RANTI

Report



'Revenge of the Free': hands are on the trigger

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- The Palestinian Islamic Jihad says "we upheld our honor and dignity" in the five-day battle with Israel.

When both sides announced that a ceasefire had been reached and would be observed by 10pm Saturday (al-Quds local time) the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance continued to fire missiles for 30 minutes until the very last minute before the start of the truce.

On Sunday, the movement's Secretary-General, Ziyad al-Nakhalah, delivered a speech in which he announced victory against Israel.

Videos have quickly gone viral on social media showing Palestinians from all walks of life in the besieged Gaza Strip celebrating the victory until the early hours of the morning.

Chants can be heard in support of the al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which took on Israel alone after the regime began a bombing campaign with the aim of assassinating its commanders on May 9.

The movement responded with its own operation that it named "Revenge of the Free" by firing more than a thousand missiles at settlements near the Gaza Strip as well as deep inside the occupied Palestinian territories. ▶ Page 5

Hoover Institution: Iran is gaining control of the Persian Gulf

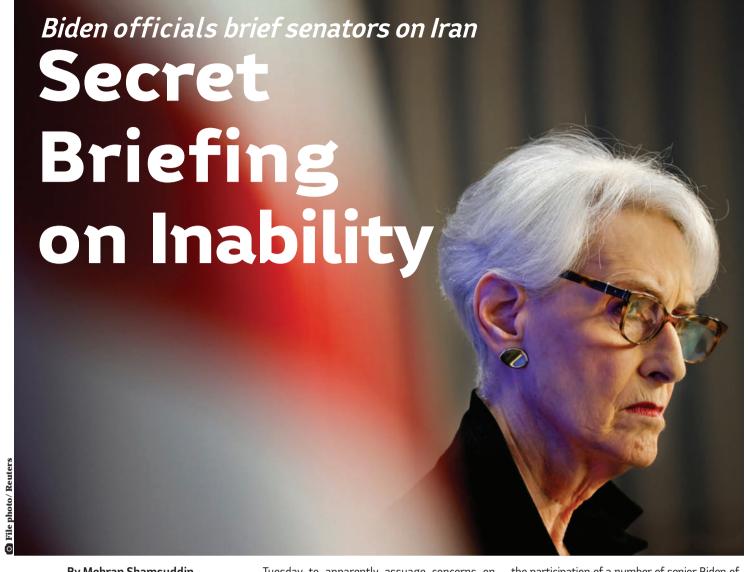
The Hoover Institution, a think tank at Stanford University in the state of California, in an analysis has called the Islamic Republic of Iran an "indomitable enemy" of the United States and wrote that the policies to contain the country have ended in failure.

In an article published on the Hoover website, Bing West wrote:

"The theocracy of Iran is America's implacable enemy. For decades, a bedrock American policy has been to contain Iran's employment of political pressure, sedition, and proxy forces in order to emerge as the dominant power in the Persian Gulf region. Since 2018, sanctions have prohibited the export of Iranian oil until that country ceases its nuclear weapons program. But that canon of containment is breaking down.

An estimated 70 foreign vessels were illicitly transferring Iranian oil in 2020; today, that number stands at 322. Four years ago, illegal oil exports by this so-called 'ghost armada' were estimated at 500,000 barrels per day; by 2023, it had doubled to one million barrels per day."

In the end, the author criticized the inaction of the U.S. Navy and wrote: "Iran is gaining control of the Persian Gulf."



By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – Facing growing criticism from Iran hawks over its policy toward Tehran, the Biden administration appears to be trying to justify its inability to make political decisions on Iran.

After a long period of deafening silence on its Iran policy, the Biden administration moved

Tuesday to apparently assuage concerns on Capitol Hill over the protracted non-diplomacy with Iran. Politico reported Monday that senior Biden officials were scheduled to secretly brief all senators on Iran on Tuesday for the first time over Biden's presidency.

The classified briefing session will be held with

the participation of a number of senior Biden officials, including outgoing Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, one of the architects of the defunct 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). According to Politico, Sherman was to brief senators on the tattered deal. ▶ Page 3

From Inside



- 'US bans impede chemical weapons victims in Iran to obtain medications' **P2**
- Pakistan president says Iran-Saudi agreement will go down in history P3
- Monthly export by large mining companies rises 12% P4
- · Bushehr to launch site museum of ancient tombs P6
- · Iran's health sector achievements are amazing: WFME head P7
- Raisi sends message to NLAI celebration of Ferdowsi Day **P8**

Tehran Papers



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

Europe and America's confusion regarding Iran

Shargh quoted an expert who believes that Europe and the United States are confused in regard the Iran nuclear issue. The expert says: ▶ Page 2

Iran, Russia willing to strengthen naval cooperation

TEHRAN- Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, has advocated for the advancement of naval cooperation with Iran, expressing willingness to sign bilateral agreements with the Iranian Navy in a number of areas.

During a meeting with the commander of the Iranian Navy, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, on Monday in Tehran, the Russian admiral also expressed hope that his visit to Iran would result in further improvement of cooperation between the navies of the two countries.

The Russian admiral emphasized the importance of strengthening ties between the Iranian and Russian naval forces.

Yevmenov also stated that the Russian Navy is fully prepared to work with Iran to further advance bilateral relations.

Russia's participation in three joint drills with Iran that also included China, according to Irani, sent a "very important" message to their mutual enemy.

The naval forces of Iran, China, and Russia conducted naval exercises in the Sea of Oman back in March under the name of "naval security belt combined war game 2023," as the three nations increased their attempts to enhance cooperation among their militaries.

With the aim of enhancing the security of global maritime trade, exchanging information for naval rescue and relief operations, ▶ Page 2

Persian Gulf countries eager for closer transport ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Secretary-General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council Jassim Muhammad Al-Budaiwi has said Persian Gulf nations are seriously willing to expand transport cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Al-Budaiwi made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash on the sidelines of the 17th annual exhibition and conference of 'the Middle East Rail' in Abu

The official stressed the expansion of ties and announced: "In the near future, we can have good opportunities in relation with Iran."



Iranian Transport Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash (R) and Secretary-General of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council Jassim Muhammad Al-Budaiwi met in Abu Dhabi on Monday

"The members of the Persian size cooperation without the in-Gulf Cooperation Council emphaterference of governments, and Iran is being considered by this council," he said.

the expansion of relations with

Al-Budaiwi expressed hope that he will visit Tehran in the near future.

In this meeting, Bazrpash expressed Iran's readiness for complete cooperation with investors from the mentioned countries, the portal of the Iranian Transport Ministry reported.

"Iran has diverse and suitable investment opportunities for the Persian Gulf countries in the transport sector to participate and benefit from," Bazrpash said. ▶ Page 4

Report



Iran handball team not to participate at 2022 **Asian Games**

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Alireza Pakdel, president of the Iran Handball Federation, says that he is shocked by the news that Iran's men's team may not be among the teams who represent the country in the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games.

Iran's Supreme Headquarters of the Olympic and Paralympics, Asian Games, and Asian Para Games had an important meeting on May 13, to discuss- and decide- the country's delegation to the Asian Games.

The headquarter officials decided to put Iran's men's handball team on the waiting list although the handball team have a high chance of being among the top four teams at the Games. ▶ Page 3

Beholding majestic mountains of Tehran: a hiker's Paradise

TEHRAN - Tehran's surroundings are blessed with beautiful natural attractions and countryside landscapes such as several parks, lakes and mountains, each offering a unique experience to visitors.

Damavand, the country's highest peak standing at 5,610 meters above sea level, provides excellent opportunities for camping, hiking, and climbing for adventure seekers.

Another popular destination near the Iranian capital is Lavasan, a town surrounded by the Alborz Mountains. It is covered with beautiful greenery and is known for its breathtaking landscapes, waterfalls, and canyons. Lavasan is an ideal place for hiking and biking. The town is a popular destination for those seeking a break from the chaos of urban life in Tehran.

A short drive from Tehran, visitors can explore the natural wonder of Lar National Park. The park, known for its spectacular canyon views, offers visitors the opportunity to discover the mysteries of the Iranian plateau. The park is home to several species of flora and fauna, including eagles, brown bears and wildcats. ▶ Page 6

TENDER INVITATION NO. 1402-1001

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 180000 MT Metallurgical Grade Calcined Alumina (AL2O3) on tender basis. Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till 27-May -2023

Based on our required instruction to following address: PO Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Arak-Iran Postal code: 3818998116

Attention: Mr. Abedi Tel: +98 86 32162014

NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran-Iran, Postal code: 1991614581 Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminum Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049029 For obtaining tender's documents and more information, please check: www.iralco.ir

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company

Iran disputes U.S. criticism about maritime security

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Monday denounced as unfounded claims by American authorities concerning Iran's naval activities in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani was reacting to recent charges by White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.

After Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy seized two invading Western oil tankers in the country's territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz in recent weeks. Kirbv said on May 13 that the U.S. "will work to bolster its defensive posture in the Persian Gulf."

Kirby resorted to the oft-used catchphrase that Washington will not let regional or foreign forces to endanger freedom of navigation via regional waterways. ▶ Page 2

POLITICS

Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

-TEHRAN PAPERS-

Europe and America's confusion regarding Iran

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

Shargh quoted an expert who believes that Europe and the United States are confused in regard the Iran nuclear issue. The expert says: "Even if the 2015 agreement is revived in its previous form, which is highly unlikely, there will be no relationship with what the Biden government had promised as a long and strong agreement. But the point is that currently there is no alternative or available plan for negotiations that can both cancel the U.S. sanctions in favor of Iran and resolve the West's concerns about Iran's nuclear activities. Due to the fact that there is no alternative scenario and a practical solution and everything is discussed in several possible scenarios, it has caused both the United States and Europe to experience some kind of ambiguity and confusion regarding the future of the negotiations and also the issue of Iran's nuclear activities. Therefore, now they are proceeding with the policy of "no agreement, no crisis" to manage the situation.

Kayhan: Maritime Authority

Kayhan devoted its editorial to Iran's maritime authority and said: Currently, the 86th flotilla of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, after seafaring about 7 months and navigating more than 70,000 kilometers, passing through different seas and straits as well as passing through the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are returning to our country. Ned Price, the United States State Department spokesperson, had previously said in a rude comment that "we believe and have said that such warships have no place in the Western hemisphere." This rhetoric and bluff of the American official did not create any obstacle in the iron will of the brave youth of our country and instead made them more determined. As a result, the 86th flotilla of Army, inattentive to the threats and sanctions, berthed at the shores of the American continent and made its mission in the best way.

