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Report

Pages

Mass shooting "terror" in American schools

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- The U.S. is set to break the record this year for the most mass shootings in modern history.

Outside of warfare or a conflict zone, there is no other country that experiences such ongoing gun violence in everyday public life.

In the latest incident, the attacker caused "terror" in yet another mass shooting at a school.

This is the one place where children, the most vulnerable in society, have seen an uptick in the number of mass shootings over the decades, leaving so many young innocent souls traumatized for the rest of their lives.

The gunman went on a shooting rampage firing at a crowd attending a high school graduation ceremony in Virginia, leading to seven casualties.

According to police, two people, who are reported to be a boy and his young father, have been killed, while five others have sustained gunshot wounds.

Addressing a press conference, Richmond Police Chief Rick Edwards branded the attacker's action as "disgusting and cowardly."

Edwards says the deceased were men aged 18 and 36, while the wounded included a 31-year-old man who has suffered life-threatening injuries and four other males aged 14, 32, 55 and 58 who are expected to survive.

In addition to that, a 9-year-old girl was hit by a car in the chaos and panic that ensued the shooting, and multiple other people were injured in falls or suffered from anxiety. ► Page 5

Op-ed

Iranian women's role in Sacred Defense literature, cinema undeniable

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN - Although the literature and cinema of the Sacred Defense period are mostly manly and based on the stories of male combatants on the battlefield, women also played great roles in these fields that cannot be ignored.

The role of women in Iran is very important. Women have always had a significant impact on events in different periods of history. The effective role of women during the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988) is undeniable- the women who supported the brave warriors in the Sacred Defense with their indescribable sacrifice. ► Page 7

Endogenous Maritime Security



secure waters Page 3

Investment packages introduced for Russia partaking in Iran's petchem sector

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said that many Russian companies are interested in investing in the downstream petrochemical industries in Iran, and different and attractive investment packages have been prepared and introduced in this field.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of RosPlast Exhibition in Moscow, Morteza

Shah-Mirzaei said the National Petrochemical Company is mainly interested in cooperation with Russian companies for exchanging technical and engineering services, technology transfer and the export of catalysts needed by Russia's petrochemical industry.

"With the investigations carried out, Russia can now export some of its sur-

plus petrochemical products such as styrene and polypropylene to the Iranian market, and in return import technical and engineering services, especially in the field of technology and catalysts, from our country," Shah-Mirzaei noted.

Stating that Iran's long-term strategy and diplomacy is to strengthen bilateral cooperation and partnership > Page 4

capability TEHRAN-Iran will not hesitate to strengthen its defensive and deterrence capabilities, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Tuesday night.

Tehran says

won't hesitate to

reinforce deterrence

The statement by Kanaani came in response to scathing comments by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

"The U.S. secretary of state made baseless comments against the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with his country's all-out support for the apartheid Zionist regime," Kanaani noted.

Speaking at AIPAC's Policy Summit in Washington DC, Blinken accused Iran of "exporting aggression" and attempting to "obtain a nuclear weapon". He also echoed Washington's "all options are on the table" in regard to Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tehran is unwavering in opposing the Apartheid regime of Israel and backing the nations to decide on their destiny. > Page 2

Russian diplomat blasts US, E3 for making unfounded claims against Iran

TEHRAN - During a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna on Tuesday, a senior Russian diplomat lambasted the United States and its European allies for leveling false charges against Iran for its nuclear program, saying that "it is difficult to take them seriously."

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, urged the U.S. and the E3 — France, Germany, and the UK — to return to the Vienna negotiations to complete a deal that would revive the 2015 international accord on Iran's nuclear program.

"In the #IAEA BoG Western states expressed numerous complaints and concerns about nuclear programme of #Iran. It's difficult to take them seriously, because the #US and #E3 can help settle these problems fast if they return to the #ViennaTalks to finalise the agreement on #JCPOA," Ulyanov tweeted. ► Page 2

Traces of Chalcolithic settlements discovered in northwest Iran

TEHRAN - A team of Iranian archae- Ages, ISNA quoted Iranian archaeologist and the Bronze Age. It is taken to begin Mahnaz Sharifi as saying on Wednesday.

around the mid-5th millennium BC and ends with the beginning of the Bronze Age proper, in the late 4th to 3rd millennium BC, depending on the region. The Stone Age was a broad prehistoric period during which stone was widely used to make tools with an edge, a point, or a percussion surface. > Page 6

ologists has found traces of Chalcolithic settlements in Tepe Kohneh Sufian in the city of Oshnavieh, northwest Iran.

