

122,000 Tons of Diplomacy

© IRNA / Ali Sharifzadeh



Opinion



Iranian gunboat diplomacy

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

"An aircraft carrier is 100,000 tons of diplomacy," said Henry Kissinger, about half a century ago during his tenure as US Secretary of State. The roots of this phrase date back to the nineteenth century, when Western colonial powers used a special method to secure their colonial interests.

Political and commercial representatives of these powerful countries went to other countries and negotiated with their leaders. At the same time, warships were stationed near the coasts of the target country. The host country was informed of the presence of warships on its shores, and Western envoys dictated what they wanted to the other side with the support of their navy without the need for operational use of ships.

This threatening and common method later became known as "gunboat diplomacy" and entered international relations literature. Despite the fact that nearly two centuries have passed since those days, this diplomacy is still in use. James Cable, a British naval officer and diplomat, has spent more than two decades explaining this diplomacy through a series of writings. Cable divides "gunboat diplomacy" into four categories:

-Definitive Force: the use of gunboat diplomacy to create or remove a fait accompli. ► Page 2

Abdollahian says Foreign Ministry will follow Leader's guidelines

TEHRAN - The profundity of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's strategic perspective on the changing world order and his emphasis on effective foreign policy will serve as the ministry's guiding principles, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian says.

Amir Abdollahian made the remarks on Saturday, hours after Foreign Ministry officials and Tehran's diplomats to foreign countries met with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Today, at the start of a meeting of ambassadors and heads of political, international and consular representative offices, we visited Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and received his deep views on foreign policy and international relations," Amir Abdollahian wrote on his Twitter page.

He added that the Foreign Ministry will continue to adhere to Ayatollah Khamenei's "strategic views on changes in the world order and his emphasis on an effective foreign policy."

Addressing a group of Foreign Ministry officials and ambassadors to other countries on Saturday, Ayatollah Khamenei delineated the meanings of the three keywords "honor, wisdom, and expediency" in the Iranian foreign policy.

The Leader described lack of reliance on principles in foreign policy as a violation of honor and the cause of hesitancy.

Report



G7 summit raises eyebrows and complaints

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN - The final communiqué published by the G7 summit in the Japanese city of Hiroshima has been viewed as filled with double standards, most of which go back to the United States.

Seven of the world's advanced economies - the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan - also known as the G7, have wrapped up their annual meeting in Japan.

The summitters discussed a number of countries and issues. They include:

CHINA

China has been a key target of the summit this year.

The G7 raised a host of issues with the second (soon to be first) strongest economy in the world. ► Page 5

Art festival celebrating Khorramshahr liberation anniversary

TEHRAN - A massive art festival was launched on Sunday in Tehran and Khorramshahr to celebrate the 41st liberation anniversary of the latter from Iraqi occupiers.

The southwestern Iranian city was captured in its entirety by Iraqi invaders on October 26, 1980 after a 34-day-long public act of resistance against the Iraqis during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war.

The city was liberated on May 24,

1982, after it was totally reduced to rubble by the Iraqis.

The art festival entitled "My Home Is Khorramshahr" is being organized by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

"Khorramshahr was Iran's major city that was totally engulfed in the flames of the war and its liberation was the greatest victory for Iran," Art Bureau deputy director Ali Foruzanfar said in a press conference on Saturday.

"It is really important to celebrate the liberation anniversary of the city, because it is not an isolated historical event," he added.

As part of the festival, a 3-day exhibition displaying a collection of artworks created on Khorramshahr during the 1980s opened on Sunday at the Khaney-e Mellat Gallery of the Iranian Parliament.

The artworks have been selected from the Art Bureau's treasure trove. ► Page 8

Hanoi-Tehran relations to witness new achievements: Vietnamese envoy

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN - The Vietnamese embassy in Tehran celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Iran on Saturday evening.

The ceremony was attended by a number of Iranian and Vietnamese officials, including General To Lam, the

minister of public security of Vietnam, Iranian deputy foreign affairs minister Alireza Bigdeli, as well as some Iranian businessmen who conduct trade with Vietnam.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Luong Quoc Huy delivered a speech, which

comes as follows:

50 years ago, when the Paris Accord on Ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam was signed, on August 4th 1973, Iran and Vietnam officially established diplomatic relations. With the nurture from the two countries' leaders throughout the ages, ► Page 2

Op-ed



Iranian women at forefront of Islamic Revolution

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN - Throughout history, the enthusiastic presence of Iranian women in many political and social scenes has been proven. Undoubtedly, women played a great role in the process of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Women have always been present throughout history and paid a role in its construction, even though their contributions are often masked or overshadowed. Throughout history, women have been present shoulder to shoulder with men in the ups and downs of life and in the construction of society. Sometimes directly and occasionally by persuading men and creating the necessary motivations in them, they have shown their role in human history. ► Page 7

Anti-drone operation in Hezbollah drill with Live Ammunition

► Page 5



Five border guards martyred in southeast Iran

TEHRAN - Five Iranian border guards were martyred on Saturday night during an attack by gunmen in the border region of Mak Soukhteh in Sistan-Baluchistan province.

Two of the victims are officers and the remaining three are conscripts.

The troops serving in the border regiment of Saravan clashed with a group of gunmen who were trying to cross the border near the Maze-sar border post, the Iranian police said, adding that the terrorists fled the scene after sustaining heavy losses, according to Tasnim.

The police pledged that such an unfair attack will not remain unanswered.

Saravan is only 40 kilometers away from the common border with Pakistan.

The deputy commander of the Iranian police and the commander of the Iranian border guards travelled to the location of the clash. ► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

Six achievements of maritime mission

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

In an article, Vatan-e-Emrooz discussed the statements of Admiral Shahram Irani, the commander of the Navy. He talked about the mission of 86th flotilla and said: "Carrying out this great mission had several important and strategic achievements, which are as follows:

A- Proving the maritime power of the Islamic Republic of Iran in all oceans

B- Proving the expertise along with the modern knowledge of seafaring and mastery of the army sailors on world science and techniques

C- Self-confidence and dependence on domestic ability to use domestic products with domestic training

T- Testing domestic production equipment in far-off, difficult and complex environments

D- Proving the capability and high self-confidence of the young generation and having hope to realize the second step of the Islamic Revolution

C- Neutralizing the oppressive sanctions of global arrogance and sending the message of peace and friendship to the world."

Hamshahri: The narrow border between two types of diplomacy

In its editorial, Hamshahri addressed the recent statements of the Leader of the revolution and said: The distance between "begging policy" and "principled flexibility" is narrow, which if it is not looked after, "misunderstanding" will be obtained. Why? Because both may look the same in appearance and initial impression. For this reason, the Leader said that many years ago I pointed to 'heroic flexibility', but some people made mistakes inside and outside. What is this misunderstanding? Two misunderstandings can be formed regarding these two concepts. The first group are those who insist on dignity and avoid any flexibility and with an unreal idealism think that expediency is only conservatism. Since this group does not have the ability to be realistic, they do not find the power to

solve the problem, and after a while, they either fall into despair and depression, or they fall into deviance and fundamentally deny the ideal. But the second group are the realists who abandon the ideal and find the solution to the problem only in overcoming their Iranian-Islamic identity and character. This group also falls into deviance and quickly destroys its identity.

Iran: New diplomacy

In its editorial, the Iran newspaper discussed the statements of the Leader of the revolution and wrote: We must learn from the begging diplomacy that we were involved in sometime in the past but in the current situation, have a detailed plan for the suitable position of Islamic Iran in the new world order. The 13th government, regarding its actions of the past year and a half in the field of diplomacy, has tried to shift from passive and begging diplomacy to new and revolutionary diplomacy. Instead of linking the national economy to the nuclear agreement, it put the policy of revival and development of relations with its neighbors on the agenda. Instead of waiting for the frown and smile of the West, now our government is following strategic interaction with the world through Shanghai and BRICS and special interactions with Russia and China. The policy of giving in to American unilateralism was off the agenda and the current diplomacy is on the path of power balance.

Kayhan: The fruits of "dignified diplomacy"

In the previous government, because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been shortened to the Ministry of the JCPOA, the interaction with the countries of the world and active economic diplomacy were basically neglected, Kayhan wrote in its editorial.

The newspaper added it is worth pondering that at that point the interaction with the countries of the world and organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) had been also been tied to the JCPOA and FATF.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iraq committed to drive out anti-Iran terrorists, IRGC commander says

TEHRAN- A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said Iraq has made a commitment to disarm and drive out anti-Iranian militants operating in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

"We are waiting for the Iraqi government to keep its promises, and we have given them a chance to get rid of the terrorists. Otherwise, and if nothing is done, the IRGC strikes would continue," Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, commander of the IRGC Ground Force, stated on Saturday.

When asked by Tasnim if there is a limit in months or days, the general responded that the Iraqi government itself is aware of the time limit.

The IRGC has conducted a number of airstrikes on the terrorists' hideouts in Iraqi Kurdistan since September 24, 2022.

The IRGC has demanded the Kurdistan autonomous region and the Iraqi central government to fulfill their obligations to Iran and take the crucial steps to safeguard the border.