Farhikhtegan: The way forward for Iran

The Farhikhtegan newspaper discussed the

prospect of establishing relations between Iran and Egypt. It quoted an expert who says: "Security cooperation has a long way to go, because Egypt has had special relations with Israel. Egypt has always been the flag bearer to start relations with the Zionist regime, especially during Sadat's rule, and it still has these hidden and open relationship. I think we should determine a specific path in relation to Egypt and move forward from that path, for example, cooperation in the fields of economy and trade. Even the effort for cultural cooperation is too early now, but it will be good to go as a tourist if it is possible. The relationship with Egypt in the fields of trade, economy, technical and engineering has good capacities and it is possible to focus on it, but we must know that it is not possible to cooperate and interact with Egypt comprehensively in all fields.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Historical narrative of the defeat of separatists

In a detailed commentary, Vatan-e-Emrooz analyzed a historical event in 1359 (1980), when armed separatists created insecurity in Kurdistan. This newspaper wrote: One of the main goals of the riots that started in the country last fall on the pretext of Mahsa Amini's death, was to divide parts of Iran while committing sabotage acts against the Islamic Republic. To confirm this claim, we can point to the active presence of terrorist and separatist groups, including Komleh, Kurdistan Democrats, PJAK, and the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK), in the riots and insecurity in the west and northern-west of the country. But the groups, that were following the separatist project in our country in the fall of last year, had taken the path of separation of Kurdistan from Iran in the past decades with more violence and severity than in recent months. However, they failed in face of the Army and the IRGC. The war that started between the military forces of our country and the separatist groups over the liberation of Sanandai, finally brought freedom to the city. It is a good example to show the failure of the separatists.

Patriarch of Assyrian Church praises Iran's anti-Daesh campaign

tholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East (ACOE), on Monday praised Iran's campaign against the Daesh terrorist organization to save civilization and religion in Iraq and Syria.

During a meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran, the Assyrian patriarch hailed Iran's dedication to interfaith dialogue and respect for monotheistic religions.

He stated that the Islamic Republic's strong regard for monotheistic religions is demonstrated by the inclusion of members of numerous religions in its institutional framework and expressed hope that this affinity would continue to grow.

For his part, the Iranian president asserted that a lack of morality and religious belief is the root cause of human subjugation and brutality around the globe.

Raisi also remarked that morality and religion are the primary requirements of human civilization and, if properly implemented, could resolve a wide range of issues.

"Humans do not merely need development and welfare but amongst the most important needs of humans in such societies. which have been overlooked, are morality, spirituality and relationship with God."

The Iranian president said while Takfiri terrorists were perpetrating atrocities in the region, the made bogus claims that they were promoting religious beliefs.

Raisi highlighted that the leading Iranian and Iraqi anti-terror commanders, Lieutenant Gen-



eral Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, among others, were gifted with real religion and morals. "They stood up to criminal terrorists and freed the region from their danger," he pointed out.

"Iran has always been a haven for people of different religions"

In a meeting on Monday with Mar Awa III, Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf also said throughout history people of different faiths have coexisted peacefully in Iran.

Ghalibaf stated that Christians in Iran coexist happily with their fellow Iranians.

He continued by saying that the Iranian laws protect Christians and that they are represented in the Iranian parliament.

Iran demonstrated its commitment to protecting religious minorities in practice, he continued, citing its anti-terrorism campaign, most notably General Soleimani's campaign in Iraq, particularly in Kirkuk and Nineveh, to protect the Christian minorities against the Daesh terrorism.

For his part, the patriarch noted that there are many Christians in Iran and emphasized that "dialogues between Muslims and Christians will have many benefits for the world today."

"Western countries provide safe haven for terrorist organizations'

Also, during a meeting with Mar Awa III on Monday, Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, refuted accusations from the West that Iran supports terrorism, asserting that it is the same Western nations that have become a safe haven for terrorist organizations.

The Iranian people have been victims of terrorism, with 17,000 innocent people killed in terrorist attacks around the country, Gharibabadi lamented.

According to Gharibabadi, while the United States openly assassinated Iran's legendary commander against terrorism three years ago, Iran is accused by the West of backing terrorist organizations.

"Western countries are trying to impose their own lifestyle on othit is necessary to respect various cultures," he added.

The top human rights official also pointed out that the concept of human rights has its roots in monotheistic faiths.

Gharibabadi highlighted that human dignity is highly valued in Islam and other holy faiths.

He stated that there are less than 200,000 religious minorities in Iran who have "special rights" and are well-represented in the parliament.

According to recent statistics, Iran has 400 churches for Christians, the most of which are operating. In contrast, Gharibabadi said, it is nearly hard to build a mosque in nations that profess to uphold human rights.

He stressed that religious minorities, in addition to Muslims, make up the majority of Iranian

Referring to the U.S. sanctions, Gharibabadi pointed out that "Iran is an independent country that has never attacked any country or violated the rights of any state, but Western countries have committed gross human rights violations by imposing unilateral sanctions against Iranians."

The Assyrian patriarch, for his part, maintained that freedom and human rights are not properly understood in international contexts, arguing that Western powers have mistakenly interpreted freedom as forsaking God.

He noted that the emphasis on human dignity and rights is shared by both Islam and Chris-

IRGC dismantles Daesh-K network in southern Iran

TEHRAN- The intelligence units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have destroyed a terror network linked to Daesh Khorasan (Daesh-K) in the southern province of Fars.

On Tuesday, in collaboration with the Fajr Intelligence Organization of Fars Province, the IRGC Intelligence Department identified and dismantled the operational and media network of Daesh-K, an Afghan branch of the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group, and detained the organization's key members.

The mastermind, who was under the IRGC surveillance for four years, was in charge of recruiting radical members in Tehran and other Iranian regions.

The network was busted in the aftermath of a devastating terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province,

forces for their efforts to hold joint

drills with Iran and China and em-

phasized the need to establish a joint

committee to foster engagement in

many areas, notably in the techno-

"Iran, Russia stand united

against threats, arrogant domi-

logical and educational sectors.

The terrorist group Daesh claimed responsibility for the incident.

More details regarding the operation to apprehend the network's members will be disclosed soon.

An armed terrorist entered the famed holy site on October 26, 2022, murdering 15 pilgrims-including women and children-and wounding several more before being apprehended by security officers.

After suffering injuries in the attack that shocked the nation, the terrorist was eventually confirmed dead at hospital.

Two weeks after the incident, the Intelligence Ministry reported the arrest of 26 Takfiri terrorists for embroilment in the attack. A few individuals were promptly apprehended.

Two individuals were given the death penalty



by an Iranian court on March 18 for their role in the terrorist assault.

At the time, Kazem Moussavi, head of the judiciary in the province of Fars, stated that the two major perpetrators of the murderous attack had been found guilty of assisting in the armed rebellion and acting against national

'US bans impede chemical weapons victims in Iran to obtain medications'



TEHRAN- Reza Najafi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, stressed on Monday that Iran has been the largest victim of chemical weapons in modern history and emphasized that Western sanctions have prevented victims of such weapons from accessing basic medications and medical supplies.

The comments were delivered during the fifth session of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague, Netherlands.

In reference to the significance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and a global treaty on the prohibition of chemical weapons, Najafi said, "Iran, as the largest victim of chemical weapons in contemporary history, regards any sanctions against independent members of this organization by some member states as against international law and the Chemical Weapons Convention."

The diplomat further emphasized the illegality and inhumanity of the Western sanctions placed on Iran and demanded that they be lifted immediately.

He went on to add, "Once because these governments sent materials to and shared the technology to produce chemical weapons with the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime during the imposed war against Iran, and once again due to the sanctions imposed by these governments."

Referring to the Israeli regime's weapons of mass destruction, Najafi described the illegal entity as the main threat to the region's peace and security, and urged the international community to put pressure on the regime to join the Chemical Weapons Convention "without any preconditions or

The U.S. is the only signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention that still maintains its arsenal, and the Iranian deputy foreign minister called for its destruction "within a set deadline" and rejected any justifications for further postponing the issue.

The Iraqi army constantly used chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers and civilians during the imposed war on Iran in the 1980s, killing tens of thousands and causing many more to suffer for years.



Also, in a meeting with Yevmenov on Monday, the deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination said that the Islamic Republic will improve coordination with its partners, especially Russia, to combat challenges to regional security posed by "global arrogance."

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari also encouraged vigilance to prevent any dominance of the arrogant countries on the global stage.

"We do not want to dominate or attack any country, but we stand against any threats and arrogant domination. In this regard, we will strengthen our cooperation and synergy with friendly and allied countries, including Russia," Sayyari stated.

The commander also stated that the Iranian Army is fully prepared to work with Russia on enhancing military competitions, conducting maritime patrols and exercises, ensuring economic security, implementing counterterrorism measures, conducting maritime search and rescue operations and trainings, and assisting damaged

He also praised the competence of the Iranian Navy, noting that it is staffed by trustworthy and competent personnel and is outfitted with cutting-edge surface and subsurface machinery.

He continued by saying that Iranian navy ships have currently traveled to significant ports, such as the Port of St. Petersburg, and have circled the world.

Tehran disputes U.S. criticism about maritime security destructive policies over long decades have fo-

mented and exacerbated instability and insecu-

From page 1 ▶ In response to Kirby's comments, Kanaani stated that Iran has been the most successful country in guaranteeing peaceful maritime travel in the Persian Gulf as well as other regional and international waterways, and has always guaranteed secure passage of ships and other vessels through the

He went on to continue, "The recent measures taken with regard to the two seized ships were due to their violations and taken through the court verdict. The goal was to prevent behaviors and moves that are against international navigation regulations."

The official said, "While U.S. interfering and

rity in the Persian Gulf region, the United States continues to accuse Iran." "The new accusations leveled against Iran are

merely excuses," Kanaani highlighted, adding, "They are intended to justify the continuation and further strengthening of their meddling presence in the region."

The spokesman noted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the continued presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf waters as a threat against security of marine traffic... and believes that regional countries are capable of safeguarding peace and security of navigation without any need to the presence of foreigners."

Kanaani further stated that "contrary to what American officials claim, the U.S. government jeopardizes international trade and security of navigation by using illegal tactics and intercepting certain Iranian oil tankers in international waters. Then it blames Iran outrageously."

Iran, according to Kanaani, is in charge of ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

He continued, "The presence and destabilizing measures of American forces in the Persian Gulf double Iran's responsibility to guarantee security of the region and the Strait of Hormuz and to deal with all lawbreakers."

Frome Page 1 ▶ Politico also quoted a Democrat aide as saying that "there's been progress on nuclear talks," a claim that conspicuously runs counter to repeated claims by Biden officials over the last moths that the JCPOA is not on their agenda.

Since September 2022, they have been keen to reiterate that the Biden administration was not focused on the JCPOA, but rather on unrest in Iran.

In the meantime, U.S. officials have been exchanging messages with Iran, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. "We continue to receive messages from Americans and give messages to Americans through intermediaries," Amir Abdollahian said in an interview with IRNA published on May 14.

While the exchange of messages continues, the Biden administration's inability to make political decisions on Iran remains the biggest obstacle to reaching a deal to revive the JCPOA. More than a year ago, when talks in Vienna over restoring the nuclear deal reached a critical point, Iran announced that it was ready to make the necessary



political decisions to conclude the talks. Since then, Iran has been reiterating this position, which fell on deaf ears in Washington.

Two years into his presidency, Biden seems to be more focused on his re-election campaign than getting into thorny foreign policy issues such as Iran, something that worried even U.S allies in Europe, who recently urged the White House to be proactive on Iran, according to a Wall Street

Journal report.