Excavation conducted on the archaeological hill situated in the highlands of northwestern Iran has successfully led to the identification of a significant site dating back to the Copper and Stone

This discovery is expected to deepen Iran's comprehension of the fifth millennium BC society, tracing back to almost 7,000 years ago, she added.

The Chalcolithic or Copper Age is the transitional period between the Neolithic

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

Tehran Papers 🚹

IMessages of hypersonic missile

In its editorial, Kayhan discussed the unveiling of the hypersonic Fattah missile. It wrote: The unveiling of the hypersonic missile can have a clear message for the governments that take illegal and arbitrary actions against > Page 2

From Inside

- Imam Khomeini's Legacy: A viable and resilient model of Islamic governance P2
- Iran-Saudi nuclear cooperation possible: report **P3**
- IRISL operating regular shipping line to export Iranian goods to Syria P4
- · Tourism projects come on stream in East Azarbaijan **P6**
- Iran to equip Venezuelan science and technology park P7
- "Motherless" director honored at London Rainbow film festival P8

Kapogianni optimistic about women basketball future

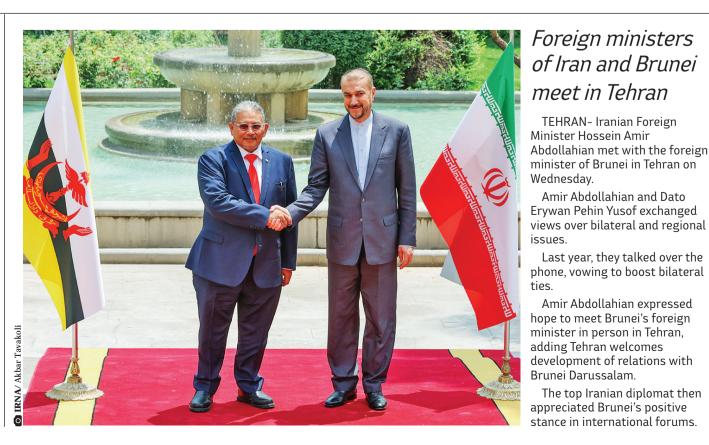
TEHRAN - Greek coach Eleni Kapogianni is optimistic about the future of Iran's women's basketball team. Team Iran prepare for the 2023 Women's Basketball Division B Asian Cup, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from August 13 to 19.

"I am very satisfied with my team in the training. We started the preparation with 30 players and we train with 15 players at the moment," Kapogianni said.

"The Iranian players love basketball and I am very happy to train them. They've made a lot of progress since I've been here and I think they are capable of further improving but they need more time," she added.

"We will participate in the 2023 Women's Basketball Division B Asian Cup with the aim of being among the best," Kapogianni stated.

The event will bring Thailand, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Jordan together.



POLITICS

JUNE 8, 2023 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

•TEHRAN PAPERS

Messages of hypersonic missile

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

In its editorial, Kayhan discussed the unveiling of the hypersonic Fattah missile. It wrote: The unveiling of the hypersonic missile can have a clear message for the governments that take illegal and arbitrary actions against in the interests of the Iranian nation. Militarily, not only it will act as a deterrent missile, it will also show its deterrence in economic and political areas. It is because the enemy has waged a war against the Iranian nation and does not make a distinction between military, economic, political, security and cultural and even diplomatic areas. Any field is considered as a target for attack on the Iranian nation. We must recognize the enemy's threats and say that the result of its recourse to illegal sanctions against Iran's interests will certainly meet our reciprocal actions.

Hamshahri: Fattah missile is not the final station

Hamshahri dedicated its editorial to the hypersonic missile as well. The paper said: It is not only the high speed that has made Fattah a missile with special characteristics. It has great maneuverability by using sophisticated thrust vector technology to cause errors in the enemy's air defense systems. Scientific studies have so far shown that it is not possible to counter hypersonic missiles in a war, and this will guarantee the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the next several decades. It is clear that Fattah is not the final station to strengthen Iran's missile power and other Fattahs will be on the way in the near future.