On November 21, 2022, the IRGC conducted missile and drone strikes on anti-Iran separatist strongholds in northern Iraq.

The notorious "Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan" (PDKI) and the Komala Party were the targets of the strikes in northern Iraqi Kurdistan.

During one strike, four missiles were fired at a PDKI position in village of Koy Sanjaq in Erbil Province. Another strike involved kamikaze drones that crashed into a different group camp close to the town of Baharka.

Kamikaze drones attacked Komala-related sites simultaneously in two areas close to the city of Sulaymaniyah.

The strikes reportedly activated warning sirens at the U.S. Consulate in Erbil, according to Iraqi sources.

Local Kurdish reports highlighted that up to 26 members of the terrorist organizations were killed in the strikes.

For years, Iran and Afghanistan have been at odds over the sharing of water from the Helmand River.

The Afghan side has failed to deliver Iran's share of water from the river, which has caused the issue to worsen recently.

On May 18, President Ebrahim Raisi issued a warning to the Taliban informing them not to disregard the water rights of those residing in Helmand River's southeast region of Iran.

Raisi emphasized the Iranian government's will to uphold the country's rights under the 1973 water treaty with Afghanistan, which grants Iran the right to collect 820 million cubic meters of water from the Helmand River annually.

Israeli-instigated Iranophobia project thwarted by Iran-Saudi détente: Lebanese MP

TEHRAN- A Lebanese parliamentarian has said the Israeli regime is the main loser as Iran and Saudi are restoring diplomatic ties, noting the "dream" of the Zionists was smashed by the reconciliation between Tehran and Riyadh.

Speaking with IRNA on Saturday, Hassan Fadlallah said Americans had long strived to depict Iran as an enemy of the Arab world and the Israeli regime as a friend and ally of Arabs.

Israel, he asserted, is the primary loser of the Tehran-Riyadh reunion since it profited by portraying itself as an ally of Arab nations against Iran.

On March 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to re-establish relations after years of estrangement.

The deal, brokered by China, was announced after four days of previously undisclosed talks in Beijing between top security officials from the two regional powers.

Tehran and Riyadh agreed to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies within two months, according to a statement issued by



Iran, Saudi Arabia and China. "The agreement includes their affirmation of the respect for the sovereignty of states and the non-interference in internal affairs," it said.

Based on the agreement the two sides agreed to re-activate a 2001 security cooperation accord, as well as another earlier pact on trade, economy and investment.

"We witnessed Israel's expres-

sion of grave concern and displeasure once the agreement was announced. Zionists also displayed their wrath over the matter publicly. This is while all those parties which favored peace and establishment of intimate relations between Iran and Arab states welcomed the development," Fadlallah added.

The Lebanese lawmaker also described the reconciliation as a significant step, saying Beirut supports

close relations between Tehran and Arab nations.

He went on to highlight, "The Israeli regime is a saboteur, enemy and seditionist among Arab countries. The Tehran-Riyadh détente has many impacts, above all at the political level, on the region."

Tehran and Riyadh finalized the reconciliation agreement on March 10 following several days of intense discussions held in Beijing.

On April 6, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud for the first time in seven years, emphasizing the need to implement the China-brokered accord.

Now, Iran and Saudi Arabia feel that the agreement can help reduce tensions in West Asia.

Saudi Arabia suspended diplomatic relations in January 2016 when a group of Iranian protestors stormed its embassy in Tehran, enraged over the Saudi execution of famous Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr.

Hanoi-Tehran relations to witness new achievements: Vietnamese envoy

From page 1 ► Vietnam-Iran relations witnessed many developments, of which the important milestone is the opening of Iran's embassy in Hanoi in 1991 and the opening of Vietnam's embassy in Tehran in 1997.

For many years, the two countries maintained the fine, friendship, traditional relations in the field of politics and diplomacy, displayed through many official high-level visits of Presidents, Parliament Speakers of Vietnam to Iran as well as the visits of Presidents, Parliament Speakers of Iran to Vietnam. The official visit to Iran by H. E. General To Lam, Politburo Member of Vietnam is another milestone in bilateral relations. His Excellency General's presence at the ceremony today is a vivid example of the fact that the Government of Vietnam always attaches importance to developing the multifaceted relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The visit by H. E. General To Lam will be an auspicious beginning for the next 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Regarding fields of cooperation, up to now the two countries have organized 9 meetings of Inter-governmental Committee and working on the 10th; organized 7 political consultations at the Deputy Foreign Minister level. Two countries also support each other at international organizations, forums on a reciprocal basis. Bilateral trade turnover, until before the Covid-19 pandemic remained over 500 million USD in the past years.

I am happy to realize that throughout the course of history, although the context of the regional and world's situation has many fluctuations, our two countries have always maintained close friendship, mutual cooperation and development, mutual support in the task of national defense, construction and development. Vietnam and Iran share the same aspirations to build a prosperous country, happy people, fair, democratic and civilized society. Vietnam values and wishes to promote relations with Iran on all channels: Party, Government, Parliament and people-to-people exchange.



Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Luong Quoc Huy (1st L), Iranian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Alireza Bigdeli (2nd L), Vietnamese Public Security Minister General To Lam (3rd L)

In order to promote future bilateral cooperation, the Embassy of the S. R. Vietnam in Iran will continue to be an important bridge and focus on boosting bilateral political, economic, trade, scientific and technological cooperation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran appreciates positive attitudes at Arab League Summit

TEHRAN- Iran supports the positive positions on regional cooperation and discussion that a number of nations recently endorsed during an Arab League summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kanaani, said in a statement on Sunday that Tehran appreciates the positive positions made by a number of regional nations towards the promotion of cooperation and giving priority to dialogue and mutual understanding.

Praising the viewpoints of several attendees at the 32nd Arab League summit, Kanaani expressed confidence that the region will see a new approach based on friendship and development of cooperation between its members.

"Collective cooperation among the regional countries for constructivism and endogenous security are fundamental components of development of a new order in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always regarded it as a



regional necessity," he noted.

Nevertheless, Kanaani regretted the unfounded accusations made against Iran in many resolutions passed at the summit.

He pointed out that in its decisions, the Arab League was supposed to refrain from making worn-out accusations and to act in a way that would foster regional peace, stability, and convergence.

Kanaani reaffirmed that Iran owns the three islands in the Persian Gulf—Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb, and the Lesser Tunb—and emphasized that Iran will do all in its power to protect its territorial sovereignty.

Iran criticizes U.S., European interference in domestic affairs

In a statement issued on Saturday,

the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson also denounced the American and European authorities' interference in domestic Iranian matters after the recent execution of three prisoners who had committed terrorist acts in Iran last year.

Slamming the interference by American and European authorities against the Islamic Republic, Kanaani advised Western politicians to pay attention to the voices of their own citizens, civil rights and humanitarian demands rather than meddling in the internal affairs of other countries and projecting a false humanitarian image.

"The widespread violation of the basic rights of the Western citizens, including the right to freedom of speech, the police and the security forces' resort to excessive violence against protestors in Europe and the U.S., as well as issuing political statements about the internal laws of the other countries clearly demonstrate instrumental use of human rights in order to pursue and fulfill the illegit-

imate political purposes and interests," Kanaani added.

He went on to stress, "It is completely absurd that those who have a checkered history of flagrant violations of human rights against other countries, are openly encroaching the rights of their own citizens, have remained silent on the Zionist regime's crimes and everyday atrocities against the Palestinian nation... comment on the judicial punishment meted out to killers and promoters of violence against the Iranian people's lives, calm and security."

The ministry official added, "Europe and the U.S. lack the legal, judicial and moral competence to comment on the judicial and human rights-related issues in the other countries."

The remarks by Kanaani came after a number of Western officials claimed worry about the execution of three men in Iran who were convicted of carrying out a deadly terrorist attack on security forces in the city of Isfahan last year during the riots.

Taliban pledges to cooperate with Iran more closely

TEHRAN- The Taliban, who now control Afghanistan, have stressed in a statement from their Defense Ministry that their government is dedicated to fostering stronger connections with Iran and collaboration in a variety of areas.

The Taliban Defense Ministry released the statement following a meeting between Iranian Deputy Chief of General Staff Bahram Hosseini Motlaq and his Afghan counterpart Haji Mali Khan in Kabul on Sunday.

The two sides stressed the necessity for conversation to resolve mutual concerns as they reviewed border issues and measures to improve bilateral cooperation, according to the statement.

Iranian gunboat diplomacy

From page 1 ► -Purposeful Force: application of naval force to change the policy or character of the target government or group.

-Catalytic Force: a mechanism designed to buy a breathing space or present policy makers with an increased range of options.

-Expressive Force: use of navies to send a political message. This aspect of gunboat diplomacy is undervalued and almost dismissed by Cable.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's approach to the sea has changed since about 14 years ago. In October 2009, Ayatollah Khamenei, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, used the term "strategic naval force" for the first time, stating that "the naval force today is a strategic force in many parts of the world and in our country; it should be viewed as a strategic force."