Biden's inaction seems to have not only worried Washington's but also European allies engendered a sort of bipartisan unease in Washington. And inaction is a euphemism for Biden's Iran policy, which is characterized by too much dithering and inconstancy. Biden's unjustified fears of ever-grumbling Iran hawks in Washington have so far prevented his administration from concluding the Vienna talks. And these very fears are now putting his administration in a position where his officials are grilled in sessions that are more like debriefing than briefing.

Biden's ambivalence toward Iran has brought him political troubles, which will only get worse going into highly charged elections in 2024. The only plausible way out is for Biden to make up his mind and conclude the Vienna talks.

Pakistan president says Iran-Saudi agreement will go down in history

TEHRAN – Pakistani President Arif Alvi has hailed the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying the agreement will go down in history.

Alvi considered the wisdom of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume diplomatic relations as a great achievement and said that the reconciliation and peace of these two countries will remain in history.

The Pakistani president made the remarks in a note to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

Regarding the recent events in Pakistan, especially the rise in political tensions and hostility between parties, he wrote that all stakeholders should put the spirit of tolerance and self-restraint at the forefront of their work, because without mutual understanding and tolerance, it is not possible to end the crisis.

He emphasized that everyone should reconsider their thoughts in order to establish peace and reconciliation, and a clear example of that is the significant and great peace between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which made the two countries reach the ideal goal.

Praising the positive role of China and its efforts in promoting reconciliation between Tehran and Riyadh, the president of Pakistan added, "We salute the leaders of Iran and Saudi Arabia, who, through revision and fundamental change, led to a peace that will be recorded in history."

He noted, "The wisdom and constructive thinking of the great statesmen of Iran and be calm and deal with issues with tolerance."

In late April, Alvi had welcomed the Iranian-Saudi agreement in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini. "While appreciating the landmark initiative taken by Iran and Saudi Arabia to normalize diplomatic relations, the President said that normalization of relations between the two countries would lead to peace and stability in the Middle East. The meeting also underscored the need for promoting counter-terrorism cooperation to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the official website of the Pakistani presidency said at the time.

In the meeting, Alvi called for increasing cooperation with Iran in all areas of mutual interest. He said that Pakistan greatly valued its fraternal relations with Iran as both brotherly countries shared historic linkages and cultural affinities, besides having commonalities of views on issues of regional and international significance. He emphasized the need for increasing economic cooperation and expanding the trade volume for the mutual benefits of the two countries.

Recently, an Iranian parliamentary delegation paid a visit to Pakistan. A senior Iranian lawmaker who led the delegation has said that the Iranian parliament will table a special package for the development of relations between Iran and Pakistan.

The lawmaker, Vahid Jalalzadeh, who is the head of the Iranian Parliament's National Se-Saudi Arabia made the preparations to end curity and Foreign Policy Committee, made several decades of hostility. So why shouldn't the remarks at a gathering hosted by Pakistan we use this approach in Pakistan, so we should Council on Foreign Relations in Karachi.



Jalalzadeh visited Pakistan at the head of a parliamentary delegation.

Lauding the cultural commonalities between Iran and Pakistan, he said, "Persian language is a strong factor of the proximity of two neighboring countries and both countries are proud to recognize each other as the first country."

Jalalzadeh added, "As Ayatollah Raisi, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has emphasized, we do not consider any limits to expand bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all fields. The heads of the two countries have had two official meetings in the last one year and we will see another meeting soon."

He noted, "We will certainly put a special case for the development of relations with Pakistan on the table of the Islamic Mailis. The main focus is on expanding commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries and encouraging governments to use mutual capabilities, especially persuading the private sector in order to identify the capacities of Iran and Pakistan.

TEHRAN - Iran basketball team captain Basketball World Cup.

World Cup

Hamed Haddadi will be fit for the 2023 FIBA Haddadi, who plays in Chinese club Sichuan

Iran handball team

2022 Asian Games

not to participate at

Frome Page 1 ▶ "We were really shocked by the

news," said Pakdel in a press conference on Sunday.

"Two or three weeks ago, it was announced at the

Asian Games headquarters that the men's handball

days ago, we heard the news that the handball team

would be re-examined, and it shocked us!" added

"We recently had a meeting with Manaf

Hashemi, Secretary General of Iran's National

Olympic Committee (NOC), and Veselin

Vujovic, head coach of Iran's national team.

In that meeting, Mr. Hashemi even motivated

Veselin to get excellent results in the Asian

"Now we hear this team may not be sent to

"In the headquarters' meeting, I neither

mentioned that we would not get medals nor

said that we would definitely earn medals. I

"In the previous edition of the Games, we

finished fourth. Now, Japan, South Korea,

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran are fighting for

the bronze medal and Bahrain and Qatar are

fighting for the first and second place. We have

a long way to reach these teams," Pakdel added.

is to send a delegation that owns more

quality and less quantity. The officials are

determined to select the sports in which their

teams have a high chance of getting medals.

Hangzhou will be the third Chinese city to

host the Asian Games, after Beijing in 1990

Hangzhou was originally scheduled to

stage the Asian Games last year only for the

multi-sport event to be postponed due to the

Around 25,000 athletes and officials are

expected to take part in the Games, which

will be held from September 23 to October 8.

Haddadi fit for 2023

FIBA Basketball

Iran National Olympic Committee's policy

the president of the handball federation.

Games and promised him a reward!

spoke based on the facts.

and Guangzhou in 2010.

COVID-19 pandemic.

the Asian Games and it's really shocking.

Blue Whales, suffered a foot injury in the match against Jilin Northeast Tigers in January and was later diagnosed with an Achilles tendon rupture. He underwent surgery and missed Team

Melli's matches against Japan and China in the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup qualifiers. Haddadi but can represent Iran in the

World Cup. Iran are scheduled to meet Brazil on Aug. 26 in Group G.

Iran will also meet Ivory Coast and Spain on Aug. 28 and 30 in the competition.

"I am doing physical therapy to regain my full recovery after the foot surgery. I will be fit for the

2023 World Cup and do my best in the competition to make proud our country," Haddadi said.

Pahlevani wrestler **Haghbin banned** for doping

TEHRAN - Pahlevani wrestler Adel Haghbin has been banned by the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel for three years for using a prohibited anabolic steroid.

He tested positive for the banned substance methandienone, a performanceenhancing steroid.

The ban came into effect from April 9, 2023 and the athlete will be ineligible until April 8, 2026.

Methandienone is used for physiqueand performance-enhancing purposes by competitive athletes, bodybuilders, and powerlifters. It is said to be the most widely used AAS for such purposes both today and historically.

Iran in Pot 4 of Women's Olympic **Tournament Asian**

TEHRAN - Iran has been placed in Pot 4 of the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Paris 2024 Asian Qualifiers Round 2.

Qualifiers Round 2

The stage is set for the Round 2 official draw ceremony, which will take place at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday.

The field has been whittled down to 12 teams, comprising the seven group winners from Round 1 of qualifying and the five highest-seeded teams, who received automatic byes into Round 2.

Uzbekistan (Group A), Iran (Group B), Vietnam (Group C), Thailand (Group D), Philippines (Group E), Chinese Taipei (Group F) and India (Group G) came through in Round 1, which took place between April 1 and 11 2023, to join big guns Australia, China PR, DPR Korea, Japan and Korea Republic in their quest to make it to Paris.

They will be divided into three groups for Round 2, which will take place between October 23 and November 1, 2023. Each group will play a single round-robin league format in one of three centralized venues - Australia, China PR or Uzbekistan. These three Host Member Associations (MAs) will be drawn into separate groups.

Four teams – the three group winners and the best-ranked runners-up - will then progress to Round 3 to play two pairs of home and away matches, slated for February 24 and 28, 2024, with the eventual winners taking the two spots reserved for Asia in the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Paris 2024.

Based on the latest FIFA Women's World Ranking released in March 2023, the 12 teams will have their names drawn from four seeding pots, as below:

Pot 1 (teams ranked 1-3): Australia*, Japan,

Pot 2 (4-6): Korea Republic, Vietnam, Chinese Taipei Pot 3 (7-9): Thailand, Philippines, Uzbekistan* Pot 4 (10, 11 + 1 non-ranked): India, IR Iran, DPR Korea

Shahdab sweep **Taichung Bank** at 2023 Asian **Club Volleyball** Championship

TEHRAN - Iran's Shahdab Yazd swept past Taiwanese Taichung Bank 3-0 (25-13, 25-19, 25-20) in the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship on Tuesday.

Shahdab started the campaign with a 3-0 win over South Gas of Iraq and also beat Afghanistan's Kam Air 3-0 in Group B.

The Iranian team will play the second-placed Group D team in Pool F on Thursday.

Pool A consists of Bahrain, South Korea, Australia, and Indonesian teams.

Japan, Thailand, Mongolia, and Yemen are in Group C and Kazakhstan, Qatar, Hong Kong, and Kuwait teams are drawn in Pool D.

The 23rd Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship started on May 14 in Manama, Bahrain and will run until May 21.

The champions will qualify for the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Iran beach soccer team to travel to Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - Iran beach soccer national team will participate at the 2023 World Beach Games qualification.

The competition will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from May 25 to 27.

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan, Oman, the UAE, Thailand and Kuwait will take part in the event and the top two teams will qualify for the 2023 ANOC World Beach Games.

The 2023 ANOC will be held in Bali, Indonesia from Aug. 5 to 12.

Iran parliamentary delegation heads to Bahrain

TEHRAN - An Iranian parliamentary delegation left Tehran on Monday for Manama to take part in a regional parliamentary conference.

The Iranian delegation is led by Ali Alizadeh, who is a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee. In the Bahraini capital, the Iranian team will take part in a meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA).

The meeting is organized by APA's economic and sustainable development committee, according to Tasnim.

In addition to Iran, delegations from 21 Asian countries are expected to participate in the APA meeting.

This is the second Iranian parliamentary visit to Bahrain since March 10, when Iran and Saudi Arabia signed a deal in Beijing to restore diplomatic ties.

Persian Gulf states eager to boost ties with Iran: Jassem Albudaiwi

Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi,

Secretary General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), has underlined the Arab bloc's desire for expanding ties with Iran.

The GCC secretary general communicated this desire in a meeting with Iranian Transport Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

The chief of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council underlined the need to increase the relations and exchanges between the two sides.

The Iranian minister also welcomed investment in Iran. "Iran has diverse and appropriate investment opportunities, and there is an opportunity for the Persian Gulf countries to participate," Bazrpash said, according to IRIB News.

Albudaiwi, for his part, expressed hope that relations between Iran and the GCC would be strengthened. "In the near future, we can have good opportunities in connection with Iran," he said.

Albudaiwi added, "The members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council emphasize cooperation without the interference of governments, and the expansion of relations with Iran is considered by

He also expressed hope that he would make a trip to Tehran soon.

Relations between Iran and its southern Arab neighbors improved after Tehran and Riyadh signed a Chinese-brokered agreement in Beijing on March 10. The landmark deal resulted in both sides resuming diplomatic relations after seven years.

The top diplomats of Saudi Arabia and Iran have underlined their commitment to mending ties, facilitating mutual collaboration, and reopening their diplomatic missions.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian of Iran and Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia spoke by phone on Friday night regarding the implementation of the deal to reestablish diplomatic ties and reopen embassies.