Shargh: Baku has turned into playground for Tel Aviv

In an analysis, Shargh addressed the relations between Baku and Tel Aviv and its dangers for the security of the Islamic Republic. It wrote: Zionists' efforts to establish relations with Iran's neighbors, especially Islamic countries, will be a threat to that country and the Islamic world. Therefore, the increase of the Zionist regime's influence in Azerbaiian can be a threat to the Caucasus region and especially to Iran, as Israel never seeks to establish peace between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran or between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia to establish security in the Caucasus. In that condition, it will lose large arms contracts with Baku and have no justification to increase its influence in the Caucasus. Of course, any military, securi-

ty and diplomatic movement of the Zionist regime in the Caucasus, Karabakh and the Republic of Azerbaijan is under the surveillance of our military, security and diplomatic institutions, and the smallest action against our security and interests in that region will be faced with a decisive response, but the Zionists in the current unfavorable conditions after Netanyahu's re-election, are trying to increase their relations with Azerbaijan by launching media propaganda to somehow get out of the political pressure and regional and international isolation.

Etemad: Naval alliance proposal

Etemad discussed the reopening of the embassies of Iran and Saudi Arabia and its positive effects. It said: In the past few days, as the news of reopening Iran's diplomatic centers in Saudi Arabia surfaced, the announcement by Iranian Navy Commander Admiral Shahram Irani about forming a joint maritime coalition between Iran and some countries in the region attracted great attention. Irani said: "The joint coalition of the Iranian Navy with the countries of the region, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oatar, Bahrain and Iraq, will be formed soon.

Although this news has not yet been confirmed by these countries, the formation of such a coalition will be important. Currently, the Fifth Fleet of the U.S. Navy based in Bahrain and also a coalition of countries including France, Britain and America provide security for commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf region. The news of such regional maritime coalition emerges as the UAE recently declared that, after security evaluation, it has withdrawn from the U.S.-led maritime security alliance. However, the UAE said it is still committed to providing maritime security in the country's waters based on international law.

Sobh-e-No: The end of unilateralism

In its editorial, Sobh-e-No wrote: Given the recent developments at global level and the end of unilateralism, we are seeing a global effort to end the supremacy of the West. It seems that countries are tired of the role of neutral actors and guarantors of the interests of certain countries. As the countries are trying to reduce their dependence on the West through regional and extra-regional alliances, they are opening the window of friendship towards each other so that in the new international order each of them can become an influential player in their own region.

Iranian ambassador to Riyadh outlines viewpoint on regional security

TEHRAN- The regional nations should embrace a new approach to regional security that is focused on development rather than militarism, according to Iran's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Ali-Reza Enayati made the statements to Iran's Arabic-language al-Alam television news network on Tuesday, the day the Iranian embassy was officially reopened in Riyadh.

"Today, we are after more cooperation with each other and prioritize the issue of regional security based on the concept of development," the ambassador stressed.

Enayati said that militarization of the security issue is "a great mistake," adding that security cannot be obtained by either guns, ammunition, or military troops.

He went to add that for decades the United States and its Western allies have pushed the region's na-



tions to spend billions of dollars on cutting-edge weapons.

"The Western allies have been extensively investing in the anatomization of the countries in the region against one another through either political pressure or media-delivered

misinformation in order to improve sales," he remarked.

He said that Tehran has consistently cautioned the regional players to avoid being seduced by Western offers. Enayati underscored that Iran believes regional nations must work together to secure the region, adding security cannot be brought in from elsewhere or achieved by external military intervention.

"In its new sense, security has to be based on economic, commercial, social, and cultural development," Enayati noted, saying the Islamic Republic welcomes such a vantage point.

Enayati made the comments after being appointed as Iran's new ambassador to Riyadh.

China successfully mediated negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March, which resulted in the signing of an accord that allowed the restoration of their diplomatic ties after a protracted period of estrangement.

Before Iran and Saudi Arabia officially sign the deal to restore ties, Iraq and Oman hosted several rounds of talks between negotiators from Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Tehran says won't hesitate to reinforce deterrence capability

of resorting to force by the U.S. against other gov-

ernments is against international law, especially

the provisions of the United Nations Charter, and

accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not

urging them to reconsider their illegal and already

Foreign Ministry spokesman calls Blinken's remarks "baseless"



From page **1** > "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized that supporting the Palestinian nation is in line with supporting the oppressed and liberation movements and based on advocacy for the right to self-determination, negating occupation and fighting apartheid," Kanaani stated.

