-sufficient in the region.

Iran has invariably asserted that its military strength does not pose

a danger to the regional countries and that Iran's defense doctrine is centered on deterrence.

In a military parade commemorating National Army Day in April, the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense units of the Army unveiled a wide array of cutting-edge equipment, including homegrown missiles, tanks, armored vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radar systems, and air defense missile systems.

Iranian authorities have frequently warned that Tehran will never negotiate on its defense capabilities and will not hesitate to increase its military might, particularly its missile capacity, which is only intended for defense.

Oman's 2040 vision & security in the region

From page 1 ► The warm reception he received indicated the importance of Iran.

The trip took place while two Omani ministers of communications and transportation, as well as trade, were in Iran during Baqeri's stay in Oman, and several Iranian foreign ministry officials also visited Oman to follow up on Oman's initiative for nuclear negotiations.

It seems that Baqeri's trip was in line with the Islamic Republic's principled policies in the region, which is to ensure regional security by regional countries - a policy that is consistent with Oman's rational policies for sustainable peace in the region - an issue that Baqeri emphasized during his meeting with Sultan Haitham and relevant offi-

cials and was met with Oman's welcome.

Sultan Haitham stated: "The level of cooperation between our armed forces must be elevated in various defense and military areas... The presence of Omani naval forces for international exercises in Iran can enhance this cooperation... The security of the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman can be ensured by regional countries."

The trip of Sardar Baqeri can also be analyzed in the context of relief in regional tension. The reconciliation between Iran and Saudi Arabia and the role of China in the region have led regional countries to conclude that the era of Western domination over the region is coming

to an end and that regional issues can be addressed without Western interference and unstable Western security.

The ceasefire in Yemen, Syria's return to the Arab League, and the resolution of other regional issues have shown that regional actors, including Iran, have something to say. Omani statesmen have realized well that sustainable peace in the region will be a fragile one without native security.

Peace is one of Oman's fundamental policies in foreign policy. On the other hand, Oman needs peace and prosperity in the region to achieve its 2040 development vision, which cannot be achieved without peacebuilding and regional security.

A big step forward

Iran and Russia bring Ankara and Damascus together

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – After years of tensions, the foreign ministers of Turkey and Syria sat at the same table to discuss ways to de-escalate tensions with help from Iran and Russia.

On Wednesday, the Russian capital Moscow hosted an important quadrilateral meeting between Iran, Syria, Russia, and Turkey at the level of foreign ministers. The meeting is a giant step forward in terms of putting an end to differences between Turkey and Syria, which have been at loggerheads over the last decade.

The meeting was made possible by a series of technical discussions that took place between the four states in Moscow in early April.

While some international issues have also been on the agenda, the Moscow meeting is primarily focused on the normalization of relations between Ankara and Damascus. The diametrically opposed positions of Syria and Turkey since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011 seriously have damaged their relations. With the Syrian government regaining control of much of its lost territory, Turkey moved to patch up relations with Syria with mediation and facilitation by Iran and Russia.

In the Wednesday meeting, this featured high on the agenda. The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that the foreign ministers of the four countries held “a substantive and frank discussion on issues related to resuming the interstate relations” between Syria and Turkey in various aspects.

The Moscow meeting is another indication that Syria moving past crisis and war, a trend that prompted Turkey and many Arab states to restore ties with Damascus. Earlier this week, Syria was readmitted to the Arab League and Saudi Arabia reopened its diplomatic missions in Damascus. Currently, there are speculations that Syrian President Bashar Assad could take part in



the upcoming summit of the Arab League in Saudi Arabia, which has already officially extended an invitation to Assad to participate in the summit.

Turkey appears to be willing to keep up with this reconciliatory trend. In their meeting, the foreign ministers agreed to task the deputy foreign ministers to prepare a road map to advance the relations between Turkey and Syria in coordination with the work of the ministries of defense and special services of the four countries, according to the Russian statement.

The statement added that the ministers noted a positive and constructive atmosphere of their exchange during the meeting and agreed to further maintain high-level contacts and technical talks in this quadripartite format in the upcoming period.

The Moscow meeting also provided a convivial atmosphere for the foreign ministers to hold bilateral meetings. The Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian held separate meetings with his Syria, Russian, and Turkish counterparts.

In his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, Amir Abdollahian congratulated him on Syria's readmission to the Arab League and

expressed Iran's support for the Turkish-Syrian normalization.

Amir Abdollahian described the Moscow meeting as a step forward in his meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. The Turkish foreign minister, for his part, pointed to Iran's important role in facilitating the quadrilateral meeting.

As things stand, Turkey and Syria are making strides in restoring their ties. The full resumption of ties, however, is hindered by the fact that Turkish troops are illegally present in Syrian territory, thus contravening the Arab country's territorial integrity. This point was raised in Moscow.

In his speech at the joint meeting, Amir Abdollahian underlined that any political resolution to the Syrian issues must ensure Syria's sovereignty over its entire territory, according to IRNA.

Amir Abdollahian suggested that deployment of Syrian troops at the border regions can alleviate security concerns of Turkey and other neighboring countries, prevent terrorist and separatist activities, and set the stage for the withdrawal of Turkish military forces from the common border areas.

“We believe that a strong and

independent Syria can overcome terrorism, separatism, occupation of American forces, and theft of the country's national resources,” he noted.

Iran's top diplomat also stressed the need for joint efforts by regional countries and the rest of the international community to reconstruct Syria and prepare the ground for Syrian refugees to return to their homeland.

“Of course, any political precondition and double standards on this issue not only will not help solve this humanitarian issue but will also add to its complexity,” he pointed out.

The Iranian foreign minister pointed out that the beginning of talks between Syria and Turkey will benefit the people of the two countries and the security of the region.

“We deeply believe that these two countries can put the past behind them and resolve the bilateral issues through dialogue and deepening cooperation based on good neighborliness,” Amir Abdollahian said.

He also noted that today's meeting in Moscow would have a strong message of peace and sustainable security in the region and strengthening of good neighborliness between Turkey and Syria.

ment 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.”

Iran and Saudi Arabia have recently agreed to resume diplomatic relations in the deal brokered by China. The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia have met in Beijing to follow up on the deal. The two countries are now exchanging delegations to pave the way for reopening embassies.

In recent weeks, several Iranian diplomats were dispatched to Saudi Arabia to review the procedures for reopening Iran's diplomatic missions in the Arab country.



to elites based on the needs of the country.”

Raisi also addressed economic issues such as prices. In determining price for goods, services, departments should coordinate with Market Regulation Headquarters, Consumer and Producer Support Organization, he said.

Referring to the need for coordination in the “pricing of goods and services,” President Raisi said, “Departments should coordinate with the Market Regulation Headquarters and the Consumer and Producer Support Organization in determining the price of goods and services so that the rights of the producer and also the consumer are not violated.”

Ayatollah Raisi pointed out the need for coordination in the “pricing

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

ISSF World Cup: Poorhosseini takes gold

TEHRAN – Iranian shooter Sajad Poorhosseini won a gold medal in the 2023 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup on Wednesday.