The result of this change in perspective and strategy can be seen today in the voyage of the

86th flotilla to the farthest waters of the world. In this mission, the destroyer Dena traveled a route that had never been taken before in Iran's history. The destroyer voyaged the largest oceanic expanse in the world, namely the Pacific Ocean.

A very important point that is less noted in this regard is that this significant achievement was made under severe sanctions against Iran, and what has been built and utilized is entirely the product of Iranian experts' thinking and efforts. This key point is deliberately ignored by anti-Iran media outlets.

Anyway, presence in international waters and the advancement of its navy is not just a choice for us. We are obliged to have this presence and progress. The Islamic Republic of Iran is facing various threats, a significant portion of which originates from the sea. The United States is officially and openly seeking to besiege and suffocate Iran in the seas. The theft of Iranian oil tankers, which has hap-

pened repeatedly, and harassment of other Iranian vessels are among these threats.

We have no choice but to strengthen ourselves in the seas to protect Iran's economic interests and maritime trade. Another point is that the global order is undergoing serious changes and transformations. In such circumstances, while it is clear that the sea is a source of power and many benefits, if a country wants to have a proper place in the new global order, it cannot and should not appear weak at sea.

Until just a few years ago, Americans had complete superiority in the air. Two years ago, General Kenneth Frank McKenzie, then-commander of CENTCOM, made a notable admission and said that with Iran's drone advancements, America had lost complete air superiority for the first time since the mid-twentieth century. The great achievement that was accomplished in the air with Iranian creativity and perseverance will soon happen at sea as well.

122,000 tons of diplomacy

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN – Henry Kissinger once hailed U.S. aircraft carriers as being “100,000 tons of diplomacy,” highlighting the role navy ships play in shoring up diplomacy.

After years of assiduous efforts, Iran now has its own 1,500 tons of diplomacy. The 86th flotilla of the Iranian Army's Navy showed that during its circumnavigation of the world over the past eight months.

The flotilla, comprised of domestically-manufactured Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship, set sail from Iran's southern port of Bandar Abbas on September 20, 2022 in a voyage around the world. Dena and Makran together weigh more than 122,000 tons. They sailed around the world, passing through important ports, seas and oceans. They ultimately returned home on Saturday and were welcomed by Iran's military and civilian officials.

The Iranian flotilla broke the record for the distance an Iranian flotilla has sailed in international waters.

“I congratulate the courageous men of the 86th flotilla of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy on their great, successful sailing mission. Respected navy, welcome home. I wish you success,” the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in a congratulatory message.

General Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of the joint staff of the armed forces, said the 86th flotilla did “a great job.”

“I salute these warriors who did a great job and completed their mission with exemplary determination and made the Iranian nation, navy and army proud,” General Bagheri said,



according to Tasnim.

He made the remarks at a welcome ceremony in Bandar Abbas held to celebrate the return of the seafaring flotilla. He said Iran has all the elements in place for becoming a navy power. “Naval power is one of the most important factors of the country's power. We have nothing short of being a great naval power, we have a long and large coastline, we have capable industries of producing weapons and domestically needed equipment,” he said.

Admiraal Shahram Irani, the commander of the Iranian Army's Navy, who participated in the welcoming ceremony, said the Navy has expanded its sphere of influence. “With its presence in the high seas of the world and long-term seafaring, the strategic navy of the army has expanded its strategic depth and foresight in maritime power along with its sphere of influence and regional identity,” he said, according to Fars News.

Navy power also props up diplomacy. George P. Shultz, the 60th U.S. secretary of state, once famously said, “Negotiations are a euphemism for capitulation if the shadow of power is not cast across the bargaining table.”

And the Iranian Navy's circumnavigation of the globe has already boosted Iran's diplomacy at a time when the West tries to portray Iran as a threat to global and regional security.

On May 19, AP reported that the commanders of the U.S., British and French navies in the region transited the Strait of Hormuz aboard the USS Paul Hamilton destroyer.

On Saturday, the commander of the IIRG Navy's 1st zone Commodore Gholamshahi confirmed the report, saying the IIRG naval forces have monitored the DDG-60 destroyer by drones and vessels, according to Tasnim. The IIRG Navy released the photos of the U.S. navy's USS Paul

Hamilton (DDG-60) destroyer it has been monitoring in the Strait of Hormuz south of Iran.

The joint transit of the Western commanders in the region was seen as a message to Iran, which is responsible for ensuring security of the Persian Gulf. But the West has deliberately been ignoring the fact that Iran is the dominant force in the region. And this dominance is meant to ensure security and generate deterrence vis-à-vis bullying. For instance, deterrence was the key to making the UK release the Iranian oil tanker it detained in Gibraltar.

Today, Iran is a naval power which attaches great importance to ensuring freedom of navigation.

Alfred Mahan, the author of The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783, put the importance of naval power within the context of history, arguing that having a strong navy is the key to dominating the world.

Iran water rights inviolable: speaker

TEHRAN – Speaker of Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Sunday reiterated Iran's water rights from the Helmand River, urging the Taliban to honor Afghanistan's commitments under a decades-old agreement in this regard.

“Agreement on this water share is part of the long history of the nations of Iran and Afghanistan. And it is inviolable,” Qalibaf told a Parliament session.

The Helmand River is regulated by a precise legal framework, and in accordance with an agreement made between the two nations in 1973 and confirmed by their respective legislatures, Iran's water rights are distinctly defined and upheld by the Afghan government.

43% of Afghanistan, comprising the majority of the southern region, is supplied by the Helmand River and its main tributary, the Arghandab.

It has a flow of around 140 m3/s on average, although it varies greatly yearly and seasonally because most of the water comes from the country's central mountain range melting snow.

The 1973 deal states that Afghanistan must



yearly deliver 850 million cubic meters of water from the Helmand River to Iran.

“The complete and accurate implementation of this agreement is in the interests of both nations and guarantees mutual benefits, as well as preserving the climate, geography and population of large parts of western Afghanistan and eastern Iran,” Qalibaf said, according to IRNA.

He called Iran's water share of the Helmand River vital. “I want the Afghan authorities to respond constructively to the positive will of the Islamic Republic of Iran and, considering that there is sufficient water storage in Afghanistan, prevent

a serious problem in the relations between the two countries,” he added.

Iranian President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi has warned the Taliban over violating Iran's water rights, urging them to respect the relevant treaties regulating the use of shared waters.

Speaking during a trip to the drought-stricken province of Sistan-Baluchistan on Thursday, Raisi said, “I want to tell the rulers of Afghanistan not to consider my words as normal, but to take them very seriously; I warn the officials and rulers of Afghanistan to give the rights of the people and the region of Sistan and Baluchistan immediately.”

Referring to some published claims that the dam built on Helmand does not have much water or that part of it is sediments, he stated, “Our experts should be given permission to investigate this issue as soon as possible, if our experts confirm this, very well, there is no problem; we have no dispute about the lack of water, but if there is water, this right should be given to the people of Sistan and Baluchistan and we will not allow the rights of the people to be lost in any way.”

Baghdad provided guarantees on Iraqi Kurdistan: intel minister

TEHRAN – Iranian Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib said on Sunday that Iraq's central government has provided guarantees on the security of Iran's borders with Iraqi Kurdistan.

Speaking at a judicial gathering in Mashhad, Khatib said Iran has recently detained a terrorist group that tried to cross the western borders of Iran. “With the cooperation of the new Iraqi government and the guarantees given, we hope to see security on the western borders and the non-repetition of [insecurity], and we remind and emphasize the responsibility of the Iraqi [Kurdistan] region.”

He warned, “If insecurity is created for the Islamic Republic, any action on the borders will be met with a decisive and overwhelming response from the children of this nation in the armed forces and security agencies.”

The intelligence minister also addressed the unrest that gripped Iran last year. “According to the documents obtained, during last year's riots, more than 200 media outlets, 35 think tanks and dozens of intelligence services were active against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he said, according to Tasnim. “The media war that was carried out by the enemies of the Iranian nation during last year's riots was much stronger than the events that happened in some streets of the country. With the vigilance of the people, the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the security and intelligence agencies of the country understood well the various dimensions of the hybrid war last year and finally came out of this war with pride.”

Khatib further considered the magnificent attendance of the people in last year's national and religious

ceremonies as neutralizing the enemy's plots and plans. “Only a few days after the massive participation of people in the march of Bahman 22 [the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution] last year, dozens of European and non-European intelligence services requested communication with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was while during last year's riots, the leaders, figures and officials of these governments were building a consensus against the Islamic Republic of Iran and considered the system's work to be over.”

Khatib said the proactive foreign policy agenda of the Raisi administration helped foil the enemy's plots. “In addition to people's vigilance, communication, interactions and internal and external agreements of Ayatollah Raisi's government last year was another factor in the failure of the enemies in implementing their

conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he continued.

He also said that under President Ebrahim Raisi, Iran achieved a leap in terms of selling oil and condensates. “The foreign interactions of the government and the agreements between Iran and China, Iran and Russia and the regional agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia and the UAE have naturally been able to significantly reduce the conditions of sanctions and the maximum pressure that the enemies had designed,” Khatib said.