Russian diplomat blasts US, E3 for making unfounded claims against Iran

meeting on the verification and inspection of Iran's nuclear activities and the E3 renewed their accusations Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action according to UN Security Council Res-

United States, the European Union,

against the country's nuclear program. (JCPOA), which was signed in 2015,

They urged Iran to fully comply with its responsibilities under the

without naming the United States as the party whose unilateral exit from the deal in 2018 placed the pact's future in doubt.

Imam Khomeini's Legacy: A viable and resilient model of Islamic governance

By Yuram Abdullah Weiler

"Whatever one's opinion of [Imam] Khomeini, it is difficult to deny that he was one of the most astute theo-political leaders in modern history.

Amin Saikal, Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University

It is safe to say that without Imam Khomeini, there would be no Islamic Republic of Iran today. But the ideological earthquake triggered by this charismatic Islamic leader during his lifetime sent tremors well beyond the borders of Iran and the Persian Gulf region, and continues to propagate aftershocks globally to this very day, decades after his heavenly departure on the 13th of the Persian month of Khordad

leased almost a year later. Upon the first anniversary of his arrest, and the subsequent protests, which became known as the 15th of Khordad uprising and were brutally suppressed, the Imam called for a general day of mourning. Months later, he gave another address, this time condemning the shah's benefactor, the United States of America in no uncertain terms. "Let the world know that all the troubles that the Iranian nation and the Muslim nations have are from the U.S.," he declared, "The Islamic nations hate imperialism in general and the U.S. in particular ... It is the U.S. that empowers Israel to make Muslim Arabs homeless..." Once again, the Imam was arrested, but this time, he was flown to Ankara, Turkey on a military aircraft to begin an exile from his homeland, which

ic authority," wrote Henry L. Munson, Jr., Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maine. But there was more at work here than mere charisma: the Imam fully understood the nature of the imperial power he was confronting, which consisted of the massive firepower of the shah's U.S.-trained and equipped military. Therefore, in lieu of armed confrontation, his approach was to appeal to the soldiers in a simple but effective manner, asking them not to shoot and kill their unarmed civilian brothers and sisters who were protesting. As a result, the shah's mighty military machine was immobilized in its tracks; the soldiers initially disobeyed orders to shoot, then began arresting the selfsame officers giving those orders, and, in the end, charged them with crimes against humanity. "Whatever the exact number of casual ties in the course of the Iranian Revolution," writes Professor of Iranian Studies at Columbia University Hamid Dabashi. "There is little doubt that this was a historic confrontation between the power of the spoken word and the might of the loaded machine guns." With the victory of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini had actualized the words of Dr. Ali Shariati, who had prescribed the cure for the illness of the Iranian people under the U.S.-imposed shah as being a return to their authentic Shi'i Islamic identity. "Our people remember nothing from this distant past and do not care to learn about pre-Islamic civilizations," he wrote, referring obliquely to the shah's obsession with returning Iran to the glories of a mythical, pre-Islamic Persian past and relegating Islam and its ulama (clergy) to irrelevancy. "Consequently, for us to return to our roots means not a rediscovery of pre-Islamic Iran, but a return to our Islamic, especially Shi'i, roots." Years earlier, the Iranian intellectual, author and social critic, Jalal Al-e Ahmad, had referred to this societal disease of blind adoration and imitation of everything and anything western as gharbzadegi, which can be translated variously as "weststruckness," "westoxification," or "infatuation with the west." Rightly accusing the traditional, quietist ulama of serving the interests of the shah and the "westoxified" supporters of the regime by their silence, Dr. Shariati transformed the Shi'i concept of entezar, which had meant waiting passively with hopeful expectation for the reappearance of the 12th Imam of the Shi'a, Imam Mahdi (as), into meaning actively resisting, organizing and revolting against taghut (unjust and ungodly) rulers and governments in preparation for the Imam's eventual return.

hesitate to strengthen its deterrent power and rating its military and defensive power. protect its rights and security." Amir Abdollahian went on to say that the es-The spokesperson cautioned the U.S. authorities tablishment of cordial ties and productive partagainst making baseless accusations against Iran, nerships with neighbors will proceed seriously.

The foreign minister added that the region's security and stability are guaranteed by Iran's deterrent capability.