He claimed the gold with a total score of 240.2 points in the men's 10m Air Pistol.

Ukrainian shooter Oleh Omlechuk and Robin Walter from Germany won silver and bronze medals with 239.8 and 217.6 points, respectively.

The 2023 ISSF World Cup started in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 8 and will conclude on May 25.

Becirovic shortlisted to lead Iran basketball team

TEHRAN – Iran basketball federation has reportedly set its sight on hiring Memi Becirovic as Team Melli head coach.

The Slovenian trainer was named as Iran technical director in last year's October during the 2023 FIBA World Cup qualification.

Becirovic helped Iran book a place in the 2023 FIBA World Cup.

Now, the federation is going to part company with Saeid Armaghani and Becirovic is a candidate to replace him.

Becirovic has previously worked as Iran head coach from 2012 to 2015.

Javadi takes bronze at 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Mostafa Javadi of Iran claimed a bronze medal in the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships on Wednesday.

He lifted 159kg in the snatch and 205kg in the clean and jerk. The Iranian weightlifter claimed the bronze medal with 364kg in total in 89kg weight class.

The gold and silver medals went to Chinese weightlifters Li Dayin (180-216-396) and Tian Tao (165-222-387).

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 linked with Turkish basketball coach Demir

TEHRAN – The Iranian Basketball Federation has reportedly made an offer to hire Hakan Demir as the National Team head coach.

Iran is going to part ways with Saeid Armaghani and the Turkish media have reported that the Persians have negotiated with the 55-year-old coach.

Demir has most recently worked as head coach in Manisa basketball team.

Iran basketball team have been drawn in Group G along with Spain, Ivory Coast and Brazil in the 2023 FIBA World Cup.

Iran, one of the leading basketball countries of Asia, participated in three Olympics, four World Championship, and have won the Asian Champion three times.

Hakan Demir, who is still the coach of Manisa BSB, previously served in the Swiss and Romanian Leagues.

Demir, in case of an agreement with Iran, will continue to coach the club team.

Gorgan to lock horn with Al Riyadi

TEHRAN – Shahrdiri Gorgan basketball team of Iran will face Lebanese club Al Riyadi Beirut on Thursday at the Azadi Basketball Hall in Tehran on Thursday in the WASL-West Asia Final.

The second leg will be held at the Saeb Salam Stadium in Manara, Lebanon next week.

Zob Ahan, another Iranian team, will face Beirut Club in the Third-Place Game on Wednesday.

“It's big history for Gorgan,” said head coach Mehran Hatami. “It's the first time for this club to be in this situation. It's the result of the great club that we have. And, the great, great, great fans that we have that support us.”

The regional tilt is extremely important in their aspirations, for the two best teams by the end of the Final 8 in June will qualify to the 2023 Champions Cup.

The star guard is keen on making it back and conquering the prestigious FIBA Asia Champions Cup with Shahrdiri Gorgan, and that's precisely the reason why they all would want to rule the West Asia Super League (WASL) as well.

The Champions Cup is very dear to him.

Behnam Yakhchali has played in the continent's highest club competition for three years in a row from 2016-18 when he was still with Petrochimi, who, at that time, were in the midst of their reign of dominance in the Iranian Super League.

That stint was highlighted by a golden finish in 2018 in Thailand, sweeping their way to the crown to give the organization its first Champions Cup title while also making Iran the most successful nation in the annual tilt with six crowns.

It's been quite a while since the veteran internationalist has basked in that kind of glory. That's why he's been looking to return, and, possibly, essay another championship run this time with the reigning two-time Iranian champs.

But of course, they aren't overlooking WASL.

Yakhchali and Gorgan have booked a ticket to the Final 8 by making it to the WASL-West Asia Final following a two-game sweep of Zob Ahan Isfahan, emerging triumphant anew in a clash of budding Iranian rivals.

Jahanbakhsh helps technical staff

TEHRAN – Feyenoord football team winger, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, has given some insight into the Dutch club's approach to player development and the unique techniques they employ to enhance their performance on the pitch.

Jahanbakhsh speaks highly of their technical policy, stating that the club pays attention to even the smallest details when it comes to player nutrition and supplements.

Moreover, he reveals that they follow a strict monthly regimen that involves yoga, meditation, and even ice-cold showers to push themselves to improve their physical and mental endurance. The club takes pride in its holistic approach to player development, which Jahanbakhsh believes has contributed to their success so far in the Europa League and the Conference League.

In summary, Feyenoord's approach to player development and Ajax's coaching situation highlights the significant impact that technical expertise and strategic decision-making have on the sport of football.

Vafaei improves his snooker ranking

TEHRAN – Iranian talented snooker player Hossein Vafaei has improved his annual ranking among world professionals to 18 in 2022-2023.

According to the public relations department of the Bowling, Billiard, and Boules Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (BBFIR), Vafaei has improved his annual ranking among world professionals to 18 in 2022-2023.

Vafaei defeated his UK professional snooker player Mark Selby in the 2022 English Snooker Open Tournament. Defeating the British rival Mark Selby two times in a tournament, Vafaei advanced to the next round of the 2022 English Open.

Vafaei also showed a brilliant performance by beating his Chinese rival Ding Junhui 10-6 in the opening round of the Cazoo World Championship in England.

Trade between Iran, Azerbaijan rises 13% in a year



TEHRAN- The value of trade between Iran and Azerbaijan increased by 13 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), based on the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Iran-Azerbaijan trade was \$688 million in 1401, and \$608 million in 1400.

Components and parts, tubes, aluminum, packaged butter, potatoes, heaters, non-electric appliances, non-powder polyethylene compound, special polyethylene compound wire and cable cover, polyethylene film grade with specific weight, and iron and steel ingots were Iran's main exported items to Azerbaijan.

Milling machines, car gearboxes, gas generators for the simultaneous production of electricity and heat, lathes, air-generating units, presses for the production of chipboards, bending machines (presses), pipes, car engine control units, and sets of generators with compression piston engines were Iran's major imported products from its neighbor in the past year.

As announced by the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the value of Iran's non-oil export to its neighbors rose 19 percent in the past Iranian year.

Ruhollah Latifi said that 75.184 million tons

of non-oil commodities worth \$30.537 billion were exported to the neighboring countries in the previous year.

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

Latifi, who is the former spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), further stated that Iran's non-oil trade with neighboring countries accounted for 52 percent of its total non-oil trade, exports to these countries for 57.5 percent of the total non-oil exports, and imports from them for 47.5 percent of the country's total non-oil imports in 1401, which shows the increasing importance of neighbors in Iran's foreign trade and bringing foreign currency to meet the needs of the country under sanctions.

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

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

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

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

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

SATBA plans to establish solar parks in various provinces



TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has said his organization plans to establish at least one solar park in each province in collaboration with Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO).

Mahmoud Kamani said the necessary permits have been issued by the government for some of these parks and the primary works have started on one of them in Qazvin Province, IRIIB reported.