"The Islamic Republic is get-

ting ready to formally reopen its embassy and consulates in Saudi Arabia," Amir Abdollahian said.

He said the discussions between top Saudi and Iranian officials show how determined both nations are to work together and establish close ties.

Amir Abdollahian asserted that Iran has completed the required preparations for the formal reopening of its embassy and consulate in Saudi Arabia, citing Tehran's decision to appoint a new ambassador and send technical teams to the country to facilitate the restoration of diplomatic

Saudi Arabia has already introduced its ambassador to Iran. And preparations are underway in Tehran to name an ambassador to Riyadh. Iranian media reports suggested that Alireza Enayati, the head of the Persian Gulf Bureau at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, are among the top candidates for the high-profile job.

ECONOMY



Exports to India rise 12% in Q1



TEHRAN - Iran exports to India increased by 12 percent in the first quarter of 2023 to reach \$188 million from \$168 million in the same period of 2022, according to the data released by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The ministry data indicate that trade between Iran and the South Asian nation reached \$510 million in January-March this year, IRNA reported.

The figures showed a 24 percent decrease compared to the same period last year when the total volume of trade between the two countries stood at \$678 million.

The decrease was mainly caused by a 37 percent

drop in Indian exports to Iran; India's exports to the Islamic Republic fell to \$322 million in the said period from \$510 million last year.

According to the report, rice had the largest share in India's exports to Iran accounting for 63 percent of the total volume of exports. Fruits with \$15 million and tea with \$10 million ranked second and third

Oil products also constituted the largest share of Iran's exports to India with \$65 million in the same period. Fruits and raw materials for paint production were respectively the second and third largest exported commodities.

The value of trade between Iran and India reached \$2.5 billion in 2022, rising 48 percent from \$1.693 billion in 2021.

During January-December 2022, India's export to Iran also increased by 44 percent to stand at \$1.847 billion, while the figure was \$1.284 billion in 2021.

Rice was India's major product exported to Iran in the said period during which the country shipped \$1.098 billion worth of rice to the Islamic Republic.

Monthly export by large mining companies rises 12%

TEHRAN – The export by Iran's large mining companies stood at 4.678 million tons worth \$951.9 million in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), registering a 12-percent rise in value, and a 55-percent growth in weight, as compared to the first months of the previous year.

As reported, the steel chain with an export of \$491.7 million (51.6 percent) stood in the first place.

After that, iron ore with \$125.3 million, copper and downstream products with \$58.4 million, coal and coke with \$42.8 million, and zinc chain with \$35.2 million were placed in the next ranks in terms of export value.

As previously reported, the export by Iran's large mining companies stood at \$12.239 billion in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), registering a 3.5-percent rise in weight, while a 7.6-percent drop in value, year on year.

The steel chain with an export of \$5.76 billion stood in the first place. Export from this chain saw a 22-percent drop in value and a six-percent decrease in weight.

The copper chain is ranked second with export of \$1.577 billion, witnessing a decrease of 27 percent.

Last year, the aluminum chain managed to export \$973 million, which is 29 percent more than the export in 1400 in terms of value, and has a favorable situation compared to other products.

According to Amir Sabagh, the director for



economic affairs and investment development in the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), natural gas and electricity cut-offs in the country were among the factors related to the reduction of steel chain exports.

Meanwhile, as previously reported, the total sales of Iran's large mining companies through the stock market has reached \$22.4 billion in the past Iranian year, registering an 18-percent rise year on year.

While Iran's stock market has developed noticeably in recent years, especially since the two past Iranian calendar years, the performance of the minerals and mining industry sectors in this market has been very outstanding.

This sector's performance has been so good that the IMIDRO, which is the major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran, has predicted a promising future for the mining companies in the stock market.

Commodities worth nearly \$200m exported from Kermanshah province in a month



TEHRAN- Commodities worth \$198.497 million were exported from Kermanshah province in the west of Iran during the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), an official with the province's customs department

Ali-Asghar Abbaszadeh put the weight of exported goods at 521,862 tons, with a five percent rise as compared to the first month of the previous year.

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

The official further announced that 155 tons of products valued at \$2.823 million were imported to the province in the past year, with a 16 percent growth in value, and a 79 percent drop in weight, year on year.

As previously announced by the official, over 6.893 million tons of products worth \$2.76 billion were exported from Kermanshah province in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Abbaszadeh said that the annual export from the province rose one percent in terms of value,

and six percent in terms of weight.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly non-oil trade between Iran, neighbors stands at nearly \$3.5b

TEHRAN- The value of nonoil trade between Iran and its neighbors stood at \$3.496 billion in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put the weight of traded commodities at nearly seven million tons, and said that trade between Iran and its 15 neighbors rose 11.5 percent in value and 26 percent in weight as compared to the first month of the past year.

He said that Iran's monthly non-oil export to the neighboring countries increased by 7.4 percent and non-oil imports from them rose by 17.4 percent, year on year.

Iran's annual non-oil export to its neighbors increases by 19%

As previously announced by Latifi, the value of Iran's nonoil export to its neighbors rose 19 percent in the past Iranian



calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

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

Iraq with the purchase of nonoil goods worth \$10.238 billion (15 percent growth) and registering a historical record, Turkey with \$7.459 billion (23 percent growth), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$5.767 billion (28 percent growth), Afghanistan with \$1.638 billion (11 percent drop), and Pakistan with \$1.448 billion (18 percent growth), were the first five export destinations of Iranian goods among the neighbors, the official said and added that Oman with \$1.087 billion, Russia with \$744 million, Azerbaijan with \$654 million, Armenia with \$464 million, Turkmenistan with \$460 million, Kuwait with \$198 million, Kazakhstan with \$195 million, Qatar with \$124 million, Saudi Arabia with \$14.7 million, and Bahrain with \$10.4 million ranked

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

The UAE with sales of \$18.395

billion (11 percent growth), Turkey with \$6.999 billion (15 percent growth), Russia with \$1.577 billion (five percent drop), Pakistan with \$842 million (170 percent growth), and Oman with \$619 million (29 percent growth) were the first five sources of goods sales to Iran among the neighbors, he said and added that Iraq with sales of \$264 million, Kazakhstan with \$125 million, Qatar with \$84 million, Azerbaijan with \$34 million, Afghanistan with \$29 million, Turkmenistan with \$28 million, Armenia with \$14 million, Kuwait with \$12.5 million, and Bahrain with \$3.5 million are in the next ranks respectively.

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.

Persian Gulf countries eager for closer transport ties with Iran

from page 1 ► Iran-UAE discuss expansion of transport ties through NISTC

Also on the sidelines of the mentioned conference, Bazrpash met with Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Energy and Infrastructure during which the two sides discussed ways of expanding transport cooperation, especially through the International North-South Transit

Corridor (INSTC).

The officials, who are the heads of the Iran-UAE Joint Economic Committee, also explored the measures taken by both sides for increasing economic exchanges.

Speaking at this meeting, Bazrpash noted that Iran's southern coastal transport corridor is being completed and will be operational in the next two years which will be a great

opportunity for the expansion of transport ties between the two countries.

Al Mazrouei, for his part, said that the focus of the UAE is to develop relations with the Persian Gulf countries, especially Iran.

"Using the North-South corridor through Iran is a good opportunity for the UAE," he

106 idle production units revived in Bushehr province in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 106 idle production units were revived in Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Ali Bastin, the deputy governorgeneral of the province for economic affairs coordination, said that the mentioned units returning to the production cycle created jobs for 1,426 persons.

As announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), 1,714 idle production units were revived in the country in the past year.

Referring to the Leader's emphasis on knowledge-based employment last year, Ali Rasoulian said: "We have formulated a coherent operational package to support knowledge-based companies and considered incentives and advantages for giving land to such companies."

He added: "Last year, we gave land to more than a hundred knowledge-based companies, and we managed to meet 107 out of 378 technological needs of these companies, which were previously met from abroad, inside the country."

Pointing out that a good

relationship has been established between knowledge-based companies and large enterprises, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister announced that 120 companies were added to the list of knowledge-based companies last year.

"We agreed with the Technology Department of the Ministry of Science to establish knowledgebased parks in industrial estates so that companies can take advantage of these parks", he added.

Referring to this year's slogan, which is "Inflation Control, Production Growth", Rasoulian said: "We must control inflation and increase production because these two have serious effects on each other."

He called providing industrial infrastructure and supporting small industries as requirements for production growth and said: "Supporting small industries and providing their financial resources and involving the private sector are our goals."

Stating that handing over affairs to the private sector is one of the policies of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the official emphasized: "It is easier to revive

the stagnant units than to

the stagnant units than to provide financial support to the units, and therefore we are trying to connect the driving companies to the stagnant units."

The ISIPO head further announced the preparation of investment packages for the participation of the private sector and said: "We are creating workshops for small enterprises and are identifying enterprises with competitive products."

According to Rasoulian, the approach of reviving the idle units is very important since the country has been dealing with the most severe international sanctions for many years; and it relies more than ever on domestic production.

Of course, what is seen as the result of the efforts of the ISIPO.

as one of the main organizations in charge of boosting the country's production, planning and diligent follow-up to revive the stagnant production units, fortunately, the work in this due is on the right track, the official has stated, highlighting that revival of each stagnant production and industrial unit leads to job creation and return to work of 18 people on average.

He stressed that reviving idle production units is the main approach that the government is currently following in the industry sector.

The government is seriously pursuing its programs to resolve production units' problems in collaboration with the private sector; Very good planning has been done in this regard, Rasoulian said.

22,000 ha of land being prepared for National Housing Movement across country

TEHRAN- The acting head of the National Land and Housing Organization announced the preparation of 22,000 hectares of land for the implementation of the National Housing Movement Plan across the country.

Arsalan Maleki said that the organization has 727 preparatory projects in the operational stages in the country, of which 680 projects with an area of 22,000 hectares belong to the National Housing Movement Plan.

The most preparation projects in the country are underway in Isfahan province and the most physical progress of these projects (about 65 percent) is in Zanjan province, he added.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income

classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by former Transport and Urban Development Minister

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

'Revenge of the Free': hands are on the trigger

From page **1** ▶ The name of the retaliatory operation "Revenge of the Free" can also be heard being chanted in the Gaza celebrations.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinians didn't wait until the morning either to celebrate and took to the streets in the Nablus refugee camp waving flags of the al-Quds Brigades.

A statement issued from the Israeli prime minister's office said: "Israel's National Security adviser Tsahi Hanegbi ... thanked Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and expressed appreciation for Egypt's vigorous efforts to bring about a ceasefire."

The regime also says its response to the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire means "quiet will be answered by quiet, and if Israel is attacked or be threatened, it will continue to do everything it needs to do."

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, Israeli warplanes and drones martyred 33 people (including 6 children and 3 women) and wounded 147 others, many of them women and children. Six Islamic Jihad commanders have also been martyred.

Despite the regime's indiscriminate aerial strikes to pressure the Islamic Jihad into a ceasefire, the resistance vowed it will not stop its rocket fire and will carry on the battle for months if need be until its own terms and conditions for a ceasefire are met.

After Egypt announced a truce had been reached, the joint room of the resistance factions in Gaza said operation "Revenge of the Free is a new page of glory that the resistance fought as a united structure".