He asserted that Iran will continue to con-

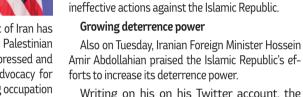
duct "dignified diplomacy" in its attempts to

strengthen its foreign ties while also reinvigo-

gional security and peace."

Amir Abdollahian's comments were made after the Iranian IRGC Aerospace unit unveiled a hypersonic missile, called Fattah.

The missile has a range of 1,400 kilometers, hits speeds of Mach 13-15 and can intercept and destroy all anti-missile shields.



The Foreign Ministry official added, "The threat power serves to guarantee sustainable re-

forts to increase its deterrence power. Writing on his on his Twitter account, the senior diplomat stated that "Iran's deterrence

From page **1** > During the board olution 2231, representatives of the

U.S. slaps fresh sanctions on dozen individuals, entities in Iran, China, Hong Kong

TEHRAN- More than a dozen people and organizations in Iran, China, and Hong Kong have been hit with additional sanctions by the Joe Biden administration for allegedly aiding the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile development.

As part of Washington's alleged pressure campaign against Tehran, the U.S. Treasury Department said in a statement on Tuesday that the new sanctions were directed against a network of seven people and six companies in Iran, China, and Hong Kong.

"This network conducted transactions and facilitated the procurement of sensitive and critical parts and technology for key actors in Iran's ballistic missile development, including Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics," the Treasury Department claimed in the statement.

Beijing Shiny Nights Technology Development, Qingdao Zhongrongtong Trade Development, Hong Kong Ke.Do International Trade Co, Lingoe Process Engineering Limited, and Zhejiang Qingji Ind. Co. are among the firms that have been adversely affected by sanctions.

Additionally, the U.S. Treasury placed sanctions on Davoud Damghani, Iran's defense attaché in Beijing, on the grounds that he orchestrated the purchase of Chinese supplies for Iran's defense industry.

In March 2021, China and Iran inked a 25-year cooperation pact to solidify their long-standing economic and political connection. The sanctions, which forbid U.S. firms and individuals and com-



panies from doing business with anyone included on the blacklist, were announced at the same time.

Despite Iran's complete compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear deal's formal name, the United States under former president Donald Trump unilaterally abandoned the pact in May 2018 and re-imposed crushing sanctions on Iran.

Trump's so-called "maximum pressure" campaign did not succeed in achieving his declared goals, but the waves of sanctions had a severe impact on ordinary Iranians, especially many who were afflicted with life-threatening diseases.

The sanctions, which Trump's successor, Joe Biden, has kept in place, have limited the financial channels available to pay for essential foodstuffs and medication, damaging supply chains by restricting the number of suppliers willing to assist sales of humanitarian items to the country.

Iran has consistently called the sanctions "economic war," "economic terrorism," and "medical terrorism."

in the year 1368 SH, corresponding to June 3, 1989.

Born on the 30th of Shahrivar in the year 1281, September 24, 1902, in the central Iranian town of Khomein, the young Ruhollah Mousavi experienced the pain of being orphaned at the age of five months when his father, Ayatollah Mostafa Mousavi, was martyred while travelling from Khomein to Arak. By the age of 15, the young future founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran had also lost his mother, Banu Hajar, and his aunt, Sahebeh Khanom. In the year 1300 SH / 1921 CE, the young Khomeini migrated to Qom to study at the Theological Assembly, where he completed his "Level" studies with the late Ayatollah Seyved Mohammad Tagi Khonsari and the late Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Yathrebi Kashani. By the time Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi came to Qom, Imam Khomeini was already a recognized teacher with authority in the areas of jurisprudence (feqh), philosophy (hekmat) and mysticism (erfan.)

The tenth of the Islamic month of Muharram is the most somber day of the year for Shi'a Muslims, being the day in the year 61 AH / 18 Mehr 59 SH / October 10, 680 CE that Imam Hussein was martyred on the plains near Karbala, Iraq along with 72 of his close companions by the forces of the tyrannical Umayyad caliph, Yazid ibn Muawiyah. On that very day some 1300 years later, Imam Khomeini gave a speech at the Feyziyeh School in Qom denouncing the shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, for his attempts at eradicating Islam and the religious scholars (ulama) from Iranian society, and warning him, "I don't want to see the people be thankful for your departure if some day they make you leave."