Last month, the SATBA head announced the construction of 110,000 solar power plants with a capacity of five kilowatts (KW) for low-income groups in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

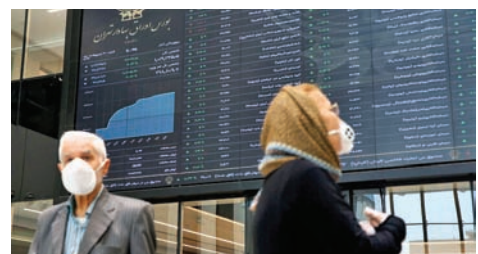
Kamani also announced that the tender for the construction of solar power plants with a capacity of 2,200 megawatts, left over from the plan for the construction of solar power plants with 4,000 megawatts capacity in the past year, will be also held this year.

TEDPIX drops 28,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 28,092 points to 2.777 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 20.444 billion securities worth 147.369 trillion rials (about \$350.8 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).

Tehran, Dodoma looking to broaden mining, agricultural co-op

from page 1 ► “Due to the progress that Iran has made in the field of agricultural machinery, we are interested in cooperation in this area. Of course, in the meantime, we will follow up on the development of relations in other areas if possible,” she explained.

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

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

Iran is taking necessary steps to increase trade with African countries.

Iran exported 2.452 million tons of products valued at \$1.183 billion to 49 African countries in the past year, showing one percent fall, and imported 92,898 tons of goods worth \$95.316



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Director General of Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) Latifa M. Khamis meet in Tehran on Tuesday.

million from 23 African countries, indicating 59 percent growth, year on year, according to Latifi.

He said that South Africa with the purchase of \$305.411 million (20 percent growth), Mozambique with \$190.517 million (94 percent growth), Ghana with \$165.014 million (53 percent decrease), Sudan with \$142.702 million (96 percent growth), Nigeria with \$129.332 million (three percent growth), Kenya with \$53.203 million (31 percent decrease), and

Ivory Coast with \$41.605 million (183 percent growth) were the first seven destinations of Iranian goods in the African continent in 1401.

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

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

Latifi, who is the former spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), further announced that Burundi, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone are four export destinations that were not in the list of Iran's export destinations in 1400, to which Iranian goods were exported in 1401.

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

Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization has also said the country is taking the necessary steps to increase annual trade exchanges with African countries to \$5 billion by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (begins in March 2025).

Iran, Pakistan stress expansion of trade between private sectors



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (L) and TDAP Chief Executive Muhammad Zubair Motiwala

TEHRAN - Head of Tran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari and Chief Executive of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Muhammad Zubair Motiwala expressed the need for the expansion of relations between the private sectors of the two countries in a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday.

The officials emphasized that the trade between the two countries should not be limited to the border trade in Quetta and must be directed to official channels between the private production and export companies of the two countries, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Speaking at the meeting, Motiwala announced the readiness of his organization for long-term and progressive interaction with TCCIMA in order to facilitate the commercial exchanges of the two sides' economic enterprises.

He stressed the need for continuous exchange of business delegations with the aim of introducing the economic and market cooperation capacities of the two countries and identifying the goods and services needed by the markets of both sides.

According to the official, the chambers of commerce in the two countries can provide the basis for the expansion of interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

Motiwala also considered the revision and modification of the tariffs on commodities traded between the two countries as necessary to increase the level of economic cooperation, and in this regard, he reminded that Pakistan is taking serious measures.

Khansari for his part, welcomed the ideas presented by the Pakistani side and emphasized the need for amending the tariffs on goods exchanged between Iran and Pakistan.

“A complete list of commodities needed by

the markets of the two countries has been prepared by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce which has been compiled by the data provided by reliable companies,” Khansari said.

Stating that the main channel of trade between the two countries is border exchanges which are almost entirely carried out through the Quetta border, the TCCIMA head said: “In order to strengthen the economic relations between Iran and Pakistan, the trade of the two countries should move away from cross-border exchanges towards interaction between large industries and companies from both sides. In this context, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the country's chambers of commerce should encourage the reputable and big industries and businessmen of Pakistan to have direct economic cooperation with the Iranian market.”

Last week, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad-Ali Hosseini and Pakistani Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar discussed the ways for increasing trade between the two countries in a meeting in Islamabad.

Expressing their satisfaction that the trade between the two countries exceeded \$2 billion, the two sides emphasized the need to take more effective steps to strengthen economic cooperation and help expand trade relations.

During the meeting, the Pakistani minister said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Iran.

Appreciating the efforts of the Iranian ambassador during his diplomatic mission in Pakistan in order to strengthen the brotherly relations between the two neighboring countries, Senator Ishaq Dar praised the measures taken especially in the commercial and economic fields.

Expressing their satisfaction with the value of trade between Iran and Pakistan, which has exceeded two billion dollars, the two sides emphasized the need to identify new ways to help increase trade and develop economic cooperation.

Emphasizing the country's economic outlook, Pakistan's finance minister expressed confidence that despite economic challenges, Pakistan is on the path of progress and development.

Iranian ambassador to Pakistan for his part, appreciated the cooperation and support of the Pakistani government for the development

of bilateral relations in various fields, and stated that the potential capacities of Iran and Pakistan are the main factor for the expansion of joint cooperation.

He added that bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan has now reached \$2.4 billion, but it is not compatible with the good political and people relations of the two neighbors and more efforts should be made to support the business community of the two countries.

Back in January, Iran and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate bilateral trade between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak and Muhammad Zubair Motiwala.

Based on the MOU, which was signed on the sidelines of Iran's Exclusive Exhibition in Karachi, the parties pledged to exchange business information, support each other's private sectors, and provide the conditions and context for the presence of their trade delegations in the other country.

It was also agreed that both sides would take all the necessary measures to facilitate holding exhibitions in the opposite country, whenever required.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, Peyman-Pak said that signing this MOU was indicative of the two sides' determination for removing the obstacles in the way of bilateral trade and prepare the ground for the businesspersons of both sides to bolster cooperation.

He considered the holding of exclusive exhibitions, exchanging trade delegations, and investment in joint production units as positive steps for knowing the capacities and needs of the two countries and expressed hope that such events would continue.

The TPO head further mentioned some obstacles and infrastructural problems that are hindering the two countries' mutual trade, including lack of banking relations, problems related to sea transportation and logistics, and tariff-related issues, saying that the Iranian government is willing to resolve such problems in collaboration with the Pakistani government.

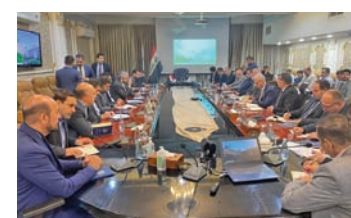
Motiwala, for his part, said that the signed MOU is regarded as a major step to enhance bilateral trade to reach the target of five billion dollars annually.

Iran-Iraq joint committee meets ahead of Oji's Baghdad visit

TEHRAN - The Joint Supreme Committee of Iran-Iraq held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the expansion of bilateral ties in the oil sector, Shana reported.