"They wanted to drown us with our blood, to shut us up and buy our lives by humiliating us. So the brothers of our brave people from the al-Quds Brigades came out to defend our dignity," Al-Nakhalah said.

He stated that the response was "more than worthy," pointing out that all regions in the occupied Palestinian territories were within range of "the



Al-Nakhalah also affirmed that and throughout the world."

The movement's chief added that these are "days of honor and dignity for our people, who, with unbalanced resources (compared to Israel), faced all this aggression."

He also said that "we lost dear

Concluding his speech, al-Nakhala thanked all those who stood by the resistance during the battle, "on top of them the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah, as well as the brothers in

The occupation launched aggression against the Gaza Strip on May 9, as the regime's warplanes and drones indiscriminately struck residential homes and apartments in the north, center and south of the

The joint room of the Palestinian communicating with them.

resistance factions in Gaza has also published a statement that said "the revenge of the free men is a new page of glory that the resistance fought and with its steadfastness ended, and our resistance has once again appeared more powerful and aggressive."

The statement also said that "the will to fight has not and will never back down, and the enemy miscalculated when it thought that time was in its interest," stressing that "the occupation made a mistake when it thought that the opportunity was ripe to assassinate a few of the resistance leaders."

And it warned the Israeli occupation not to renew its mistake, warning "our hands are on the trigger, and if you return, we will return."

According to the statement, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad "confused the enemy's calculations, entered it into a state of attrition, occupied its security system, and exhausted its fragile internal front."

Reports have cited sources in the resistance as saying that "the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement obtained an Israeli pledge to end the assassinations," a key demand for the Palestinians.

The Egyptian text of the ceasefire indicated that Cairo has urged the two sides to implement the agreement and is working to follow up on that by

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told the regime's Channel 12 that 70 percent of the settlers in the south of the occupied Palestinian territories fled because of the continued bombing by the Islamic Jihad.

During the five days of Israeli aggression, Israeli media questioned the feasibility of the Israeli attacks and its ability to achieve results on the ground. The skepticism came amid widespread discussions among Israeli analysts about the lack of a clear strategy towards the Gaza Strip.

Israeli analysts believed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began the bombing campaign purely due to political and personal reasons.

This is the second consecutive year that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance faction has singlehandedly fought a battle with Israel that has lasted several days.

The group has used new missile technology this time, evading Israel's so-called Iron Dome by hitting Tel Aviv and has managed to secure another victory that will go down in the history books.

Also, the children left maimed or orphaned in Israeli bombing raids coupled with the regime's refusal to allow those in critical condition to travel for medical treatment not available in the Gaza Strip will go down in the history books.

INTERNATIONAL

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

WORLD HEADLINES

Cyclone Mocha may have killed 'hundreds' in Myanmar's Rakhine

Rescue and relief efforts are under way in northwestern Myanmar and neighboring Bangladesh after Cyclone Mocha crashed ashore, with one humanitarian group working in the affected area saying hundreds had been killed and some Rohingya camps destroyed.

The cyclone – one of the most powerful to ever hit the region - made landfall on Sunday between Sittwe in Myanmar's Rakhine state and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, where some one million mostly Muslim Rohingya fled after a brutal 2017 crackdown.

On Monday night, Myanmar's military regime declared conflict-hit Rakhine, which it does not fully control, a "disaster area", after winds as strong as 250 kilometres per hour (155 miles per hour) brought down trees and telecommunication towers and ripped roofs from buildings.

Torrential rain and a storm surge of between 3 and 3.5 metres (10-11.5 feet) also caused widespread flooding in the low-lying area, with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) saying there had been widespread destruction in and around Sittwe.

"Early reports suggest that damage is extensive and needs among already vulnerable communities, particularly displaced people, will be high," it said in an update on Monday, noting that communications with the area were difficult.

EU to curb Indian fuel imports made with Russian oil: report

Josep Borrell, the European Union's foreign policy chief, has said that the bloc will act against the importation of Indian petroleum products that use Russian oil, in rare explicit criticism of India's role in helping Russia evade Western sanctions amid the war in Ukraine.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Borrell said the EU did not mind increased oil trade between Russia and India but urged a crackdown on India reselling Russian oil into Europe as refined fuel, including diesel.

India has emerged in the past year as a top buyer of Russian oil following Moscow's special operation in Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Access to cheap Russian crude has boosted output and profits at Indian refineries, enabling them to export refined products competitively to Europe. In recent months, reports in Reuters and Bloomberg among others, have cited mounting evidence of Indian firms buying Russian oil, refining it and selling it to Europe.

"That India buys Russian oil, it's normal. And if, thanks to our limitations on the price of oil, India can buy this oil much cheaper, well the less money Russia gets, the better," Borrell said in the interview. "But if they use that in order to be a centre where Russian oil is being refined and by-products are being sold to us?.?.?we have to act."

Borrell said he would raise the issue with India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, when they meet on Tuesday. Jaishankar is in Brussels for the first meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council.

Qatar and Bahrain to resume flights on May 25

Qatar and Bahrain are resuming flights between the two countries from May 25, in a continuing process of normalizing ties.

Bahrain's Civil Aviation Affairs announced the move on Monday, according to Bahrain's state news agency.

The resumption of flights between the two is "within the framework of the brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples, and in a manner that achieves the common aspirations of the leaderships and citizens of both countries", the state agency said.

The Persian Gulf Arab countries announced a restoration of ties last month when their respective foreign delegates met on April 12 at the headquarters of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) General Secretariat in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

In 2017, Bahrain, along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, severed ties and imposed a blockade on Qatar over claims it was too close to Iran and backed hardline groups, allegations Doha has always firmly denied.

Palestine's Abbas calls on UN to 'suspend' Israel as Nakba marked

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has urged the United Nations to suspend Israel's membership in the world body unless it ends its aggression against Palestinians and implements UN resolutions establishing separate Israeli and Palestinian states as well as the return of Palestinian refugees.

Abbas spoke on Monday during the first official UN commemoration of the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from what is now Israel amid the violence of the partition of Palestine 75 years ago.

More than 760,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in 1948 when Israel was created, an event Palestinians call Nakba — or catastrophe — and marked each year on May 15.

In an hourlong emotion-filled speech, Abbas asked the world's nations why more than 1,000 resolutions adopted by UN bodies regarding the Palestinians had never been implemented.

He held up a letter from Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Sharett, after resolutions were adopted in 1947 and 1948 promising to implement them and said: "Either they do respect these obligations, or they stop becoming a member."

France will not withdraw from its nuclear co-op with Russian Co.

France will not withdraw from a contract with Russian nuclear corporation Rosatom for reprocessing uranium, as doing so would be beneficial for Moscow, the French energy transition minister has claimed.

Under the 2018 deal, regenerated uranium from France is delivered to Russia, where it is enriched and then sent back. The recycled uranium is used to run France's nuclear power plants.

Terminating the contract would generate higher compensation for the Russian government than merely continuing imports at a minimum level, Agnes Pannier-Runacher told the BFM Business channel on Tuesday.

In March, Greenpeace reported that France had tripled imports of Russian enriched uranium in 2022. According to the organization, the deliveries confirmed France's dependence on the Russian nuclear industry, which has not been targeted by Western sanctions.

Pannier-Runacher later denied that the operation of France's nuclear power plants depended on Russia, noting that France resorted only "to a very modest extent to natural uranium enrichment services in Russia, as well as conversion and re-enrichment services for reprocessed uranium to improve cycle efficiency."

France "could totally do without it as this last activity can be entirely substituted by natural uranium," the energy minister told Montel News at the time.

Statistics showed that last year the French energy corporation EDF purchased 153 tons of uranium enriched in Russia, the same level as in 2021. Russia accounts for 15% of enrichment activities for EDF.

missiles of the al-Quds Brigades."

the Palestinian people, "despite the pain from the Israeli aggression emerged with their heads held high everywhere, in Gaza, the West Bank,

ones, and we bid them farewell with pride," while stressing that "people whose leaders rose as martyrs will never be defeated." Nakhalah went on to say that "the resistance came out of the battle with its weapons still in its hands, and its fighters still on the field, ready to counter any aggression."

Egypt and Qatar."

tiny coastal enclave.

Turkey elections head for a runoff

Turkish voters flock to polls in critical elections with excitement

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN- Turkey's Supreme Election Council confirmed that Monday's presidential elections failed to give a clear-cut victory because neither of the contenders, incumbent Erdogan and the main opposition candidate Kilicdaroglu reached the 50 percent threshold to win outright. The final showdown will be decided in a run-off on May 28.

Simultaneously, parliamentary elections were held to elect 600 members of parliament to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Tight race was held between President Recep Tayep Erdogan and Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP).

The third candidate Sinan Ogan appealed for nationalist votes and the fourth presidential contender Muharrem Ince withdrew from the race held on Sunday, May 14.

Given the margins, Ogan's 5.25 percent would be a huge help to either Erdogan or Klicdaroglul.

Ogan has criticized Erdogan's costly foreign policy, especially Turkey's proximity to Russia and its distance from the West and has promised closer relations with the Western countries. In the wake of Turkey's purchase of the S-400 air defense system from Russia in 2019, the United States removed Turkey from the F-35 fighter jet program.

Erdogan, 69, founder and leader of the ruling Justice and Development Party, has been leading the country since 2014 as the 12th president. He served as prime

minister from 2003-14 and as mayor from 1994-8. Kiricdaroglu, 74, has a chance for the first time as a six-party bloc of opposition parties back him. Also referred by his initials KK, he is an economist, retired civil servant and social democratic politician. He is the leader of CHP and has been leader of the Main Opposition in Turkey since 2010. He served as a member of parliament for Istanbul's second electoral district from 2002 to 2015 and as an MP for Izmir's second electoral district since 2015.

Turnout

Even minutes before the polls opened on Sunday across the country officially at 8 am (till 5pm), many voters had already queued in schools and some public institutions in Turkey's largest city Istanbul of 15.4 million and the capital Ankara.



Nearly 89 percent of more than 64 million eligible voters in Turkey cast their votes on Monday to elect a president and a parliament.

The spokesperson of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kanaani, hailed the high turnout as a victory for democracy in the neighboring state. There were more than 60 million eligible voters

in Turkey, including close to five million first-time

voters and an estimated 5.3 percent of Turkish voters were registered to cast their ballots abroad. Ahmet Yener, the head of the Supreme Election Council (YSK), says 1,817,010 votes were cast overseas, and only 30.8 percent of those ballot boxes

had been opened until Tuesday morning. The choice of some 3.4 million voters registered abroad - predominantly in Europe and especially in Germany -- was crucial in deciding the outcome of the Sunday election as well as the runoff, reports Euronews. Turkish voters in Europe overwhelmingly supported Erdogan in the 2018 presidential election, when he garnered 60 percent of their votes.

In the meantime, Erdogan oversaw the delivery of homegrown EV by carmaker Togg, Turkey's first electric car and the first vehicle ever to be made by Turkey's car industry, in early April just ahead of elections. The EV maker plans to start exports to Europe from the end of 2024.

Erdogan on Monday officially became the first owner of the indigenous EV, as long-awaited shipments start. Many consider this as Erdogan's ploy to maintain his support in Europe and abroad.