At 3 am on the 15th of Khordad, 1342 / June 5, 1963, the shah's commandos arrested the Imam and took him to Tehran, where he was imprisoned first at Qasr and then at Eshratabad Military Base until being re-

dıd not end untıl hıs triumphant return 14 years later on 12 Bahman 1357 / February 1, 1979.

While exiled in Najaf, Iraq, the Imam formulated his concept of Islamic governance (Hukumat-e Islami) in a series of lectures given at the seminary in 1971. In those sessions, the form of Islamic government known as Velayat-e Fagih, which could be translated as guardianship by the jurist, was refined by him based on the assumption of the necessity of political authority based firmly on Islamic law (shari'ah) but implemented through decentralized, local self-governance with the mosque as the central institution to allow public participation. Such a government would be "a catalyst and tool for igniting and promoting massive behavioral change, in order to bring about a just community ... to recover government for human interests," and, obviously, present an ominous threat to the frivolous claims made by the west of the superiority of its form of alleged culture and civilization.

On January 16, 1979, the shah fled Iran for what was to be another "temporary stay" elsewhere, like the trip he had made after the initially unsuccessful U.S.-British coup attempt on August 16, 1953, but this time there was no returning. Previously on December 29, the shah had appointed Shapour Bakhtiar as prime minister, ordering him to form a government, which was doomed from the onset. Rejecting the legitimacy of this desperation measure on the part of the shah, the Imam established a revolutionary council on January 12. Days after his arrival on February 1, the Imam organized a provisional Islamic government, and by 2 pm on February 11, the armed forces declared their neutrality, Bakhtiar fled to Paris, and the victory of the Islamic revolution was at hand.

"The basic reason for the unique success of Iran's Islamic revolution was [Imam] Khomeini's charismat-

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Endogenous maritime security

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iran's initiative to launch a maritime coalition of countries of West Asia has reverberated across Asia, eliciting affirmative reactions from key powers in the continent.

Earlier this week, Shahram Irani, the chief commander of the Iranian Army's Navy, dropped a bombshell that jolted the U.S. into reiterating its presence in the Persian Gulf.

Irani said a maritime coalition in the north Indian Ocean will be established with the participation of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Pakistan, and India.

"Today, the countries of the region have reached the point [where they believe] that if there is to be security in the region, it can be done and established through synergy and cooperation." he said, adding that new coalitions are taking shape in the region and beyond in this regard.

Irani continued, "Soon we will witness that our region will be free from any unjustified force and the people of the region will be dominant in their security field using their soldiers."

The commander said Iran already had launched joint regional action with Oman. Saudi Arabia has entered this action, he noted. "The UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Pakistan, and India are also included," Irani stated.

He pointed out, "Almost all the countries of the north Indian Ocean area have come to believe that they should stand by the Islamic Republic



Gulf. This was on full display last

week when the UAE formally

announced its withdrawal from the

U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces

In a statement in late May, the

UAE foreign ministry said, "As a

result of our ongoing evaluation of

effective security cooperation with

all partners, two months ago, the

UAE withdrew its participation in

This regional resentment at the

Wang Wenbin, China's Foreign

Ministry spokesperson, said China

supports Iran's push for a regional

naval alliance. Responding to a

"Upholding the peace and stability

China welcoming Iran's

U.S. were accompanied by Pakistan

the Combined Maritime Forces."

operating in the Persian Gulf.

of Iran and jointly establish security with significant synergy."

The U.S. was quick to dismiss the Iranian initiative. It described the Iranian proposed maritime coalition as defying reason. "It defies reason that Iran, the number one cause of regional instability, claims it wants to form a naval security alliance to protect the very waters it threatens," US 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces spokesperson Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said, according to Breaking Defense.

The U.S. response is clearly meant to discredit the Iranian proposal. But realities on the ground and the international reactions to the initiative attest to entirely different trajectory.

The U.S.-led coalition in the question in this regard, he said, Persian Gulf has received a major of the Gulf region in the Middle blow in recent months as even an ally as close as the UAE ceased to East bears on the wellbeing believe that the U.S. is capable of of countries and people in the ensuring security in the Persian region and is of vital importance to safeguarding world peace, boosting global economic growth and keeping energy supply stable. China supports regional countries in resolving disputes and cultivating good-neighborliness and friendship through dialogue and consultation. We also support regional countries in seeking development through solidarity and keeping their future firmly in their own hands. As a good friend to regional countries, China will continue to play a positive and constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability."