The session was held a day before Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji's trip to the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs and Trade Ahmad Asadzadeh was the head of the Iranian party in the session, during which bilateral cooperation in the development of joint fields, export of technical and engineering services, and implementation of



memorandums of understanding

(MOUs) in the oil industry were thoroughly discussed.

Heading a delegation, Oji is scheduled to hold talks with Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, Oil Minister Hayan Abdel-Ghani, and Minister of Electricity Ziad Ali Fadel.

From page 1 ▶ From the wars of the past to the modern wars of today, this group has always seen much damage.

In recent centuries, with the occurrence of two world wars and regional wars, the statistics given by international organizations about the killing of children are very terrible, but what the people of the world have become accustomed to hearing for more than seven decades is the pathetic situation of children in the occupied lands and systematic cleansing of Palestinian children by Israeli soldiers.

'Blood libel' is implemented in practice

The Israeli military arrested and interrogated hundreds of Palestinian teenagers in 2022 in the occupied West Bank, without ever issuing a summons or notifying their families, according to a report by the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked.

In the vast majority of the military's pre-planned arrests of minors last year, children were taken from their homes in the dead of the night, HaMoked said.

After being yanked out of bed, children as young as 14 were interrogated while sleep-deprived and disoriented. Water, food and access to toilets were often withheld, the report said.

The reports of Jewish human rights organizations inside the occupied territories in Israel clearly show that Israel's goal and plan is the systematic killing of Palestinian youth and children.

Vampires of Palestinian children remind us to think deeply about 'Blood Libel'.

Last year (2022) Israeli forces killed at least 146 Palestinians, including 34 children (some resources put the number at 36), the Israeli rights group B'Tselem reported, making 2022 the deadliest for Palestinians in the West Bank in 18 years.

Last fall in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina, Rania Elias heard pounding on the door before dawn. Her youngest son, 16-year-old Shadi Khoury, was sleeping in his underwear. Israeli police burst into their home, shoved Khoury to the floor, and pummeled his face. Blood was everywhere, she said, as police dragged him to a Jerusalem detention center for interrogation.

"You can't imagine what it's like to feel helpless to save your child," Elias said.

In response to a request for comment, the Israeli police said they charged Khoury with being part of a group that threw stones at a Jewish family's car on Oct. 12, wounding a passenger!

Naming 2022 year deadly for Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) wrote in a report on December 23, 2022:

Under international law, intentional lethal force is only justified in circumstances where a direct threat to life or serious injury is present. However, investigations and evidence collected by DCIP regularly suggest that Israeli forces use intentional lethal force against Palestinian children in circumstances that may amount to extrajudicial or wilful killings.

Half of all Palestinian children shot and



killed by Israeli forces in 2022 were killed in the Jenin or Nablus governorates in the northern occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

17 Palestinian children were confirmed killed after the Israeli military launched a three-day military offensive on the Gaza Strip in early August, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

Israeli forces killed eight Palestinian children in four separate airstrikes between August 5–7, and DCIP field researchers investigated two other incidents where four Palestinian children were killed.

DCIP estimates an average of 132 Palestinian children were held in Israeli military detention each month in 2022. Precise data is not available because the Israeli Prison Service has stopped releasing detainee headcounts on a monthly basis.

Children typically arrive at interrogation bound, blindfolded, frightened, and sleep-deprived. Children often give confessions after verbal abuse, threats, physical and psychological violence that in some cases amounts to torture.

Israeli military law provides no right to legal counsel during interrogation, and Israeli military court judges seldom exclude confessions obtained by coercion or torture.

From testimonies of 84 Palestinian children detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, DCIP found that:

- 70 percent experienced physical violence following an arrest
- 94 percent were hand-tied
- 87 percent were blindfolded
- 54 percent were detained from their homes in the middle of the night
- 58 percent faced verbal abuse, humiliation, or intimidation
- 58 percent were subject to at least one strip search
- 63 percent of children were not properly informed of their rights
- 99 percent were interrogated without the presence of a family member
- 17 percent were subject to stress positions

- 29 percent were shown or signed documents in Hebrew, a language most Palestinian children don't understand
- 25 percent were isolated in solitary confinement for two or more days

Between 2012 and 2014, Israeli authorities briefly suspended the practice of detaining Palestinian children under administrative detention orders. However, since October 2015, DCIP has documented 57 Palestinian children held by Israeli authorities pursuant to administrative detention orders, a practice that amounts to arbitrary detention under international law.

DCIP documented the highest number of administrative detention cases in 2022 since October 2015.

Last supper of Gaza children

Alarmed by the killing and injury of many children in Israel and Palestine, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) voiced an appeal to parties on Monday Jan. 30, 2023, to de-escalate tensions and refrain from violence.

"Children continue to pay the highest price of violence," the statement declared. "As the situation remains very volatile, UNICEF fears that an increasing number of children will suffer."

Just a few weeks into the new year, seven Palestinian children had been killed and many more injured.

13 Palestinians, including 4 children, were martyred in the latest Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip, which took place on the morning of Tuesday, May 9.

"People have not been able to sleep since 4:00 in the morning. The children woke up to the sound of explosions, and they were terrified. We have children, women, patients and elderly people. This is not normal," a witness named Hani Jaber said.

Under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new ultra-nationalist government, parents say they fear for their children more than ever. Some of the most powerful ministers are Israeli settlers who promise a hard-line stance against the Palestinians.

"This is the darkest moment," said activist Murad Shitawi, whose 17-year-old son Khaled was arrested last March in a night raid on their home in the West Bank town of Kfar Qaddum. "I'm worried for my sons."

WORLD HEADLINES

Palestinians fire barrage of rockets after Israel bombs Gaza

The Zionist regime of Israel pounded the Gaza Strip for a second straight day, witnesses said.

Local media reported on Wednesday that at least one Palestinian was killed and another one was wounded.

The air raids struck multiple locations across the besieged enclave, including in the south and the north.

Rockets have reportedly been fired from Gaza towards southern Israel.

These attacks come a day after Israeli forces attacked Gaza City and its environs on Tuesday, killing 15 people, including four children, in what they said was an operation targeting three PIJ commanders.

In an overnight attack, Israel also killed two people in attacks on the occupied West Bank town of Qabatiya, during which a 17-year-old Palestinian was shot in the chest and transferred to hospital.

Palestinian resistance groups in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday fired several barrages of rocket fire into southern Israel, in their first response to a series of Israeli airstrikes.

The rocket fire set off air-raid sirens throughout southern occupied lands, where residents had been bracing for an attack since Israel carried out its first airstrikes early Tuesday.

1,500th artist signs “Irish Artists’ Pledge to Boycott Israel”

The Ireland–Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) is proud to announce that our ‘Irish Artists’ Pledge to Boycott Israel’ has just passed the 1,500-signatory mark, a hugely significant milestone in support for the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement. After reaching 1,000 signatories in early 2021, more than 500 new cultural workers have added their names over the past two years alone.