The minister also shared an intelligence assessment that the enemy's hybrid war will continue this year. “This year, the hybrid war of the enemy will continue in various forms, and it is necessary for us to have an accurate intelligence and security estimate in the face of this hybrid war,” he said.

Frome Page 1 ► In late April, an Iranian police officer was also martyred in an armed attack in the border province of Sistan-Baluchistan in southeast Iran.

The officer, Alireza Shahraki, was in his car in the city of Saravan when unknown gunmen opened fire at him. Shahraki's wife was also injured during the attack.

In January, two police officers were also martyred in Bampur County while in the line of duty. The police chief of Sistan-Baluchistan province said at the time that the officers were attacked by “evil” assailants in early hours while walking the beat in Bampur. After attacking the officers, the police chief said, the evil assailants sped away.

In early December, a conscript was also martyred and another wounded in a deadly shooting in the border province. The two conscripts were targeted at night in the port city of Chabahar, southeast Iran.

Iran's borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan have witnessed sporadic clashes in recent months. In a bid to ensure the security of the region, Iran and Pakistan have been in close contact.

IRAN IN FOCUS

MAY 22, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Foolad's Aghasi nominated for Best ACL 2022 Team

TEHRAN – Foolad defender Aref Aghasi is among the candidates who could make up the back four of the Best ACL 2022 Team.

With yet another gripping AFC Champions League season now behind us, the-AFC.com continues its quest to find out who the fans pick as the Best XI from this year's continental competition.

Aghasi is among the 12 players who are in contention for a place in the backline.

A center-back who is solid in defense, comfortable in possession and has pace to burn, Aref has become a vital cog in the Foolad Khouzeestan backline since rejoining them from Esteghlal last year.

The 26-year-old defender helped his side keep five clean sheets and won possession 42 times in the defensive third in eight appearances – both numbers bettered by no other player in the competition – as he guided the Iranian side to their first-ever AFC Champions League quarter-final where they went down fighting to runner-up Al Hilal in a 1-0 loss.

Enayati officially named Iran U23 football team coach

TEHRAN – Reza Enayati was officially named coach of Iran U23 football team on Sunday.

The media reports suggest that Iran national team coach Amir Ghalenoei has recommended the 46-year-old coach for this position.

Enayati has most recently worked as coach of Naft Masjed Soleyman and failed to keep the team in Iran Professional League.

Afshin Ghotbi, Mehdi Tartar, Mohammad Rabiei, Mojtaba Hosseini and Mohrram Navidkia were also shortlisted to lead the team.

The former Iran and Esteghlal forward will coach the team in the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification.

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

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

Panamtash appointed Iran water polo team coach

TEHRAN – Mehdi Panamtash was appointed as new coach of Iran national water polo team on Sunday.

He replaced Aleksandar ?iri? who parted ways with the national team after several years.

Panamtash will lead Team Melli in the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Veteran water polo coach Sirous Taherian was appointed as team's director.

Panamtash has previously worked as coach in Iranian clubd Nofallah and Saipa.

Iran won a bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran to send women team to Asian Belt Wrestling Alysh

TEHRAN – Iran will participate at the 2023 Asian Belt Wrestling Alysh Championship.

The competition will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from May 22 to 24.

The event will bring athletes from about 20 countries together in the continental championship.

At the Asian Championship, which is part of the United World Wrestling (UWW) series of tournaments, men will compete in weight categories up to 57, 62, 68, 75, 82, 90, 100 kg and over 100 kg, and women in weight categories up to 52, 58, 66, 76 and over 79 kg.

Iran will send six wrestlers to the event.

Iran learn fate at Asian handball qualification for 2024 Olympics

TEHRAN – Iran handball team discovered their opponents at the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics on Saturday.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group B along with Kuwait, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Japan, and Kazakhstan.

Group A consists of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the UAE, India, and China.

The competition will be held in Doha, Qatar from Oct. 18 to 28.

The winner of the competition will qualify for the Men's Handball Competition of the 33rd Summer Olympic Games scheduled to be held in Paris, France, from July 26 to Aug. 11, 2024.

Taremi nets four goals as Porto beat Famalicao

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi scored four goals against Famalicao in Primeira League Saturday night.

The Iranian forward opened the scoring for the visiting team in the seventh minute from the penalty spot. He made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Ivan Jaime and Santiago Colombatto scored two goals in the 33rd and 44th minutes to level the score.

Taremi found the back of the net from the penalty spot in the 67th and 75th minutes to wrap up a 4-2 win for Porto.

Porto are second with 82 points, one point behind Benfica who have one game in hand.

Uzbekistan defeat Iran at 2023 CAFA U20 Championship

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan football team defeated Iran 3-2 in the 2023 CAFA U20 Championship on Sunday.

The match was held at the TALCO Arena in Tursunzoda, Tajikistan.

Iran will meet Afghanistan on Wednesday and play Turkmenistan and Tajikistan on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) is one of five regional bodies of governance in association football in Asia. It governs association football, futsal, and beach football in Central Asia. CAFA consists of six national association members.

Shahdab come fourth at 2023 Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Shahdab Yazd of Iran finished in fourth place in the 2023 Asian Club Volleyball Championship.

Shahdab lost to Police of Qatar 3-1 (24-26, 25-16, 25-20, 25-19) on Sunday.

Shahdab had finished in third place last year.

Japanese team Suntory Sunbirds will play Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi of Indonesia in the final match.

Shahdab had previously lost to Police 3-2 in the competition's semifinals.

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.

Paykan Tehran hold the record for most victories, winning the competition eight times. Teams from Iran have won the tournament 16 times, the most for any nation.

The current Asian champions are Iran's Paykan Tehran, who defeated Japan's Suntory Sunbirds 3-2 in the final of the 2022 event.

NNFTRI holds 1st National Bee Conference & Exhibition



TEHRAN- National Nutrition and Food Technology Research Institute (NNFTRI) held the First National Bee Conference and Exhibition on Saturday.

Iman Mahdavian-Rad, the scientific secretary of the conference, pointed out the capacities and challenges of the beekeeping industry and said the real value of the honey bee, this valuable insect, is still not recognized in the world as it should be.

He said 60-70 percent of pollination in nature depends on this insect. So that with the

removal of honeybees, humans will not live long. Pollination done by the honey bee helps a lot in the agriculture sector and if this insect disappears, the food security of the world will be in serious danger.

The scientific secretary of the National Bee Conference further stated that one of the challenges of beekeeping industry is traditional methods, adding that traditional production has caused all capacities not to be used.

Mentioning other challenges in the country's beekeeping industry, he pointed to not existence of smart beehives and said this type of beehive controls all bee information from flights to pest control.

Mahdavian-Rad announced that some knowledge-based companies have done good work in the field of producing smart beehives, but it is expected that the responsible bodies will select and support the best examples by examining them.

ICCIMA head calls for developing infrastructure to boost Iran-Russia trade

TEHRAN – Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie has called for the development of infrastructure along with the strengthening of the trade between Iran and Russia, the ICCIMA portal reported.

“Arrangements should be made for the development of the transportation and customs infrastructures in line with the development of the two countries' trade ties,” Shafeie said in an Iran-Russia Specialized business forum held on the sidelines of the “Russia – Islamic World: Kazan Forum 2023” in Russia.

“The relations between Iran and the Russian Federation, especially in the commercial and economic fields, have a positive and growing perspective, and good developments are expected for the future of these relations,”



Shafeie said.

Referring to the capacities of developing economic relations with Iran, the official emphasized: “Iran has great potentials like the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia, the gas reserves of Russia, and the mineral reserves of Australia, and this is a great blessing that can be the basis and justification for the development of relations with any country.”

TEDPIX gains 4,700 points on Sunday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 4,784 points to 2.302 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 11.99 billion securities worth 98.644 trillion rials (about \$197.2 million) were traded at the TSE.

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

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

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

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

“In general, good measures have been taken or are being taken by the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to protect the shareholders and their capital, among which we can mention the implementation of the stock insurance plan,” the official noted.

TEHRAN – Iran exported 71,087 tons of non-oil products valued at \$31,481,234 to the African countries in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), the vice president of Iran and Africa Merchants Club Ruhollah Latifi said.

According to Latifi, steel, and iron products accounted for the biggest share of Iran's exports to its 23 African trade partners, comprising 51.5 percent of the total exports, IRNA reported.

During the mentioned month, Iran exported 29,602 tons of iron products worth \$16,201,162 to Africa, the official said.

Iran-Africa trade is expected to reach \$2.5b by end of current Iranian year (March 2024).

Urea fertilizer, food products, bitumen, chemical and plastic products, industrial machinery, flooring, sulfur, motorcycle tires, bentonite, white cement, plaster, medicine, toys, and glass containers were also among the other goods exported to the African continent in the said period.

During the first month of the current year, Iran also imported



Monthly export to Africa exceeds \$31.4m

4,329 tons of goods worth \$5,879,482 from nine African countries, registering a 98 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

Latifi named Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, and Sudan, as the main export destinations for Iranian products while, South Africa, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania were the first five countries exporting goods to Iran in the period under review.