Turkey's electoral system

Voters also elected 600 lawmakers in 81 provinces.

AKP and Erdogan had long supported a policy of turning Turkey into an executive presidency, replacing the existing parliamentary system. When Erdogan called for early elections in April, 2018, he won and called for constitutional changes reducing the legislative powers of Parliament and crucially increasing the powers of the President to rule by decree and become both the country's head of the state and head of government.

Challenges

During his tenure Erdogan's challenges included his tackling of the Feb. 6 earthquake. Economic challenges including high inflation and weak currency were also at the forefront. The lira was at 19.66 to a dollar on Monday, after reaching 19.70 in earlier trading, its weakest since a record low of 19.80 hit in March this year following the earthquake.

On the sidelines, Sweden's NATO ratification is likely to wait until after Turkey's elections. Finland has become a NATO member but Sweden's bid will remain on halt until before the final result of Turkish elections.

In the Ukraine war Turkey has remained neutral, has cooperated with both Russia and Ukraine at the same time.

What comes out of the run-off vote in two weeks is a matter of speculation as both sides have maintained a close competition. This has been Erdogan's toughest election battle and Turkish voters will decide soon about the outcome.

High stakes and narrow polling gap between the two main candidates have led to speculation that Erdogan may interfere with the elections, challenge the results if he loses or even refuse to abide by them.

TOURISM



Tourism minister says government supports ecotourism projects



TEHRAN – Iran's government is supportive of ecotourism projects, the tourism minister said on Monday.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced the government's serious support for ecotourism projects, IRIB reported.

"Moreover, subsequent monitoring is also on the agenda, and measures should be taken in such a way that the capacities of ecotourism reach sustainability, particularly in rural areas," Zarghami said.

"Our priority is to help eco-lodge units mature outside cities to reinforce ecotourism and local

economy," he said.

Currently, some 3,400 authorized eco-lodge units are active across the country. Experts believe that many people have a growing tendency to experience local cultures and old-fashioned way of life that can be realized in the countryside.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

To buttress the hospitality industry, tens of historical mansions and rural houses have been repurposed into eco-lodge units across the country to attract more domestic and foreign tourists. Such houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and stories, while the guests are served delicious food with

Beholding majestic mountains of Tehran: a hiker's Paradise

From Page 1 A highly popular attraction, Karaj-Chalus Road, is known for its scenic beauty. This winding road is surrounded by lush green forests, rivers and mountains and is a favorite destination for road trips and picnics.

Tehran province is a gateway to lakes, including the magnificent Lake Namak, the largest lake in the region. The lake, surrounded by desert landscapes, is an oasis of blue in the middle of the harsh terrain. Visitors can enjoy a relaxed stroll around the lake shore or go boating on the calm waters.

In addition to natural attractions, Tehran offers visitors a glimpse into Iran's rich cultural and historical heritage. It is home to several ancient ruins, castles, and palaces, including the stunning Golestan Palace, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Darakeh and Darband are among the popular destinations for domestic vacationers. Situated in the foothills of the Alborz Mountains, the two sites are known for their pristine streams, lush greenery, and scenic hiking trails. Both of these natural

attractions are popular spots for outdoor enthusiasts who come to enjoy the cool air, freshwater and breathtaking views.

Visitors may stroll along the river, enjoy a picnic by the water, or hike up to the nearby mountain

peaks. Those areas are also home to several restaurants and cafes where visitors can sample traditional Iranian cuisine and enjoy the views.

Both Darakeh and Darband are easily accessible by car or by public transport from Tehran, making them popular weekend destinations for locals and tourists alike. The best time to visit these natural attractions is during spring and summer, when the weather is pleasant and the streams are full of water.

Tehran offers visitors a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and outdoor adventure. From climbing Iran's highest peak to exploring ancient ruins, the province has something for everyone. It is a must-visit destination for travelers seeking a memorable experience.

Northern village shields inherited weaving skill

TEHRAN – A northern Iranian village long been a local center of mat weaving, holds weekly workshops to safeguard the know-how passed down from generation to generation.

"Every week, free-of-charge workshops on Hasir Bafi are held in Darzi Kola village, which has long been a center for the ancient craft," a local official said on Monday.

The village, which is located in Babol county of Mazandaran province, seeks to register the time-honored skill on the national list for the intangible cultural heritage, the official noted.

Hasir Bafi, or mat weaving, is one of the oldest fields of handicrafts in the country. Archeologists have discovered traces of mat weavings on plaster pieces that belong to six thousand years ago. The oldest piece of Hasir in Iran belongs to the Shahdad region of Kerman province.

Depending on the geographical environment, crafters of each reagon use specific raw materials such as leaflets of Date trees, leaflets of Wild Date trees or Porak, female Wild Date or Daz, stems of reeds from tropical lagoons of Khuzestan, cold regions of Lake Zarivar, Anzali lagoon, lands surrounding Lake Hamun, wheat stems from provinces of Zanjan, Azarbaijan, etc.

The tools of Hasir Bafi are very simple and limited, including a sickle, file, scissors, needle and stitching awl. This art-craft is common in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Kerman, Yazd,



Fars, Mazandaran, Gilan, and Tehran.

To weave a mat, first stems that match each other in size and diameter are picked and soaked in water. Then three to five of them are packed together by another stem. These bundles are woven together to make objects such as baskets, bags, floor covers, wall hang, etc.

According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Iran has the most cities and towns registered with the World Crafts Council (WCC), followed by China with seven, Chile with four, and India with three designated ones. The WCC-Asia-Pacific Region designated Shiraz, Malayer, Zanjan, and the village of Qasemabad in January 2020, bringing the total number of craft cities and towns in Iran from 10 to 14.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the United States, and the coastal states of the Persian Gulf are among the countries that traditionally import ceramics, porcelain, hand-woven clothing, personal jewelry, and semi-precious stones from Iran.

Bushehr to launch site museum of ancient tombs

TEHRAN – Bushehr's tourism directorate has started preparations to launch a site museum of ancient tombs in the southwestern Iranian province.

"Considering excavations carried out in Shoghab cemetery, we have decided to turn it into a garden museum in close collaboration with Bushehr," IRNA quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Monday.

"The excavations have yielded a wide variety of ruins, relics, and human remains as well as earthen jar burials, which date from the Sassanid era," Esmaeil Sajjadimanesh explained.

Such burials were widespread in the Sassanid period, for which bones of the dead were placed in a jar with torpedo-shaped bottom, and then the jar was buried, the official noted.

Covering five hectares of land, the cemetery is located on the outskirts of Bushehr adjacent to other magnificent sites which date from the Elamite (3200 – 539 BC) and Sassanid (224 CE-651) eras.

According to archaeologist Mostafa Dehpahlavan, previous excavations have revealed three types of burial, including rectangular tombstones, rectangular pit tombs made of stone, and (giant) urn pits (stretched) in the east-west direction.

The majority of the discovered burials date from the end of the Parthian era (247 BC – 224 CE) to the end of the Sassanid epoch, the archaeologist said.

Dehpahlavan has said the ancient cemetery

was once been on the verge of disappearing due to urban issues. "In recent decades, parts of this cemetery were used for urban garbage depots being repeatedly embanked and leveled by the municipality, part of it has been turned into a park and parts have been buried under the administrative, recreational, and residential structures of the city."

Bushehr lies near the head of the Persian Gulf at the northern end of a flat and narrow peninsula that is connected with the mainland by tidal marshes. It embraces significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

Bushehr's Siraf was the most important Iranian port from the Sassanid period to the 4th century AH. It bears plentiful evidence of Persian mastership and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with other near and far cultures and civilizations.

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

Siraf had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small area.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old

UNESCO sites at a glance



towers, castles, as well as gardens.

Bushehr is also home to various archaeological mounds, including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion.

Traveling to the Persian Gulf region would be an experience that you probably haven't even considered. While you've been planning your Iranian sojourn around the jewels of the country's rich history (Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd), to the southeast, the Persian Gulf is equally deserving.

Explore the magnetic islands of Kish, Qeshm, and Hormuz, which are absurdly easy to combine and are altogether different. While Kish is unashamedly glam and glitzy, Qeshm and Hormoz are refreshingly void of large-scale development and offer a chance to glimpse a more traditional way of life – not to mention an array of geological wonders.

Along the coast, soak up the vibes of lively Bandar Abbas and make a beeline for the delightful town of Kong, whose historical center is peppered with charming old houses and monuments.

Parthian-era potteries recovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN – Residents of a southern Iranian town have submitted ancient artifacts to local authorities in charge of protecting cultural heritage, IRNA reported.

The artifacts were found in Rudan county of Hormozgan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

The relics date back to the first millennium BC when Parthians ruled Persia, Sepehr Zarei said.

"Pottery artifacts belonging to the first millennium BC (Parthian period) were discovered by inhabitants in Rudan county and handed over to this general department," the official explained.

The pottery works were discovered last month. They include some perfume containers, rhyton-shaped vessels, and some pot-shaped vessels, Zarei said.

These objects are of very high historical importance because evidence suggests they were used by households of the middle and upper classes in their rituals or daily life, the official said.

Establishing a primary residence at Ctesiphon, on the Tigris River in southern Mesopotamia, Parthian kings ruled for nearly half a millennium and influenced politics from Asia Minor to northern India, until they were overthrown by Sasanian armies from southwest Iran in the early third century CE.

Parthian wealth obtained through lucrative trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.

Abbey of St Gall

The Convent of St Gall, a perfect example of a great Carolingian main square of the abbey: The west side includes the arcion was side includes the arcion.

The Convent of St Gall, a perfect example of a great Carolingian monastery, was, from the 8th century to its secularization in 1805, one of the most important in Europe.

The Abbey of St Gall is located in the town of St Gall in the northeastern part of Switzerland, and largely owes its present appearance to the construction campaigns of the 18th century.

It is an impressive architectural

ensemble comprising different buildings regrouped around the main square of the abbey: The west side includes the ancient abbatial church (the present cathedral), flanked by two towers and the ancient cloister, which today houses the abbatial Library; located on the east side is the "Neue Pfalz", the present seat of the canton authorities. The northern part of the square is composed of buildings of the 19th century: the ancient arsenal, the Children's and Guardian Angels'

Chapel and the former Catholic school.

The Abbey of St Gall is an outstanding example of a large Carolingian monastery and was, from the 8th century until its secularisation in 1805, one of the most important cultural centres in Europe.

It represents 1200 years of history of monastic architecture and is a typical and outstanding ensemble of a large Benedictine convent. Almost all the important architectural periods, from High Middle Ages to historicism, are represented in an exemplary fashion. Despite the diversity of styles, the conventual ensemble gives the impression of overall unity, bordered on the north and to the west by edifices of the town of St Gall that are, for the most part, intact.

The High Baroque library represents one of the most beautiful examples of its era, and the present cathedral is one of the last monumental constructions of Baroque abbatial churches in the West. In addition to the architectural substance, the inestimable cultural values conserved at the Abbey are exceptional importance, notably: the Irish manuscripts of the 7th and 8th centuries, the illuminated manuscripts of the St Gall School of the 9th and 11th centuries, documents concerning the history of the origins of Alemannic Switzerland as well as the layout of the convent during the Carolingian era (the only manuscript plan of that time remaining worldwide, conserved in its original state, representing a concept of monastic organisation of the Benedictine order).