The Irish artists' pledge was launched just over a decade ago, initiated by composer and IPSC co-founder Raymond Deane. Initially signed by over 140 Irish creative and performing artists, whereby they undertake to boycott the Israeli state under present circumstances, the pledge now has over 1,500 signatories, among them Irish cultural legends like Stephen Rea, Sinéad Cusack, Donal Lunny, Andy Irvine, Damien Dempsey, Sharon Shannon, Robert Ballagh, Mary Black and Kila, joined by exciting fresh artists such as CMAT, Pillow Queens, Kneecap, The Mary Wallopers, Steo Wall, Ailbhe Reddy, Cherym, Array Collective and Katie Kim, alongside established figures like Kevin Barry, Sally Rooney, Steve Wickham, Derbhle Crotty, Paul Duane and Eugene O'Hare.

IPSC Chairperson and Cultural Liaison, Zoë Lawlor, said: “We are extremely proud to have so many artists sign up to our pledge. Reaching 1,500 signatories is a huge landmark in Irish solidarity with Palestine and a serious statement in support of the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality. As the indigenous Palestinian people endure their 75th year of dispossession, ethnic cleansing, apartheid and enforced exile, and western governments fail to sanction Israel, they need the solidarity of people of conscience – and this pledge plays a major part in that.”

Ms Lawlor continued, “Irish artists continue to show their support for the Palestinian people, and it is both moving and heartening to see such empathy and shared humanity.”

Japan is in talks to open a NATO office

Japan is in talks to open a NATO liaison office, the first of its kind in Asia, the country's foreign minister told CNN in an exclusive interview on Wednesday.

“We are already in discussions, but no details (have been) finalized yet,” Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said on Wednesday, speaking a week ahead of the Group of Seven summit, hosted this year by Japan in Hiroshima.

He added that Japan is not a treaty member of NATO, but that the move sends a message the bloc's Asia Pacific partners are “engaging in a very steady manner” with NATO.

The opening of a NATO liaison office in Japan would mark a significant development for the Western alliance amid deepening geopolitical fault lines, and is likely to attract criticism from the Chinese government, which has previously warned against such a move.

Brazil to offer to act as go-between for settling Ukraine conflict at G7 summit

Brazil plans to offer its services as a mediator for settling the Ukrainian conflict at the G7 summit, according to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The summit is scheduled to be held in Hiroshima, Japan later this month.

During a joint news conference with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Lula stated that continuing the war will only result in more deaths and that Brazil is ready to discuss peace. Lula has already discussed the issue with the Chinese president and British prime minister and plans to raise it with other leaders at the G7 summit, including the president of Indonesia.

The agenda of the G7 meeting will include discussions on Ukraine, energy, battling climate change, economic development, and unemployment. Lula added that he has received multiple requests for bilateral meetings and is confident that the Ukrainian issue will be raised at every such meeting.

Boy,8, survives two days in Michigan wilderness by eating snow

An eight-year-old boy lost in the remote woodlands of Michigan survived for two days by eating snow and hiding beneath a log for shelter.

Nante Niemi went missing on Saturday while camping with his family in the Porcupine Mountains state park.

He got lost while walking to gather firewood, sparking a 150-person search effort to rescue him.

On Monday he was found underneath his log “in good health”, about two miles from his camp.

“He had braved the elements by taking shelter under a log where he was ultimately found,” Michigan State Police said in a statement.

The boy told police he “ate clean snow for hydration”.

Pakistan arrests hundreds as Imran Khan charged with corruption

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has pleaded not guilty to corruption charges a day after his arrest sparked nationwide protests.

Nearly 1,000 people have been arrested, police say, and eight people have died nationwide in the protests.

There is tight security at the police guesthouse where he is being detained, which is also serving as a courtroom.

The arrest dramatically escalated tensions between Khan and the military at a time of economic crisis.

Conviction would permanently disqualify the former cricket star – prime minister from 2018 to 2022 – from standing for office. Elections are due later this year.

The clash of fear and hope in the 2023 Turkish elections

From page 1 ▶ has paved the way for gaining public trust for his affiliated party, the People's Republican Party. The veteran politician has been able to give hope to a significant percentage of Turkish people by giving economic promises in his campaign meetings.

There is a hope that after the economic recession and devastating earthquake, Turkey will have brighter days ahead. Regardless of how much his election promises will be fulfilled after his potential victory, it must be said that Kilicdaroglu's victory on behalf of the Nation Alliance and the post-election days will be accompanied by three major social and political challenges.

The first challenge is related to the type of cooperation among six different parties in the Nation Alliance. Approaches and types of political thinking within the alliance are so different that it can be predicted that after the elections and Kilicdaroglu's victory, members of the Nation Alliance will face fundamental differences in governing the country.

For example, the Republican People's Party led by Kilicdaroglu is a secular party, while the Good Party led by Meral Aksener is nationalist and secular, and Saadet Party led by Temel Karamollaoglu is an Islamic party with a legacy of former Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's political views.

Ali Babacan, leader of the Democracy and Progress Party, and Ahmet Davutoglu, leader of Future Party, are also among parties that were once at the forefront of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party policies.

Now, given the differences of these parties, whose only common point is to remove Erdogan from power, to what extent it is likely that they will show coherence and unity in governing the country, a topic that Ahmet Davutoglu recently predicted in his speeches.

However, the second challenge is related to Iran's western neighbor's national identity; every government after taking over power does its best to define a national identity. Erdogan has been able to draw up a new national identity based on Ottomanism in the recent twenty years.

Reviving Ottoman culture in the form of respect for the homeland, flag, and army in Turkey was exactly the same as Turkey's national identity that Erdogan's supporters followed. Erdogan was able to create a sense of patriotism among the people of the country by recalling the glorious era of the Ottomans.

Despite this, Kilicdaroglu and his supporters have never had a positive view of the neo-Ottoman national identity that Erdogan has created. Therefore, it can be predicted that if Kilicdaroglu wins, a new identity will be defined. However, given the

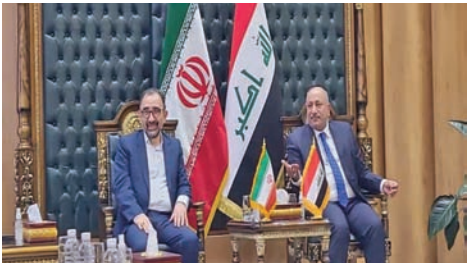
diversity and multiplicity of parties in the Nation Alliance, it is unclear what form this national identity will take because there are three important perspectives: nationalism, Islamism, and secularism within the Nation Alliance.

But the next challenge is predicting a turbulent atmosphere in post-election days. The most important political change in any country is holding presidential elections because when a new president takes power in a country, society can notice fundamental changes in various political, economic and social fields.

These types of changes may be desirable for some political and non-political forces in that society but these changes may also cause dissatisfaction among other segments of society. Therefore, during some presidential election campaigns, political discussions, mutual criticisms and struggles between candidates and politicians close to each candidate become so heated that this tense atmosphere can affect the fate and future of that society.