In total, the Islamic Republic and Africa traded 75,407 tons of commodities worth \$37.36 million in the mentioned month.

Latifi, who is the former spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), previously said that following the 13th government's

South Pars Oil Layer 2nd development phase begins

TEHRAN – The executive operations for the second phase of South Pars Oil Layer's development project officially began in a ceremony held on Saturday, the last day of the 27th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2023).

The ceremony was attended by Head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, Head of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) Mohammad-Hossein Motejali, and Vice Chairman of the Parliament's Energy Committee Mousa Ahmadi, Shana reported.

The deal for the implementation of the second phase of the South Pars Oil Layer's development project was signed between Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOEC) and a renowned foreign company back in March 2022.

The \$500-million deal, prepared based on the Oil Ministry's new model of upstream contracts, was signed on March 16 in a ceremony attended by senior officials including Oil Minister Javad Oji and Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr.

Under the framework of the development

contract, which has been finalized for a 20-year period, the contractor is obliged to provide all the necessary financial resources to implement the project, including direct capital costs, indirect costs, and operating costs.

Deal to implement 2nd phase of South Pars Oil Layer's development was signed between IOEC and a renowned foreign company in March 2022.

Based on the deal, the project description includes upgrading and modifying the existing processing vessel and platform, overhauling existing wells, digging new wells including production and water

Annual export from Semnan province rises 25%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Semnan province increased by 19 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), according to a provincial official.

Morteza Hajian, the acting head of the province's Customs Department, announced that commodities worth \$120 million were exported from Semnan province in the previous year.

He named Afghanistan, Russia, Pakistan, Iraq, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the major export destinations, and wire and cable, detergent, plastic containers,

sodium hydroxide, evaporative cooler, wool and light hydrocarbon as the main exported items.

As announced by the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the value of Iran's non-oil export rose 10 percent in the past year.

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

China with the purchase of \$14.584 billion of commodities (no

change), Iraq with \$10.238 billion (15 percent growth), Turkey with \$7.459 billion (23 percent growth), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$5.767 billion (28 percent growth), and India with \$2.146 billion (18 percent growth) were the first five export destinations of Iranian goods in 1401, the official stated.

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

work of the 13th administration, the official said: “In this roadmap, major factors including exports and the share of different sectors are specified, and in the case of Africa, the priorities and targets for trade with different countries and the requirements for reaching these targets are determined.”

Peyman-Pak put the share of African countries in Iran's export basket at \$1.2 billion, saying: “Africa's annual imports amount to about \$580 billion, and our share of this figure is still small despite all the efforts. We have managed to export \$1.2 billion to this market.”

He further mentioned the capacities of the mentioned continent for the export of technical and engineering services and said: “The total exports of technical and engineering services to Africa is currently \$300 billion; But our share last year, despite a slight increase reached only \$200 million, which is still small.”

According to the TPO head, in order to increase the level of trade with Africa certain infrastructure including transportation and direct shipping lines, as well as proper legal, commercial, monetary, and banking relations must be provided, and TPO has been recently focusing on providing such requirements to facilitate trade with Africa.

“To solve the transportation problems, four countries have been selected in East, West, South, and North of Africa, to launch air and shipping lines,” he said.

injection and assessment wells, construction of oil discharge and loading system, and strengthening the existing water injection system.

During the implementation of this contract, while updating the reservoir models using new data analysis, new wells will be drilled using horizontal drilling technology and also, a new unloading and loading system will replace the existing one.

According to Khojasteh-Mehr, due to the special situation of the oil layer, ordinary vertical drilling methods cannot be used for drilling wells in this field so using the new horizontal drilling technology by the foreign contractor will also be a step toward transferring this technology into the country.

South Pars Oil Layer, which holds about 900 million barrels of oil, is located in southern Iran in the Persian Gulf waters, where the Islamic Republic shares the giant South Pars gas field with Qatar.

The field is the northeastern extension of Al-Shaheen oil field in Qatar. The Iranian portion of the field is located at 67 meters of water depth.

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

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

Iran exports over 56,000 tons of pistachio to 57 countries in a year

TEHRAN- Iran exported 56,298 tons of pistachio worth \$405.04 million to 57 countries during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), IRIB reported.

As reported, the annual export indicates 55.7 percent fall in value and 58.4 percent drop in weight, year on year.

Russia with 7,329 tons of imports was the top export destination for Iranian pistachio during the past year. India with 7,139 tons came next, followed by Iraq, the UAE, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Germany, Turkey and Tajikistan, respectively.

Iran's pistachio exports have been on the decline since the Iranian calendar year 1386 (ended on March 2008), when exports reached



265,000 tons.

Although Iran is mostly known for its vast hydrocarbon resources, there are some other precious products that people all around the world put the Iranian brand on and appreciate greatly, one such product is Iranian “green gold” or pistachio.

Cultivation of pistachios in Iran dates back to the Achaemenid period or the fifth century B.C; Like the great dynasty, the Islamic Republic was the world's unrivaled, leading producer of pistachios for a long time, with southeastern Kerman province being the hub of production for so-called green gold.

Over the past decade, climate change has caused severe drought in Iran, leading to 85 percent of the country being classified as arid or semi-arid. The decline in annual average rainfall and shortage of surface water has forced farmers to dig more wells to pump water from underground reserves.

The situation is the same in Kerman province, which accounts for 70 percent of Iran's pistachio production.

G7 summit raises eyebrows and complaints

From page 1 ►The G7 spoke of “the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait”

“There is no change in the basic positions of the G7 members on Taiwan” it said, while voicing concerns “about the human rights situation in China”, including in Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

“There is no legal basis for China’s expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea,” the joint statement also read.

The Chinese foreign ministry has hit back at the G7, saying it firmly opposes the joint statement and has complained to summit organizer Japan.

The ministry said that the G7, disregarding China’s concerns, had attacked it and interfered in its internal affairs, including Taiwan.

The ministry spokesperson said “the G7 makes high-sounding claims about ‘promoting a peaceful, stable and prosperous world’, but what it does is hindering international peace, undermining regional stability and curbing other countries’ development. That simply shows how little international credibility means to the G7.”

“Affairs related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet are purely China’s internal affairs. China firmly opposes interference by any external force in those affairs under the pretext of human rights.”

The Chinese ministry further lashed out at the G7 over the South China Sea, accusing foreign parties of trying to drive a wedge between China and its neighbors.

The U.S. regularly sails warship carrier strike groups through the South China Sea while sending advanced weapons to separatist forces in the Chinese province of Taiwan. Measures that Beijing says bring further instability to the region.

AFGHANISTAN

“We note with grave concern increased threats to stability and the dire humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan.”

The G7 fails to mention the U.S. destructive role in bringing about insecurity and the dire humanitarian and economic situation during Washington’s 20-year war and occupation of Afghanistan.

The U.S. has frozen \$7 billion of Afghan assets. International Human Rights groups say releasing those funds would go a long way to easing the humanitarian suffering that America left behind following its withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021.

IRAN

The G7 communiqué stresses “our clear determination that Iran must never develop a nuclear weapon.”

Iran has expressed its strong opposition to nuclear weapons and advocates a world free of any weapons of mass destruction as it has been on the receiving end of such weapons when the West provided to the former Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein to use against Iranians.

Anti-drone operation in Hezbollah drill with live ammunition

Hezbollah launched a military drill in South Lebanon on Sunday, drawing the presence of local, regional, and international media personnel.

The itinerary included a visit to a resistance camp and participation in a live weapons military exercise, showcasing Hezbollah’s military strength on the commemoration of the 25 May 2000 Resistance and Liberation Day.

As the organizers prepared for the tour, South Lebanon was inundated with Israeli drones surveilling the area.

During the military drill, Hezbollah conducted a remarkable maneuver, showcasing their combat capabilities. In a daring display, their fighters successfully captured an enemy military vehicle, demonstrating their tactical prowess. Explosive-laden UAVs targeted potential Israeli targets in the drill venue.

The drill included several exercises simulating

Hezbollah attacks on Israeli outposts in any future battle, when Hezbollah fighters could invade the Galilee in occupied Palestine. The resistance fighters showed valiant military skills, using both light and heavy weapons in a breathtaking exercise.

With the call of “O Sahib Zaman” (Imam Mahdi A.S.), the exercises started showcasing the “Personal Defense” parade. Then, several drones were deployed to the “drone offensive.”

Adding to the spectacle, a parade of motorbikes filled the scene, with each bike carrying two fighters. In a well-coordinated ballet of battle, the fighter positioned at the rear would swiftly disembark, engaging in a fierce exchange of gunfire before smoothly rejoining the moving motorcycle. The seamless exercise highlighted their exceptional training and proficiency.

Head of Hezbollah Executive Council Sayyed

Hashem Safieddine arrived at the event post asserting the resistance prowess and readiness to any Israeli stupidity. “Martyr Leader Imad Moughnieh had never been a terrorist, he’s a resistance leader and will remain so,” Safieddine said on Moughnieh whose posters were filling the place. His eminence indicated that Hezbollah is on alert and fully ready to engage in any future battle.