A visit to Wolf's Land in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Hyrcania, Old Persian Varkana, ("Wolf's Land"), is a lesser-known travel destination for nature lovers.

To the northeast, Hyrcania is open to the Central-Asian steppe, where nomads have been living for centuries; on several occasions, they invaded the country.

According to Britannica, Hyrcania was also the name of a town in Lydia, said by the Greek geographer Strabo to have derived its title from a colony of Hyrcanians settled there by

ne Persians.

Hyrcania became part of the Achaemenid Empire during the reign of King Cyrus the Great (r.559-530) or Cambyses (r.530-522). The satrap's capital was called Zadracarta and was possibly identical to the modern Sari. There is no report about the conquest of Hyrcania, but from the Behistun inscription, we know that it was Persian by 522. The story is as follows:

After the death of Cambyses, the Magian usurper Gaumata, who did not belong to the Achaemenid dynasty, usurped the throne. The adherents of the Persian royal house, however,

helped Darius to become a king; he killed the usurper on 29 September 522. Almost immediately, the subjects of the empire revolted. When Darius was suppressing these rebellions and stayed in Babylon, the Median leader Phraortes made his bid for power (December 522). His revolt soon spread to Armenia, Assyria, Parthia, and Hyrcania

Hyrcania makes its reappearance in history when the Macedonian king Alexander the Great (r.336-323) invaded Asia.

Hyrcanians are mentioned during the battle of Gaugamela (1 October 331), and in August 329, when the

last Persian king, Darius III Codomannus, was dead, many Persian noblemen fled to Hyrcania, where they surrendered to Alexander.

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company – Tender

for Gas Generator

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase a gas generator set. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specification mentioned in the attached files. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to d.zanganeh@kswco.com by May 26.

For further information please contact Mr.Zanganeh:

+989123162409

Iran's health sector achievements are amazing: WFME head

TEHRAN - Ricardo León-Bórquez, the president of the World Federation of Medical Education, has praised Iran for progress in the health sector, saying that the country's achievements are amazing.

Iran has paid much attention to the importance of medical education and can be one of the key members of the World Federation of Medical Education in the accreditation process, he added.

He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Health Minister Bahram Einollahi, noting that the accreditation process of medical education, which was started by WFME in Iran in 2019, has progressed very well and Iran is moving in the right direction in this field.

Previously, Einollahi said many countries in the region are asking Iran for help with issues related to health.

Emphasizing that all diseases are currently treated in the country, the minister added: "With the help of scientists, we were able to educate efficient human resources," ISNA reported.

"With the efforts that have been made during the 44 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, today we have the strongest health system in the region in such a way that the health indicators in the Islamic Republic are far ahead of other countries in the region."

All the indicators of health and treatment have made significant



In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mand-

hari, the World Health Organization

director for Eastern Mediterranean

Region, said the Islamic Republic

of Iran is a role model for primary

For the past four decades, its PHC

network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to afford-

able, accessible, and acceptable es-

sential health services, he explained.

In October 2021, World Health Orga-

nization (WHO) representative to Iran

Jaffar Hussain, said that Iran's health

system can be a model for other coun-

tries in the region, especially in the

field of health and the use of valuable

The national budget bill for the

current Iranian calendar year 1402,

which started on March 21, has in-

creased the health sector's budget

by 29 percent compared to the cur-

rent year's budget.

forces such as healthcare providers.

progress after the Islamic Revolution, and now Iran is one of the leading countries in this field, Saeed Karimi, the deputy health minister has said

Health is one of the areas that got a good jump after the Islamic Revolution, ISNA quoted Karimi as saying.

It should be noted that in the early years of the Revolution, even for a cataract, which is a routine ophthalmic operation, the patient was sent abroad, but now patients from abroad come to Iran for the most advanced surgeries, he highlighted.

"At the beginning of the Revolution, there were just 56,000 hospital beds, but now we have 156,000 hospital beds," he noted.

Meanwhile, there were just seven thousand specialists, but now there are 70 thousand specialists and sub-specialists in the country, he Syed Jaffar Hussain, the World Health Organization Representative and Head of Mission in Iran has appreciated the country for its efforts to enhance health security in the region.

In October 2021, Jaffar Hussain said that Iran's health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers.

The national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year 1402, which started on March 21, has increased the health sector's budget by 29 percent compared to the current year's budget.

The bill has proposed a budget of 2,730 trillion rials (about \$6.8 billion) for the Ministry of Health, IRNA reported.

Iran can be one of the key members of the World Federation of Medical Education.

The administration has also proposed 690 trillion rials (about \$1.7 billion) as subsidies to provide medicine by health industries.

MAY 17, 2023

MAY 17, 2023
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

Satellite images show successful Lake Urmia revival plan: official



TEHRAN - Satellite images of Lake Urmia show that the water transfer plan has been able to solve the problem of reduced water input to a great extent, Hassan Dalirian, a spokesman for the Iranian Space Agency, has

Therefore, the water level of Lake Urmia has significantly increased, he added, IRNA reported.

"The Organization has been monitoring the lake since the beginning of the water transfer project from the Kani Sib Dam to the Lake.

After about 3 months since the start of the project, we have achieved notable results in this regard."

Lake Urmia in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province started to dry up in the

The lake is the largest lake in West Asia and the sixth-largest Salt Lake in the world with a water surface area of 5,000 to 6,000 square kilometers

Provincial officials have said that water levels in the lake will increase to above two billion cubic meters in the near future.

The figure comes just more than a month after the government inaugurated a project to transfer water from a neighboring dam as part of its efforts to revive the lake.

The construction of a tunnel with a length of 36 kilometers to transfer water from the Dam to the Lake started in 2015, IRNA reported.

Some 35 trillion rials (about \$70 million) have been spent on the project.

In the first phase, 300 million cubic meters

of water are projected to enter Lake Urmia every year.

The second phase is going to come on stream in the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21, increasing the volume of water to 600 million cubic meters.

West Azarbaijan Governor General Mohammad- Sadeq Motamedian told IRNA that the supply of water from Kani Sib Dam to Lake Urmia had reached 35 cubic meters per second, adding that the amount could reach well above 50 cubic meters per second with continued rains in the region.

That comes on top of plans to transfer 200 million cubic meters of water per year from sewage treatment facilities in the metropol-

itan cities of Tabriz and Urmia to prevent the lake from drying up.

Experts believe it would take some five years for Lake Urmia to take some 3.4 billion cubic meters of water it needs to reach ecologically sustainable levels.

The water level at Lake Urmia is continuously rising thanks to recent rainfalls and releasing water from a neighboring dam.

On March 27, it was announced that the current level of Lake Urmia is 1,270.26 meters, an increase of more than 13 centimeters compared to six months ago and the rise will continue, IRNA reported.

The area of the lake has also increased by more than 311 square kilometers, reaching 1,241 square kilometers.

The construction of a water transfer tunnel with a length of 36 kilometers started in 2015.

The volume of water at Lake Urmia is now around 1.570 billion cubic meters, which has increased by 330 million cubic meters.

Some 5 trillion rials (about \$10 million) have been recently earmarked for speeding up the implementation of the Lake Urmia revival

The lake is designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, Ramsar Site, as well as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, which is a protected area with the aim of conserving nature and culture in the region and community development.

Based on the studies and according to the statement of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program, 18 percent of the drying was due to climate change and 82 percent was due to the mismanagement of water resources in the catchment area, Somayeh Rafiei, a member of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament), has said.

Iran, FAO launch technical cooperation program on dryland farming

TEHRAN - The first technical cooperation program (TCP) between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture was launched with the aim of increasing the productivity of dryland farming in the northwest of the country.

The project aims to boost food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.

Funded by FAO, the joint project is designed for targeted support of food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development, IRNA reported.

Over the last 11 years, the average area under dryland farming in the country was about 5.45 million hectares, of which around 3.7 million hectares were under wheat cultivation.

Also, some one million hectares were planted with barley, 456,000 hectares were under chickpeas, 126,000 hectares were under lentils, 44,000

hectares were under oil seeds, and 84,000 hectares were under fodder, producing as much as six million tons of crops annually.

On March 29, FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture launched an e-learning course, aiming to inspire practitioners to champion transformational dryland forest management strategies.

The course was entitled "The Transforming Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems: An Approach to Sustain and Develop Food Production in Drylands under Change".

Spearheaded by the Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvo-pastoral Systems (COFO WG), the course was developed through the joint efforts and expertise of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and 15 other partners.

"When correctly implemented, agrosilvopastoral systems can ensure the sustainability of food production and livelihoods in these regions, while alleviating poverty and reducing the risk of conflict and disasters," said FAO Forestry Officer Fidaa F. Haddad.

Meanwhile, FAO has taken positive steps towards curbing the spread of red palm weevil (RPW), a highly destructive transboundary pest that can cause serious damage to date palm trees, leading to the death of the infested trees.

The outbreak and uncontrolled spread of the



RPW pose a significant threat to the country's date palm trees industry and the livelihood of farmers who depend on it for income.

Dispatching two international experts to infested areas in Fars and Kerman Provinces has helped to assess the current situation and highlighted the need to bolster the current efforts to control the pest

duction in Iran has increased by 28 percent in 2022, putting the country in 13th place among the world's top producers of strategic grain.

Iranian farmers produced some 13 million tons

According to the latest FAO report, wheat pro-

of wheat in 2022, 2.9 million tons more than the figure for the previous year, IRNA reported.

According to FAO, Iran was the world's 14th largest wheat producer in 2021.

The organization has also predicted that Iran will produce 13 million tons of wheat in 2023, which will not change compared to 2022.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامهریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخهسواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران ، موضوع توجه به دوچرخهسواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته



Rehabilitated birds back to natural habitat

On the occasion of the World Migratory Bird Day and the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 13 and May 22 respectively) a group of environmentalists released a number of rehabilitated birds into their natural habitat on Monday, May 15.

DHIRANIUMIDS



Tehrantimes79

www.tehrantimes.com

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Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603 Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

MAY 17, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Kindness is a mark of faith and whoever is not kind has no faith. Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01

Evening: 19:24

Dawn: 3:18 (tomorrow)

Iranian studies in German: Pre-Islamic period

Part 14

Momentous research on the Bisotun relief has been carried out by Heinz Luschey and other members of the German Archaeological Institute (most recently, W. Kleiss and P. Calmeyer, eds., Bisutun: Ausgrabungen und Forschungen in den Jahren 1963-1967, Berlin,

Wolfram Kleiss not only excavated the Urartian fortress on Bastam in Azarbaijan, but also undertook extended exploratory trips and surveys in the whole country, where his special interest was in caravansaries and old caravan routes.

The only Austrian expedition to be mentioned is that at Kordlar Tepe under Karl Kromer (from 1971) and Andreas Lippert (from 1974).