In the past two years, we have witnessed such an atmosphere in Turkey where elections have a significant impact on the society. The Turkish people's attention to the election process and their expression of opinions about the country's political system demonstrate that the

Mashhad establishes sister city link with Karbala



TEHRAN – Iran's Mashhad has forged a sister city agreement with Iraq's Karbala to facilitate health tourism and pilgrimage between the two holy cities.

The memorandum of understanding was inked on Wednesday by Alireza Rashidian, the Khorasan Razavi Governor-General, and Nasif Jassim al-Khattabi, the Governor of Karbala, IRNA reported.

The agreement is aimed to facilitate cooperation between the private sectors and the tourism unions of the two countries, a local official said on Wednesday.

“Practical measures have been designed in this agreement to facilitate medical tourism

and pilgrimage between the two religious cities.”

Each day, Mashhad, which is the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, welcomes thousands of domestic and international tourists.

The number of foreign travelers to Mashhad, one of the holiest places for Shia Muslims, jumped 311 percent during the first half of the past Iranian year, compared to the same period a year earlier, according to the director general of Khorasan Razavi airports.

In August 2020, the spiritual tradition of pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) was registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

According to available data, some 37 million Iranian pilgrims and travelers visited Mashhad during the first ten months of the Iranian year 1398 (March 21, 2019– March 10, 2020). Of whom some eight million came by road, six million by rail, 3.8 million by air, and 18 million by private cars.

Khorramshahr to host national conference on dark tourism

TEHRAN – Khorramshahr is planning to host a national conference on dark tourism.

A prime destination for war tourism, the port city suffered great damage when captured by Iraqi forces in 1980 and recaptured by Iranian troops in 1982.

Khorramshahr will host a national conference on war tourism to honor the bravery and courage of the men and women who sacrificed their lives to protect our beloved country, CHTN quoted Khorramshahr's tourism chief as saying on Tuesday.

Filled with bitter and treasured memories, the Iraqi-imposed war was a turning point in the contemporary history of Iran and the Islamic Revolution, Sajjad Pakgozar official explained.

Since the end of the war, those former battlefields have been visited by thousands of domestic and international travelers each year, he said.

Though many border cities are directly involved in the war, Khorramshahr is highly honored as a symbol of resistance. It is high on the 'will go' index of adventure travelers interested in such niche tourism.

The third of Khordad (May 24) marks the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr from Saddam Hussein's invading army back in May 1982, when Iranians laid another foundation for sacrifice, resistance, and final victory with their blood. Iranian forces recaptured the southwestern strategic port city in a landmark operation code named Beit ol-Moqaddas.

According to Goharpak, 25 spots have so far been identified in the port city, which makes it a noteworthy destination when it comes to war tourism. “Khorramshahr is so



great that right now we are facing a museum city because countless incidents took place in every neighborhood of the city.”

For those interested in visiting an epitome of frontline elsewhere from the former battlefields, Tehran embraces several destinations; the Sacred Defense Museum, Tehran Peace Museum, and Behesht-e Zahra—a graveyard where many of the martyrs are buried. The epic-scale Sacred Defense Museum does bargain something different in modern Iranian history where you can delve into wreckages of rockets, tanks, rifles, vessels, mortars, radars, air defense systems, grounded jets, military supplies, and artillery pieces amongst others.

The museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system, including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. The recreation of the liberation of the city of Khorramshahr by the means of virtual exhibits and video projections is amongst the main features of the museum, where stands a replica of the Khorramshahr mosque adorned with creamy and turquoise patterned tiles.

Iran-Iraq War was the second-longest war of the 20th-century after the Vietnam War.

Aran-Bidgol to develop tourism infrastructure



TEHRAN – Aran-Bidgol in Isfahan province plans to develop its tourism infrastructure by implementing projects and channeling investments in this sector, a local tourism official has said.

Over the past two years, a total budget of 300 billion rials (\$600,000) has been invested in the tourism sector of the region, Mehdi Mashhadi explained on Wednesday.

The investment has been channeled into the 21 tourism-related projects, which have been carried out during the mentioned time, the official added.

The projects have created some 200 job opportunities for the locals so far, he noted.

Aran-Bidgol is the gateway to the Maranjab desert and caravansary, which also draws thousands of domestic travelers each year. The desert, which is a top destination for off-readers, leads to salt lake from the north, Band-e Rig and Desert National Park from the east, Masileh Desert, Hoz-e Sultan, and Moreh Lakes from the west, and eventually Aran and Bidgol from the south.

Situated in Isfahan province, the town is surrounded by desert from the north and east, and thus it has a typical climate of hot and dry in summer, cold and dry in winter, and very little rainfall during the year.

Last year, a team of Iranian archaeologists found remnants of a centuries-old network, which used to supply water to the underground city of Nushabad, located in the central district of Aran-Bidgol county.

Sassanid inscription bearing prayer for mental health discovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN – A team of cultural heritage experts have found a rock-carved Sassanid inscription that bears prayer for mental health.

The inscription is suffered due to rain, sunlight, and other natural elements for some 1,600 years, was found in the treasured site of Naqsh-e Rostam, southern Iran, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

According to Iranian linguist and historian Abolhassan Atabaki, the inscription dates from the late Sassanid period (224 CE–651) and shows part of the views and thoughts of the people of that time, the report said.

This inscription is inscribed in two lines, and it depicts a plea for mental health for holy people, Atabaki said.

Due to the type of sedimentary limestones and heavy rains for about 1600 years, harmful erosion has occurred on the stones of this place, so that the first line of this inscription is turned darker than nearby sedimentary rocks, he explained.

“Nevertheless, we tried to read this stone inscription, which has practically lost some of its letters and words.”

This inscription is a commemorative or prayer inscription written by a Zoroastrian follower, he said.

Another expert, Najmeh Ebrahimi, says: “Due to excessive erosion of the first line of the stone inscription, the distinction between words and letters is not very clear, so we processed the words of this line with speculation.”



The inscription reads: “The glory of creation... May the soul of a pious person be healthy. **A must-see tourist destination**

Massive rock-hewn tombs and bas-relief carvings at Naqsh-e Rostam have turned the ancient site into a must-see for holidaymakers traversing the Marvdash plain. The Achaemenid necropolis is situated near Persepolis, itself a bustling UNESCO World Heritage site near the southern city of Shiraz.

Naqsh-e Rostam, meaning “Picture of Rostam” is named after a mythical Iranian hero which is most celebrated in Shahnameh and Persian mythology. Back in time, natives of the region had erroneously supposed that the carvings below the tombs represent depictions of the mythical hero.

One of the wonders of the ancient world, Naqsh-e Rostam

embraces four tombs where Persian Achaemenid kings are laid to rest, believed to be those of Darius II, Artaxerxes I, Darius I, and Xerxes I (from left to right facing the cliff), although some historians are still debating this.

There are gorgeous bas-relief carvings above the tomb chambers that are similar to those at Persepolis, with the kings standing on thrones supported by figures representing the subject nations below. There are also two similar graves situated on the premises of Persepolis probably belonging to Artaxerxes II and Artaxerxes III.