“If the Israeli enemy tries to attack us, they will be showered with precision-guided missiles that they could never retaliate,” Sayyed Safieddine said.

Journalists on the ground expressed their awe, describing the military parade as an unparalleled spectacle. “It’s an unprecedented, enthralling military parade I have ever seen in my life,” a journalist said from the drill post, which was a previous Israeli outpost before it was liberated in May 2000.



Global intelligence agencies have acknowledged that Iran’s nuclear program is peaceful, including the U.S. intelligence community, which testified before Congress, to the anger of former U.S. President Donald Trump.

In addition to the more than one dozen reports by the IAEA that have certified no diversion in Iran’s nuclear program, Tehran says its peaceful nuclear program for medical and energy purposes is in line with the country’s undeniable rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The G7 statement makes no mention of Israel’s nuclear weapons program, which has refused to sign the NPT. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Israel has about 90 nuclear weapons.

The statement does allude to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as the best way to resolve the dispute with the West while ironically failing to mention the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA.

Experts say the U.S. and its Western allies use the nuclear issue to maintain sanctions on Iran and scaremongering its neighbors.

“Iran must stop supporting” Russia in the Ukraine war and “we call upon Iran to cease transferring armed UAVs, which have been used to attack Ukraine’s critical infrastructure,” is another part of the controversial G7 statement.

Tehran has, time and again, said it sold drones to Russia before the Ukraine conflict erupted in February 2021. It has repeatedly asked Ukrainian authorities for evidence that Iranian drones are being used in the war.

As of today, Tehran has yet to receive any solid evidence.

UKRAINE

The G7 communiqué on Ukraine is accompanied by another joint statement of about 3,000 words.

There is no mention of Russia’s security concerns when the U.S.-led NATO military alliance expanded eastwards on Russian borders, which led to the eruption of the war.

The G7 says it will continue to pump weapons into the warzone, essentially prolonging it.

A section in the separate joint

statement reads “we will continue our efforts to ensure that Russia pays for the long-term reconstruction of Ukraine.” Western politicians have said this should come out of the \$300 billion dollars NATO has frozen as part of the unprecedented sanctions against Russia.

NATO critics believe the military alliance is trying to contain Russia with Ukraine being used as a proxy and that NATO should foot the bill for Ukraine’s reconstruction.

PALESTINE

The G7 reiterates the usual statements from the international community about taking steps towards a so-called two state solution.

“All parties must refrain from unilateral actions, including settlement activities and incitement to violence,” the statement adds.

There is no mention whatsoever of the Israeli war crimes, including the massacre of 33 Palestinians – including 6 children and 3 women – this month nor the roughly 120 Palestinians killed so far this year in the occupied West Bank along with the other atrocities committed against them.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The gathering discussed “a vision” and “expressed commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons.”

It is quite ironic that the meeting was held in the city of Hiroshima, where the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb along with the city of Nagasaki, killing and maiming hundreds of thousands of people.

Other places where civilians are still feeling the side effects of U.S. nukes is the Marshall Islands, where the Pentagon conducted 67 nuclear tests.

As the only country in the world to have ever fired nuclear bombs against another nation, the U.S. should perhaps take the lead and dismantle its own nuclear weapons stockpile so others can follow suit.

TRADE

The joint statement says the G7 stood “united in our commitment to free and fair trade as foundational principles and objectives of the rules-based multilateral trading system.”

The U.S. has displayed anything but multilateralism in the global trading

system, consistently creating barriers for other nations to trade freely.

Unilateral measures taken by Washington, which seeks to tighten its hegemonic grip on international monetary organizations coupled with its sanctions regime, have prevented a vast number of countries from being able to trade freely.

TERRORISM

The G7 signaled its “strong commitment to working together with all relevant actors to counter all forms of terrorism and violent extremism”

The U.S. has waged wars and militarily intervened in West Asia, North Africa, and elsewhere that has seen a significant rise in terrorism and violent extremism.

Washington is required to review its foreign policy if it is really serious about combating terrorism and violent extremism.

Experts believe the U.S. establishment has been waging wars and militarily interfering in regions like West Asia with the goal of destabilizing them with the spread of terrorism.

It has left countries in the region to take on the real task of tackling terrorism that arose because of the U.S. military presence beyond its borders, something that some U.S. officials and lawmakers have acknowledged.

REFUGEES

“We reaffirm our commitment to protecting refugees,” the communiqué reads.

The West has been waging wars on the pretext of supporting the people of those countries, while closing the door on war refugees from reaching the West.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The G7 affirms its “commitment to upholding human rights and dignity of all, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that everyone can participate fully and equally in society.”

Try and translate this to Black Americans or Black British people who face institutionalized racism and are regularly shot dead at traffic stops because of the color of their skin.

China alludes to this by saying “the G7 needs to stop pointing fingers ... and take a hard look at their own history and human rights record.”

WORLD HEADLINES

Russian says it took full control of Ukraine’s Bakhmut

The Russian Defense Ministry announced on Saturday that its forces had gained full control of the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut.

“As a result of the offensive actions by the Wagner assault units, supported by artillery and aviation of the Yug Group of Forces, the liberation of Artyomovsk has been completed,” it wrote on Twitter.

Russian forces have been attempting to capture Bakhmut, a transport and logistics hub in the Donetsk region, which is part of the largely Russian-speaking industrialized Donbas region, for several months.

Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated the Wagner paramilitary group and Russian soldiers for capturing the Ukrainian city at the center of recent fighting.

The head of the paramilitary group stated on Saturday that his forces had taken complete control of the city.

Bahrain to restore full diplomatic relations with Lebanon

Bahrain says it will restore full diplomatic relations with Lebanon following a row over the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen that saw the countries break ties for a year and a half.

Manama said on Saturday it was bringing an end to the impasse, a move welcomed by Beirut.

Bahrain and other Persian Gulf Arab countries followed Saudi Arabia in recalling their diplomats from Lebanon in October 2021 after the then-information minister, George Kordahi, was quoted as criticising the Saudi role in the war in Yemen, which has produced what the United Nations describes as the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Kordahi said in an interview, which he gave a month before his appointment but it later surfaced online, that Ansarallah were “defending themselves ... against an external aggression” in Yemen. He also said the long-running conflict was “futile” and called for it to end.

In response, Riyadh recalled its ambassador and ordered Lebanon’s envoy to leave the kingdom. Its Persian Gulf allies – the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain – followed suit, expelling Lebanon’s envoys.

Türkiye ‘strongly condemns’ Israeli security minister’s raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque complex



The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Sunday “strongly condemned” Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir’s storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem. “We strongly condemn the storming of Al-Haram Al-Sharif on 21 May by the Israeli Minister of National Security under the protection of Israeli security forces in clear breach of the international law,” the ministry said in a written statement.

Entering the Haram al-Sharif area early in the morning with special guards and under the protection of the Israeli forces, Ben-Gvir

claimed Israel’s ownership of the complex in a video message from the mosque’s courtyard.

Ankara called on Israel to “act responsibly, and to put an end to all kinds of provocative actions violating the historical status of Al-Haram Al-Sharif that is based on the international law.”

“It is in no way acceptable that Israeli Government members challenge the historical status of Al-Haram Al-Sharif in this manner and commit inflammatory and fascist actions,” the Turkish ministry added.

This was the second time Ben-Gvir entered the complex since taking office as national security minister in the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last December.

Ben-Gvir previously entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Jan. 3, days after he took office, and with this action, he became the first Israeli minister on duty to enter the mosque in five years.

Trump victory would be ‘the end of Ukraine’: Clinton



If Donald Trump is re-elected in 2024, it would spell the downfall of both Ukraine and democracy in America, warned former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Saturday.

Speaking to the Financial Times, Clinton, who served as secretary of state under Barack Obama and lost to Trump in the 2016 election, said she does not believe that her former rival will be successful this time.

However, she claimed that if Trump does win in 2024, it will be “the end of democracy in the United States” and “the end of Ukraine,” as he will withdraw the country from NATO. Clinton went on to say that Russian President Vladimir Putin believed Trump would do so had he won the 2020 election. “Trump was the gift that kept giving to people like [Chinese leader Xi Jinping] and Putin,” she said, accusing him of being “enamored of authoritarians” and “inept in any kind of strategic approach to China.” She added that Trump was “clearly going to do whatever Putin wanted on NATO.”

Clinton also said she once believed that China was preparing to “make [a] move against Taiwan” within a few years but the Ukraine conflict discouraged Beijing from attempting to reclaim the island, which it regards as part of its sovereign territory.

Pope urges Sudan’s warring sides to lay down arms as new cease-fire looms

Pope Francis called on Sudan’s warring forces to lay down their arms on Sunday, expressing dismay about the ongoing fighting and worsening humanitarian situation in the African country.

“It’s sad that a month after the explosion of violence in Sudan, the situation continues to be grave,” he told the faithful who’d gathered in St. Peter’s Square for his weekly appearance.

For over a month, the Sudanese army, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, have been locked in a violent power struggle that has killed more than 800 civilians, the Sudan Doctor’s Union said.