Elamite studies: Elam, the Elamite language, and Elamite culture in general always receded a little into the background of Near Eastern studies, because the language does not belong to any of the world's major language families, but seems to be rather isolated and is still quite difficult for scholars to understand

After the first basic studies by Niels Ludvig Westergaard and Edwin Norris (in the 1840s and 1850s) there have been involved in deciphering and understanding Elamite language and Elamite culture in general a great number of German-speaking scholars such as A. D. Mordtmann, Julius Oppert, Peter Jensen, Franz Heinrich Weissbach (the author of Die Achämenideninschriften zweiter Art, Leipzig 1890: Die Keilinschriften der Achämeniden.

It is not an easy task to define the subject of

this contribution. It cannot be ascribed simply

to one particular country, since German is the

language used not only in Germany proper, but

A number of Swiss scholars, however, have

preferred to use French for their scholarly

purposes, and Austria, until the end of World

War I, consisted of a much larger territory than

Moreover, during the first half of this century.

a number of Scandinavian and Central and

Eastern European scholars used German as

their primary language of scholarship, but

German was gradually replaced in favor of

This contribution, especially for periods prior

to World War II, shall also include references

to scholars from outside the close political Germanic framework described above,

Another difficulty is the fact that there are,

even now, no clearly defined disciplines in

Germany that deal with Iranian studies. Within

the general framework of Oriental studies

(Orientalistik), there were (and, to a certain

extent, still are) imprecisely-defined disciplines

At the beginning of the 20th century,

many academic studies in literature, history,

religion, and other aspects of Persian culture

fell in the domain of "Oriental philology,"

which included, among others, Arabic,

whenever discursive reasons justify it.

the present-day state that bears this name.

also in Austria and Switzerland.

English after World War II.

that are relevant here.

Part 1

Leipzig, 1911, and a multitude of other titles), Georg Hüsing, Willy Foy, Ferdinand Bork, and the Austrian Friedrich Wilhelm König (1897-1972), who for the first time collected the Old Elamite texts in his Corpus Inscriptionum Elamicarum and later edited all Elamite royal inscriptions.

A particular interest in Elamite culture characterizes some of those Iranists who have specialized in research about Old Persian or the Achaemenid period in general.

Here it is primarily Walther Hinz who must be mentioned as a kind of pioneer in some

It was he who in 1961 succeeded in deciphering the so-called Elamite Linear Writing and who for the first time wrote a more detailed account on the history and culture of the Elamites in his book Das Reich Elam.

His studies on the Achaemenid Elamite texts, i.e., both the royal inscriptions and the Persepolis tablets, induced him to the ambitious and risky undertaking of preparing, together with his pupil Heidemarie Koch, for the first time a comprehensive two-volume Elamite dictionary covering all the texts from the oldest to the latest times.

The exploitation and utilization of the Persepolis tablets in the Elamite language has been furthered, among others, with regard to the factual evidence also by Koch, and with regard to the Iranian anthroponyms mainly by Manfred Mayrhofer and Rüdiger Schmitt.

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica. Concluded.

Iranian studies in German: Islamic period linguistics in the sense of "Indo-European studies," Iranian philology emerged as a specific subject (Iranistik) that, for a long time, dealt much less with matters touching Persian

> Scholars to be mentioned in this connection often described themselves as belonging to disciplines like Oriental studies, Islamic studies, Iranian studies or, more recently, geography or cultural anthropology (Völkerkunde,

proper than with any other Iranian language,

whether recent or ancient.

In our retrospective view from outside, we may be inclined to categorize them rather as historians or as experts in literature or religion.

The start of the 20th century was in one particular respect a turning point in research concerning Iranian matters, particularly among German-speaking scholars.

Two German specialists, Wilhelm Geiger and Ernst Kuhn, edited a then carefully updated survey of Iranian studies in the fields of literature, history, and languages in the Grundriss der iranischen Philologie (1891-1904).

In these already legendary volumes, the state of Iranian studies, as it had been developed throughout the 19th century, was compiled and summarized.

Some of the contributions, such as Hermann Ethe's "Neupersische Literature" and Theodor Nöldeke's "Das iranische Nationalepos" are still regarded as "classics in the field," while others, like Paul Horn's survey of Iranian history in Islamic times, have become outdated.

Raisi sends message to **NLAI** celebration of Ferdowsi Day

Raisi sent a message to a meeting held on Monday at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) in Tehran to celebrate Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day.

The 25th of Ordibehesht is Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day on the Iranian calendar. This year's celebration for the day fell on May 15.

The message was read by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammah-Mehdi Esmaeili during the celebration.

"The great nation of Iran is a cultural and spiritual truth on the heart of Asia, the world's most diverse continent, and like a ring, it links together the spiritual and cultural existence of the East and West," Raisi said.

"In this land, great luminaries such as Ferdowsi were born to enrich the Persian language and enliven Iranian history, and based on an understanding of Islam, the Iranian people have managed to pursue their lives devoid of conflict," he added.

"From this point of view, Ferdowsi, the symbol of Iranian wisdom, is not only a poet but also a spirit of an epic, because this great book of



Iranian culture and civilization. He was the one who embellished the Persian language, giving it a strong brand identity, and reinforcing the historical relationship between the national and cultural identities of Iran," the message read.

"Ferdowsi has been called a sage and his Shahnameh has been referred to as wisdom literature and

Persian verse recounts fascinating stories about the valor of great Iranian heroes, and at the same time, it also promotes Iranian and Islamic wisdom. In the Shahnameh, the spirit of freedom and broadmindedness and respect for Iran's profound and strong culture are quite obvious, and this book is full of friendship and kindness," he added.

Raisi said that celebrating

Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh would help strengthen the national identity, solidarity and self-confidence in Iranian society, especially among the members of the younger generation.

The message ended with Raisi extending his congratulations on Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day and his praise for the organizers.

KINOLUB children's film festival to screen movies from Iran



"Silkworm" by Iranian director Amir Honarmand.

TEHRAN - Eight movies by Iranian filmmakers will be screened at the eighth edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth – KINOLUB.

Foundation of Poland from June 12 to 26 in the southern cities and villages of the country of

The festival will be organized by the IKS

"I Didn't Think" by Reyhaneh Kavosh and "Goli's Greatest Adventure" by Elika Mehranpur will be screened in the short animation competition.

In "I Didn't Think", while having fun in Shirin's yard

together with his friends. Shutak comes to his uncle and smashes all of his pots. To repair the damage, everyone helps with the work in the garden.

The story of "Goli's Greatest Adventure" happens in Tehran during the 1970s. Little Goli is a big fan of cinema, but her older brother decides to ban her from going to the theater.

"Beyro" will compete in the feature film category.

Directed by Morteza-Ali Abbasmirzai, the biopic tells the story of Alireza Beyranvand, the goalkeeper of Iran's national football team, from his childhood until his entry into professional football.

short drama "Paradoping" by Mohammadreza Hassani-Ranjbar will also be

A football sports club announces that it plans to recruit goalkeepers. Chubby Ario tries to lose weight in a short time to be able to be in shape to be present for the tests given by the coaches. His friend out of class feels threatened, and decides to prevent Ario from participating in the trials.

"Goalkeeper", a short drama by Mohammadreza Ganjkhanlu, has also been selected to compete in

It follows Amir, a 13-year-old villager, who loves

football and wears eyeglasses. He asks his parents for money to participate in a football trial in the city. but their financial position prevents them from agreeing to his request. But when he secretly sees a sum of money with his parents, he steals it and goes to the football field for the test. However, he is not accepted due to his visual impairment, and upon returning home, he discovers that the money he stole was intended for his eye surgery.

The short dramas "Chauffeur", "The Recess" and "Silkworm" will compete in KINOLUB.

Directed by Hossein Kakavand, "Chauffeur" is about a father whose ignorance and false beliefs make his son go through a crisis.

"The Recess", by Vahid Nikkhah Azad, tells the story of Sahar, a 17-year-old student who is determined to skip high school during recess to go to the football stadium to watch a football match between Esteghlal F.C. vs. Al-Ain as part of the AFC Champions League in violation of the national ban on women entering football stadiums in Iran.

In "Silkworm", director Amir Honarmand shows the universal topic of how smartphones have infiltrated the daily life of people worldwide and

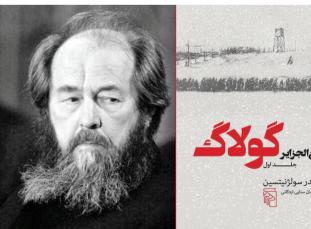
how young people of meager means covet them

Iranian publisher takes readers to "The Gulag Archipelago"

TEHRAN - Markaz, a major publisher in Tehran, has released a Persian translation of the first volume of "The Gulag Archipelago, 1918-1956" a history and memoir of life in the Soviet Union's prison camp system by Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Ehsan Sanai Ardakani is the translator of the book, which is from a three-volume non-fiction text written between 1958 and 1968.

"The Gulag Archipelago" is Solzhenitsyn's attempt to compile a literary-historical record of the vast system of prisons and labor camps that came into being shortly after the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia in 1917 and that underwent an enormous expansion during the rule of Stalin from 1924 to 1953.



A combination photo shows Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and the front cover of the Persian edition of his book "The Gulag Archipelago".

interrogation,

Various sections of the three transportation and imprisonment volumes describe the arrest, of the Gulag's victims by Soviet authorities over four decades.

The work mingles historical exposition and Solzhenitsyn's own autobiographical accounts with the voluminous personal testimony of other inmates that he collected and committed to memory during his imprisonment.

Upon publication of the first volume of "The Gulag Archipelago" in 1973, Solzhenitsyn was immediately attacked by the Soviet press.

It was translated into English and French the following year.

Despite the intense interest in his fate that was shown in the West, he was arrested and charged with treason on February 12, 1974, and was exiled from the Soviet Union the following day.

"Physics of Sorrow", winner of Jan Michalski Prize, comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of "The Physics of Sorrow", Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov's book that won the 2016 Jan Michalski Prize for Literature, has come to Iranian bookstores.

Saless is the Publisher of the book translated by Sohrab Tavusi.

A finalist for both the Strega Europeo and Gregor von Rezzori awards, and winner of every Bulgarian honor possible, "The Physics of Sorrow" reaffirms Gospodinov's place as one of Europe's most inventive and daring writers.

Using the myth of the Minotaur as its organizing image, the narrator of Gospodinov's long-awaited novel constructs a labyrinth of stories about his family, jumping from era to era and viewpoint to viewpoint, exploring the mindset and trappings of Eastern Europeans.

Incredibly moving, such as with the story of his grandfather accidentally being left behind at a mill, and extraordinarily funny, see the section on the awfulness of the question, "How are you?" "Physics" is a book that you can inhabit, tracing connections, following the narrator down various "side passages," getting pleasantly lost in the various stories and empathizing with the sorrowful, misunderstood Minotaur at the center

Like the work of Dave Eggers, Tom McCarthy and Dubravka Ugresic, "The Physics of Sorrow" draws you in with its unique structure, humanitarian concerns and stunning storytelling.

The New York Times described the publication as "a quirky, compulsively readable book that deftly hints at the emptiness and sadness at its core."



Front cover of the Persian edition of Georgi Gospodinov's book "The Physics of Sorrow".

Gospodinov is the most translated and internationally awarded Bulgarian writer after 1989 and one of the leading voices of European literature today.

Following in the footsteps of comparative

Persian, and Turkish languages.

To be continued.