Beneath the funerary chambers are dotted with seven Sassanian bas-reliefs cut into the cliff depict vivid scenes of imperial conquests and royal ceremonies; signboards below each relief give a detailed description in English.

At the foot of Naqsh-e Rostam, in the direction of the cliff face, stands a square building known as Ka'beh-ye Zardusht, meaning Kaaba of Zoroaster. The building, which is roughly 12 meters high and 7 meters square, probably was constructed in the first half of the 6th century BC, although it bears a variety of inscriptions from later periods.

Though the Ka'beh-ye Zardusht is of great linguistic interest, its original purpose is not clear. It may have been a tomb for Achaemenian royalty or some sort of altar, perhaps to the goddess Anahiti, also called Anahita believed to be associated with royalty, war and fertility.

A general renaissance

The Sassanid era is of very high significance in Iranian history, under which Persian art, and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran.

ECO member hails Iran's rich travel gems



TEHRAN – The tourist attractions in Iran span every corner of the country and there is no part without a great deal of them, the Director for Tourism of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Jasur Rajabov has said.

In each region of Iran, there are tourist attractions similar to those of a country, the Director for Tourism of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Jasur Rajabov has said.

He made the remarks during his visit to a festival dedicated to rural and nomadic lifestyle in the west-central province of Qazvin on Tuesday.

Each of Iran's provinces has the attractions of a country for tourists, making it one of the most important tourism regions in the world, the official added.

Festivals like these can be a great way to gain a deeper understanding of the native traditions of Iran, he noted.

It also can preserve the traditions left by the predecessors as cultural heritages, he mentioned.

Long shunned by Western travelers, the Islamic Republic has steadily stepped-up efforts to use tourism, over the past couple of years, to help promote its international image battered by endless opposition mostly from the U.S.

Experts believe even before the pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with

some challenges, on top of those Western “media propaganda” aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. They say Iran is still somehow “unknown” to many potential travelers due to such a “media war.”

Before the COVID pandemic, Iran's tourism had constantly been growing, reaching more than eight million visitors in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019). That surge, however, helped prejudices to become thick and thin.

However, Iran's trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts. As a wallet-friendly destination with hospitable people, Iran has long been a desired destination for nature lovers, birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers, to name a few.

Kordestan holds immense potential for rural tourism

TEHRAN –The western province of Kordestan has sizable potential in rural tourism, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Several cultural, historical, and natural attractions as well as its safety, have made the province one of the most popular tourist destinations among nature and rural enthusiasts, Mansour Mehrzad explained on Wednesday.

However, to develop the tourism industry in the province, proper measures should be taken to introduce and promote the province's tourist attractions, the official added.

Nature-based tourism is any type of tourism that relies on experiences directly related to natural attractions and includes ecotourism, adventure tourism,

extractive tourism, wildlife tourism, and nature retreats.

Eco and nature-based tourists seek and expect a high level of service and products directly related to natural attractions, and they are willing to pay for it. They deliver more economic benefits than other tourists because they spend more and stay longer.

Iranian officials and policymakers in the realm of travel expect such a branch of tourism development will end and possibly reverse the trend of migration from villages to cities by creating sustainable jobs and prosperity for local communities.

When it comes to rural tourism, Iran, which has many pristine yet diverse natural settings, has many to offer to nature



lovers. Rural tourism as well as agritourism and farm stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities and post-modern travelers who are tracing unique experiences.

Sightseers may stay with a rural or nomadic 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, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Rural tourism, most of all,

architecture.

Narratives say the majestic tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that Gonbad-e Qabus bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Historical properties in Golestan demarcated

TEHRAN – New boundaries have been defined for two historical structures in the northern Golestan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The Sassanid-era (224–651) Aq-Qala Castle and Safavid-era (1501-1736) Rabat Sefid Caravanserai are those demarcated recently, Mohammad Javad Savari explained on Wednesday.

The demarcation projects are aimed at preventing further destruction and damage as well as preserving and protecting the historical sites, the official added.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – which is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and innovative design of early-Islamic-era

Iran, Uzbekistan to expand ties in renewables

TEHRAN – A delegation of Iranian knowledge-based companies is scheduled to visit Uzbekistan to explore avenues for further cooperation in renewable energies.

The delegation will be sent on May 14 for a week to Uzbekistan to visit energy infrastructure and to investigate the feasibility of participation in renewable energy (solar and wind) and electricity generation projects, IRNA reported.

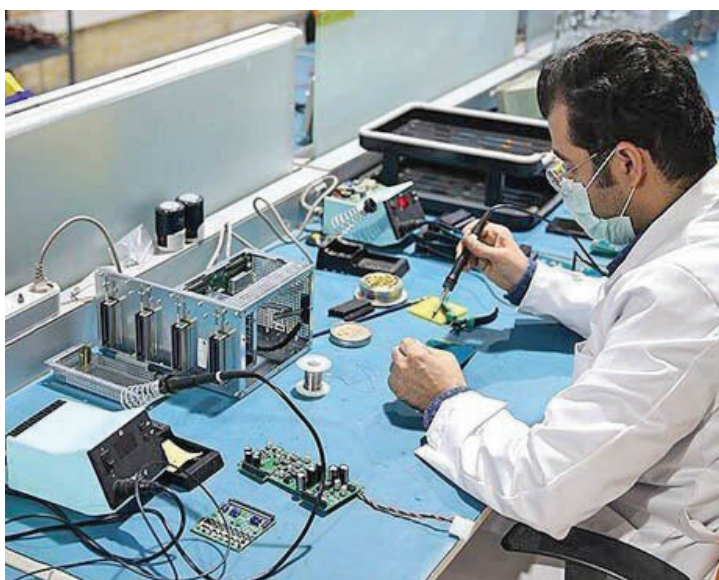
The two sides will be holding face-to-face meetings. The Iranian delegation will also visit the Uzbekistan Energy Exhibition as well as technological and industrial infrastructure.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund has paid a total of 27.8 trillion rials (nearly \$55 million) to support knowledge-based companies over the last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2022-March

The Iranian delegation will also visit the Uzbekistan Energy Exhibition.

2023), IRNA reported.

According to the latest statistics, a total of 8,046 knowledge-based companies are operating in the country.



The number of knowledge-based companies in biotechnology, agriculture, and food industries is 362, in advanced pharmaceuticals is 480, in advanced materials (chemistry and polymer), is 1130, and in advanced machinery and equipment is 1721.

Moreover, 326 companies are operating in the field of medical equipment, 1821 companies in electricity and electronics, 1778 companies in information technology, 397 companies in commercialization, and 31 companies in creative industries and humanities.

In line with the law enforced on May 24, 2022, knowledge-based production is a priority of the government so the plan for promoting knowledge-based products has progressed well so far.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, 2022, as the year of “Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating.”

Over the past couple of years, the concept of a ‘knowledge-based company’ has changed to a ‘knowledge-based society’, meaning that supporting knowledge-based companies will lead to many social and economic advantages for the public.