“Please, let’s not get used to conflicts and violence, and let’s not get used to war, please,” Pope Francis said during his appeal.

Experts discuss ways to help safeguard Astarabad



TEHRAN – On Sunday, a panel of cultural heritage experts, professional restorers, and archaeologists exchanged views to help safeguard the ancient city of Astarabad, which lies at the south-eastern corner of the Caspian Sea, northern Iran.

The meeting was held after Golestan province's tourism directorate approved detailed plans to protect the ancient city, based on which the historical core of Astarabad will be maintained as a lively, dynamic area, relying on its heritage values in connection with the surrounding environment.

Astarabad is located on a small tributary of the Qareh River, 37 km from the Caspian Sea. Suffered from the incursions of the Turkmen tribes occu-

pying the plain north of the Qareh River, the city, which dates back to the Achaemenian period, was subject to incessant tribal conflicts between Qajars and Turkmen in the 19th century. In the 1930s, it was renamed Gorgan after it was destroyed by an earthquake.

Golestan embraces hundreds of historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous. The province is famed for being home to an ancient defensive wall of the same name ("The Great Wall of Gorgan") which stretched some 200 km in length and was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes.

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

Qajar-era Yakhchal to undergo restoration

TEHRAN –The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Mir Fat-tah Yakhchal (ice storage) in the city of Malayer, west-central Hamedan province, will undergo some rehabilitation works, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 15 billion rials (\$30,000) has been allocated to the project, which is scheduled to be carried out within two weeks, Atabak Safari explained on Sunday.

The historical structure, which is one of the unique tourist attractions of the region, has undergone several restoration projects over the years, the official added.

When there was no electricity, no refrigerators,



and no appliances, people kept a huge amount of water next to the high walls of Yakhchal, which cast a shadow that kept the water cool.

The water turned into ice during the wintertime. Then people cut the ice into many portable parts and put them in the ice house and covered the surface of the ice with special local grass.

Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque: restoration work ends on quarter of creamy dome

TEHRAN — Restoration work has been completed on one quarter of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque's floral dome — during which serious errors in its creamy tiles were repaired.

"For the restoration work, the dome surface was divided into 16 portions, of which four portions have recently been restored," Isfahan's deputy tourism chief said on Sunday.

Restoration of other portions will start as soon as the needed funds are secured, Seyyed Mehdi Mousavi-Movahed said.

A new round of restoration has been running since 2020, as the previous work of poor quality caused a lot of criticism from experts and authorities.

According to Mousavi-Movahed, the new project is aimed at fixing deficiencies and problems caused by the previous restoration season.

In October 2020, the provincial cultural heritage department announced that as the dome is not in



good condition and has some new cracks, it was decided to restore it once more, acknowledging the expertise of top traditional restorers and academic achievements used to save the monument without damaging its splendor.

While images taken on a snowy day in Isfahan in 2019 showed all but one part of the dome covered in snow, media and experts blamed

the flawed restoration work, which used modern waterproofing materials that protect the damaged integrity of the dome.

Referring to different color shades between the original tiles of the dome with the restored ones, Mousavi-Movahed said that variance had reduced after several rainfalls.

Restoration and conservation

experts have criticized local authorities for not paying enough attention to the architectural masterpiece, which was built 400 years ago during the Safavid Empire.

Later, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts reaffirmed there must have been a mistake in the restoration. Experts said the repair workers could have used hydrated building materials containing polymeric substances. Others suggested that cracks in the dome caused by previous restoration work could be responsible. Moreover, it turned into a greater fear, raising doubts about the fate of the majestic mosque and warning of the risk of a complete collapse.

Compared to many mosques around the country, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque seems relatively unusual in that it has neither a minaret nor a courtyard, which is probably because the mosque was never intended for public use, but rather as a place to worship women.

Paleontology, science museum inaugurated in Tus

TEHRAN –On Saturday, a museum of paleontology and science was officially inaugurated in the ancient city of Tus, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

In addition to fossils and reconstructions of dinosaur skeletons, there are animals from all over Iran, rocks and minerals, astronomy, and a journey into the human body on display in the museum, Ehsan Zohrehvandi explained on Sunday.

The complex currently occupies 350 square meters, but it will expand to twice this size in the

future, the official added.

By having this museum near the historical city of Tus, tourism capacity in the region will be increased, which will lead to prosperity and development, he noted.

Located near the provincial capital of Mashhad, which is one of the top tourist attractions of the country, Tus has been the birthplace of some important cultural and scientific Iranian figures in the past centuries.

The city was captured by Alexander the Great

in c. 330 BC and it was destroyed once during the Mongol invasion, and again by the Timurids, and many of its people were killed.

Tus is famed as a cultural hub and is home to many national figures. Ferdowsi is a world-renowned poet whose mythical poems are translated into various languages. Many Iranians regard Ferdowsi as the greatest of their poets. Down through the centuries, they have continued to read and listen to recitations from his masterwork, the Shahnameh.

Hand-woven carpets on show in Sanandaj

TEHRAN –Sanandaj, the capital of the western Kordestan province, is hosting an exhibition of 45 old hand-woven carpets, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Some 45 carpets are on show in

the Kurd House of the city on the occasion of Cultural Heritage Week (May 18-25), Mansour Mehrzad explained on Sunday.

The hand-woven carpets of Kord-estan are among the most authentic

Iranian carpets, known worldwide for their beauty and durability, the official added.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally, with the medallion pattern being arguably the most

characteristic feature of them all. Weavers spend several months in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of threads. Some practice established patterns. Some make their own.

Academic meeting discusses cultural heritages of Fars



TEHRAN –On Saturday, a number of archaeologists, cultural heritage scholars, and directors of the World Heritage sites of Fars discussed the cultural heritages of the southern province in a meeting in Shiraz, CHTN reported on Sunday.

The experts also explored ways to help safeguard cultural heritage in the UNESCO-designated sites of Persepolis, Pasargadae, and Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region, the report added.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The royal city of Persepolis, which ranks among the archaeological sites

which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art, was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

The 160-ha archaeological site of Pasargadae presents some of the earliest manifestations of Persian art and architecture. It includes, among other monuments, the compact limestone tomb on the Morgab plain that once held Cyrus the Great's gilded sarcophagus; Tall-e Takht ("Solomon's Throne"), a great fortified platform built on a hill and later incorporated into a sprawling citadel with substantial mud-brick defenses; and the royal ensemble, which consists of several palaces originally located within a garden layout (the so-called "Four Gardens"). Pasargadae became a prototype for the Persian Garden concept of four quadrants formally divided by

waterways or pathways, its architecture characterized by refined details and slender verticality.

Pasargadae stands as an exceptional witness to the Achaemenid civilization. The vast Achaemenid Empire, which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Indus River in India, is considered the first empire to be characterized by respect for the cultural diversity of its peoples.

Experts believe that Pasargadae represents the first phase of this development, specifically Persian architecture, which later found its full expression in the city of Persepolis.

In 2018, an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran, titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region", was named a UNESCO site. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bis-hapur, and Sarvestan.

The World Heritage reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which latter had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.



PAKISTAN EMBASSY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE,
TEHRAN

Jobs Available

PEISCT Invites applications from competent Teachers/Admin Staff (Locals & Pakistanis expats) for the following positions with leadership qualities and good communication skills. Computer skills are must for Sr. No. 1-9.

Sr. No	Position	Requirements
1	Early Years Education Teachers	Bachelors/Masters with Early Childhood Education (3 yrs relevant experience)
2	Primary, Secondary & Higher Secondary Sections Teachers ('O' & 'A' Levels)	Bachelors/Masters in English, Urdu, General Science, Maths, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 yrs relevant experience)
3	Faculty Counselor	Academician with Bachelors/Masters degree in Education, good knowledge of teaching pedagogies and School Administration (5 yrs relevant experience)
4	Students' Counselor	Bachelors/Masters in Educational Psychology (3 yrs relevant experience)
5	Library Teacher	Bachelors/Masters in Library Science (3 yrs relevant experience)
6	Physical Education/Sports Teacher	Bachelors/Masters in Physical Education (5 yrs relevant experience)
7	Accountant/Accounts Assistant	Bachelors/Masters in Accounting (5 yrs relevant experience)
8	Receptionist	Bachelors with good communication and computer skills (3 yrs relevant experience)
9	General Assistant	Bachelors with 3 years administrative experience
10	Office Helper, Guard/Resident Caretaker, & EYE Helpers	Literate, having character certificate with 3 years relevant experience

- Positions at sr. No 3, 4, and 5 need to have teaching experience too.
- CVs with latest photographs and handwritten applications may be emailed to the following address: peisct@gmail.com within 10 days of advertisement date.
- Please mention position title and section applied in the email Subject.**
- Only shortlisted candidates will be notified on their given phone numbers or email addresses. (Please do not enquire on phone).

Second Announcement

Shahrekord Cement Industries Company Shahrekord Cement Company's Export Clinker Sale's Announcement

Shahrekord Cement Industries Company (Private Joint Stock) intends to sell 300,000/tons (in parts of 50,000 tons) of it's export cement clinker in 2023. Therefore, all competent companies having the ability to purchase and export the said amount, are hereby invited to get the auction documents from the company's address, located at No.4/6, Azadegan Lane, beside Tehran Clinic Hospital, Ghaem Magham Farahani Ave., Tehran, Postal Code: 1586735914 or through the **Company's website as:** <http://shahrekordcement.com>

The document should be sent to the mentioned address and delivered in the sealed envelope to Mr.Mohammad Ehsan Ghafoori in managing director's office until 25 May 2023 .

If you need more information, please contact us with Phone No. +98 21 88704400-2, Ext.137 Fax No: +98 21 88715415

E-Mail:info@shahrekordcement.com , E-Mail:nazari@shahrekordcement.com

Shahrekord Cement Industries Company

Package policy drawn up to promote knowledge-based products

TEHRAN – General outlines of a package policy aimed at promoting knowledge-based products have been approved.

Accordingly, a fund will be set up by the private sector with about \$16 million in capital with the cooperation of the Central Insurance Company, IRNA reported.

The fund is projected to find investment opportunities in the field of biotechnologies and health based on the strategic needs and priorities of the country.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund has paid a total of 27.8 trillion rials (nearly \$55 million) to support knowledge-based companies over the last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2022-March 2023), IRNA reported.

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

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

Moreover, 326 companies are operating in the field of medical equipment, 1821 companies in electricity and electronics, 1778 companies in information technology, 397 companies in com-



mercialization, and 31 companies in creative industries and humanities.

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

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

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

innovation ecosystem and the approval of laws for supporting knowledge-based companies and boosting Iran-made products.

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

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

A fund will be set up by the private sector with about \$16 million in capital.

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

Academic ties developing with Africa, Latin America



TEHRAN – Iran is developing academic relations with African and Latin American countries both in exchanging students and professors, Vahid Haddadi-Asl, the Iranian deputy science minister, has said.

Now, scientific relations and cooperation are established with Muslim countries, China and Russia at a high level, he said, IRNA reported.

"Regarding African countries, relations are growing strong and we have favorable relations with some Latin American countries," he added.

In general, the Ministry of Science is working on the four major fields of student exchange, transfer of professors, expansion of Persian language and literature, and finally technological and innovative exchanges, he highlighted.

A total of 94,406 foreign students from 91 countries are studying in Iranian universities, according to statistics released in the Iranian year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022).

One of the policies of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is to try to promote di-

versity in the admission of international students, ILNA quoted deputy science minister Hashem Dadashpour as saying.

In other words, "admitting from all countries and sending only to top universities," he added.

"We are determined and try to admit students from all nationalities, although, in line with the goals and strategic policies of higher education, we have priority over the countries of origin for admitting students."

"Now we have students from 91 nationalities in the country's universities, some of them are from European and American countries," Dadashpour said.

Naturally, a higher percentage of students is from neighboring countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, he noted.

"Our universities offer all the courses required in the doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degrees. Of course, fields such as law, computer, electronics engineering, medicine, accounting, Persian language and literature, civil engineering, business management, physical education, economics, Arabic language and literature, English language, psychology, mechanical engineering, and chemical engineering are more popular than other fields."

The Ministry of Science has facilitated residence for university students from Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria, Dadashpour said in March.

The possibility of staying during studies for students from these countries has been provided in some provinces and soon this issue will be extended to all parts of the country.

Students from these countries can enter and leave the country four times per year, he added.

Obtaining a residence permit every year and the requirement to do so is one of the problems of international students, he highlighted.

In this regard, through negotiations with several countries, including Syria and Lebanon, the problem of residence during the study has been solved.

For students of other countries, including Afghanistan, a three-year residence permit is issued from the second year of their studies, and students from this country can also enter and leave Iran without any problems, he explained.

These students are studying in different fields of science, research and technology, health and medical education, and also in the fields of humanities, Islamic sciences, Persian language, and literature, law, fundamentals of Islamic law, management fields, economics, psychology, social sciences, as well as engineering, agricultural sciences, animal sciences, and basic sciences.

The number of foreign students will double in Iranian universities in the next three years.

Iran is among the 15 successful countries in attracting international students, according to Mohammad Javad Salmanpour, the deputy head of the Organization for Student Affairs.

The education of foreign students in Iran has grown significantly compared to previous years, even last year, it has doubled, he said.

Iran has the ability and capacity to have more than 250,000 foreign students by 2026, he stated.

Women from the Leader's point of view-4

Iranian women at forefront of Islamic Revolution

From page 1 ► Iranian women's movements and their effective role before the victory of the Islamic Revolution were stronger than ever before. By encouraging their husbands and children to fight against the Shah's [Mohammad Reza Pahlavi] regime, they tried to overthrow the tyrant government, which was one of the effective factors in the evolving process of the Revolution.

Speaking about the role of women in the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini [Founder of the Islamic Republic] said, "If the role of the women was not greater than that of the men, it was certainly no less. Their presence on the various fields of battle made the faint-hearted strong and doubled the strength of the strong. And you yourselves can vouch for the fact that the role of you ladies throughout this Islamic movement, this Islamic Revolution, has been greater. For you were both active yourselves and inspired the men to be active too. You have been a source of pride and it is much appreciated." (April 8, 1984)

Defiant Iranian women played a crucial role in the success of the Islamic Revolution. Some women backed the Islamic Revolution because they were living under a government [Pahlavi dynasty (1925-1979)] that had no respect for the traditional and Islamic values that many of them had been taught to respect. These women didn't want to be molded into Western women; they wanted to create their own images. They felt the Pahlavi regime was trying to make them into mindless Western dolls to keep their minds off more important issues, like politics.

These women who participated in revolutionary and religious activities believed that an Islamic government would give them the respect they deserve. Women took an active role in discussing the issues surrounding them, including what constituted proper attire. Forms of dress were increasingly becoming a matter of choice.

In this regard, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in one of his speeches said, "Fortunately pious women have been pioneers in different arenas and in different events in our society, not just after the Revolution... Iranian women rose up at a time when only a few religious scholars and outstanding personalities were involved in the issue. They arranged a gathering and blocked the path of the ruler of the time... In the case of the resistance that led to the Islamic Revolution, I know for a fact that in certain parts of the country, our women entered the arena earlier than our men. They arranged street protests earlier than men." (May 12, 2012)

Women living in that era also were tired of the corruption and incompetency of the government and were also horrified by the violent way that the regime dealt with peaceful demonstrations. Iranian women, through their support of the Islamic Revolution, were looking for an alternative to the Shah regime.

There isn't one specific group of women

that can be pinpointed as the main participants in revolutionary activities; Women from all walks of life, rich and poor, liberal and secular, amplified their revolutionary roles and activities. Support for the Islamic Revolution among women increased, as the Shah's brutality increased. Women's participation in revolutionary activities was non-violent for the most part, although some women did become famous for their participation in guerilla warfare. Women became ever more instrumental in the days leading up to the success of the Islamic Revolution. However dreadful the storm was, it was the women who bore the brunt – as Ayatollah Khamenei often indicated, it was the women who carried the heaviest burdens in those times.

"In fact, during the Revolution, women were the frontline soldiers of the Revolution; this is not an exaggeration... If women did not accept the Revolution and did not believe in it, the Revolution would certainly not have happened, because first of all, half of the group of revolutionaries would not be directly present at the scene; Secondly, they indirectly would influence their children, husbands, and brothers [for not attending revolutionary activities]," said Ayatollah Khamenei. (January 16, 1990)

Some of the responsibilities women took upon themselves, during the revolution, were as follows: educating others on the religious ideologies, which facilitated the revolutionary process; women also took to writing and expressing themselves, by way of their own female-centric pamphlets and magazine publications; besides from taking part in the demonstrations, they also spread the word on events that were to take place against the Shah. Some of them cared for the wounded, opened their homes when needed, and female doctors provided medical assistance.

As a further matter, religious enlightenment paralleled with the struggle for women's rights led many women to adopt Islamic values; additionally, to show their disdain for the Shah and support of the revolutionaries. They took to chador, as a symbol of their support – for and with the revolutionaries.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also in one of his speeches talked about some clerics who opposed political roles of women during the Revolution, saying, "I admit that our magnanimous Imam [Khomeini] was the first person who understood the roles of all people in society—including women... Imam Khomeini (r.a.) had the same attitude towards women: he understood the importance within each role that women could play. On the other hand, there were certain luminaries, among our religious scholars, who had to be convinced whether it was necessary to let women take part in demonstrations. They used to say that women should not take part in the demonstrations. Imam Khomeini's thoughts and determination were shaped into a firm pillar, which people relied upon in order to stand up against such views: views that were historically presented by important centers." (January 4, 2012)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone

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

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

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

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

اعمال محدودیت ها اکثر شهرها را از وضعیت قرمز خارج کرد

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

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



Beautiful rocky beach in southeastern Iran

Brais beach and wharf in the southeastern port of Chabahar is one of the most beautiful rocky beaches in the country.

From the top of the cliffs, people can see a spectacular view of the sea with ships and boats going by.