The Leader reemphasized the importance of boosting domestic production, as he had done in past years, saying the reason he placed so much emphasis on production was “because it boosts economic growth, it creates employment, it reduces inflation, it increases per capita income and it improves public

welfare.”

To this end, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has executed and supported several projects toward the goal of boosting knowledge-based production.

Moreover, the development of an innovation ecosystem is on the agenda, according to which 65 houses of innovation have been set up across the country.

The country's progressing process of development has accelerated with the emphasis on the formation of the technology and innovation ecosystem and the approval of laws for supporting knowledge-based companies and boosting Iran-made products.

Today, we are witnessing the positive effects of adopting the approach in the economy, culture, and daily life of people.

The Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy has reported that the sales of knowledge-based companies in the fiscal year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022) hit 4,000 trillion rials (about \$8 billion) compared to the fiscal year 1399, an increase of 86 percent year on year.

Improving the scientific level of society, achieving high global rankings in the number of scientific articles, references, and patenting, reducing the illiteracy rate, and increasing the number of university courses and students are only a part of the achievements after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

WFP in Iran releases March report



TEHRAN – The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of March.

WFP reached 32,938 beneficiaries including 32,318 refugees and 620 Iranian teachers as per the monthly target under unconditional resource transfers (URT), of whom 9,235 were women, 9,483 men, 6,787 girls, and 7,433 boys.

The refugees were assisted with a total of 262 MT of fortified wheat flour (9 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (900 cc per person per month).

WFP provides cash assistance to 7,264 Afghan and Iraqi refugee households each month. In March, a cash amount of Iranian Rials (IRR) 1.2 million (US\$ 3.3 according to the UN Operational Rate) per person per month

was distributed to households headed by refugee women, and IRR 1 million (US\$ 2.7) per person per month to households headed by refugee men.

During the reporting period, WFP distributed school meals consisting of milk and biscuits in all settlements, reaching 8,099 students and 620 Iranian teachers.

Moreover, it provided 2,857 refugee girls with a cash incentive of IRR 500,000 (US\$ 1.3 transferred to their bank accounts).

This is part of WFP Iran's efforts to promote education for refugee girls by providing them with cash for each month of regular school attendance.

Following the recommendations of the last Joint Assessment Mission conducted in February 2022, refugees with disabilities received a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1 million (US\$ 2.7) in addition to their regular entitlement. The intervention was initially implemented in two settlements – Shahid Naseri and Mohajerin – with 28 refugee beneficiaries and subsequently expanded to 55 beneficiaries in March. As of April, it is expected that the program will be extended to 18 more settlements targeting 100 beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, WFP released its 2022 report

on Iran based on Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023).

According to the report, Iran was one of the most affected countries by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic gradually abated and restrictions were lifted by mid-2022, the country continued to struggle with its severe negative socio-economic impacts, the report said.

In mid-2022, the Government decided to cut subsidies from staple food items. As a result, the prices of meat and poultry, dairy products and cooking oil increased fourfold overnight.

Inflation and increased prices of basic food commodities combined with local currency devaluation and reduced job opportunities due to a stagnating economy have significantly reduced purchasing power of vulnerable groups including refugees.

Against this backdrop and despite the tightening of trade restrictions and external barriers, WFP Iran succeeded in meeting its plan of supporting over 32,000 refugees living inside 20 settlements with unconditional food assistance through a combination of locally procured in-kind food and cash-based transfers.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

Women from the Leader's point of view-1

Pioneers of nations

From page 1 ► Women as half of the world's population are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family. The varieties of roles the women assume in the family are those of wife, leader, administrator, manager of family income, and last but not the least importantly the mother.

In line with her educational role in the family, women can engage in economic, social and political activities in the community. They are likely to be the prime initiator of outside assistance and play an important role in facilitating changes in family life. Women, notably mothers, play the largest role in decision-making about family.

For centuries Western civilization has been banging on the drum for fighting against religion and religious traditions under the pretext of defending and reviving women's rights; this is in the case that evidence attests that women's rights have not been yet completely recognized there.

Islamic thinkers have a different view on women's issues. In Islamic sources, in the stage of creation humans are valued equally regardless of gender. In other words, human beings have an intrinsic value as human beings, and being human by itself gives them the possibility of growth and excellence, and enjoying the same rights and duties as other humans, and in this respect, there is no difference between men and women. So, every individual has an equally active role in society and enjoys its benefits.

The major social mission of humans, both men and women, is to build a world in which the monotheism and perfection of mankind are crystallized, and femininity and masculin-

ity are containers in which this task is poured and takes various forms. This perspective on human beings is the basis for the philosophical foundations on which Islamic politics rest.

It is to be emphasized that the said view on the essential equality of human beings is not limited to the theoretical spheres in Islamic principles and traditions and has had many practical instances throughout the history of Islam. In such scenes, women who were inspired by their religion, not at a lower status than men, but alongside them, have taken active and historical roles in politics and society.

In Iran, some extremist, westernized or traditional views have also created some problems in facing the issue of women. For this purpose, in the upcoming chapters, we intend to discuss the role of women in various fields and also outline the views of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei regarding women.

The view of Islam and the Leader towards women is a comprehensive view that includes both divine values and human logic.

Ayatollah Khamenei has on many occasions made remarks about the importance of women's role in society. The issue of women and their roles have always been regarded as a main issue in the views of the Leader, as he states in one of his speeches, “The issue of women is an important issue... Paying attention to the issue of family – particularly the issue of women's health, security, tranquility and respect in the family environment – is one of the main issues.” (April 19, 2014)

In a series of articles, we will examine the opinions of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution about the position and role of women in society.

National foundation for science to be set up

TEHRAN – Generalities have been approved for setting up the national foundation for science in the country.

Transforming the national fund for supporting researchers and technologists into the national foundation for science is on the agenda, IRNA reported.

The national fund for supporting researchers and technologists was established in 2003. Supporting the systematic development of basic sciences and humanities will be among the new missions of the national foundation for science.

President Ebrahim Raisi has said science and technology are the cornerstones of national development.

The chain of knowledge, research, innovation, and technology ensures sustainable development in the country, he added.

The national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year 1402, which started on March 21, has earmarked about 37 trillion rials (\$74 million) for science and technology.

The bill increased the budget by 35 percent compared to the previous year's budget, ISNA reported.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology was formed in 2006 with the aim of creating

an environment for supporting knowledge-based companies and providing the ground for the development of technological industries.

The country's progressing process of development has accelerated with the emphasis on the formation of the technology and innovation ecosystem and the approval of laws for supporting knowledge-based companies and boosting Iran-made products.

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Improving the scientific level of society, achieving high global rankings in the number of scientific articles, references, and patenting, reducing the illiteracy rate, and increasing the number of university courses and students are only a part of the achievements after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.



Clean energy in 'clean village'

Chah Nasar village in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi is known as 'clean village' because of solar panels that generate energy for many of houses in the rural area.