Although Pakistan did not take an official stance on the Iranian initiative, Pakistani media welcomed it. "Commander Shahram Irani's initiative must find appropriate response from proposed member states. It is essential to look at the wider paradigm of cooperation in an age of new blocs," Pakistani daily Express Tribune wrote. "The bonanza of the initiative in bringing India and Pakistan on the same page."

Whether the Iranian initiative would become a reality remains to be seen. But the timing of the initiative and the concomitant spirit of regionalism currently prevailing in the West Asia region are a reason to believe that this proposed initiative will likely bear fruit. In the past, tensions and affected hostilities prevented any kind of meaningful maritime cooperation and paved the way for an increased presence of foreign forces in the region. This time, however, one can harbor hope for substantive regional cooperation given the wind of de-escalation that is currently blowing across the region.

Iran-Saudi nuclear cooperation possible: report

and

maritime initiative.

TEHRAN - Iran and Saudi Arabia can initiate nuclear cooperation in light of the recent thaw in their relations, a news website linked to Iran's top security body has said.

Nour News said Iran's nuclear technology can be transferred to Saudi Arabia in accordance with international laws and under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"Given the opposition of the Zionists to a nuclear Saudi Arabia, in the new chapter of relations between Tehran and Riyadh, cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technologies and transfer of Iran's experiments and achievements to this country in accordance with international laws and under the supervision of the Agency can be one of the main axes of bilateral relations," Nour News said on Twitter.

The news comes amid an improvement in Iran-Saud relations after seven years. The Iranian embassy in Saudi Arabia was reopened on Tuesday in accordance with the March 10 agreement between Tehran and Riyadh, which was brokered by China.



hosted by China in March.

Since the sides agreed to reestablish ties on March 10, the foreign ministers of the two countries have met twice: one in Beijing on April 6 and another in Cape Town on June 2.

In his Cape Town meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian expressed satisfaction with the good progress made in bilateral ties, saying the ambassadors of the two countries have been introduced fortunately and the stage has been set for the opening of the embassies and consulates of the two countries.

He also thanked Saudi Arabia for making

commercial and economic relations between the two countries, and that his Saudi counterpart's upcoming visit to Tehran will be an opportunity for further discussions and exchange of views aimed at boosting bilateral relations in various fields.

He considered BRICS as a new opportunity for multilateral cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia and other member countries of the group, especially in economic and commercial fields.

Likewise, the Saudi foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the very good progress achieved in bilateral relations with Iran.

Bin Farhan thanked the Iranian side for the valuable assistance in welcoming the Saudi technical delegation in order to lay the groundwork for the opening of the Saudi embassy and consulate in Iran.

He added that with the very good bilateral cooperation, the two sides quickly passed the stages of appointing ambassadors and setting the stage for the opening of political and consular missions, and the two states are moving towards a new stage in their relations, which will serve the interests of the two nations and the entire region.



TEHRAN – FIFA President Gianni Infantino sent a Congratulatory message to Persepolis for winning Iran Professional League (IPL) and Hazfi Cup titles. The Iranian giant claimed the title of the IPL and Hazfi Cup in 2022-23 season.

Last week, Persepolis beat their archrivals Esteghlal 2-1 in the final match.

"Congratulation Persepolis for being crowned 2022-23 champions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for having won the Hazfi Cup," Infantino published on his Instagram account.

Ricardo Sa Pinto linked with APOEL

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto has traveled to Nicosia to negotiate with APOEL football club.

The Portuguese coach was accompanied by his compatriot Nuno Morais in the negotiation, balla. com.cy reported. Sa Pinto took charge of Iranian football club Esteghlal last season but failed to meet the expectations in the Iranian club.

The 50-year-old coach has previously coached Portuguese teams Moreirense, Braga, Belenenses, Sporting Lisbon, Turkey's Gaziantep, Brazil's Vasco da Gama, Poland's Legia, and Belgian side Standard Liege.

IPL: Mahmoud Fekri appointed Havadar head coach

TEHRAN - Mahmoud Fekri was appointed as new head coach of Havadar football team on Wednesdav

Fekri replaced Saket Elhami in the Iranian top flight club. "We have good talented youth players in our team and are ready to make splash in the upcoming season," Fekri said. "I am hungry for more and we will achieve our goal with effort."

Fekri coached First Division team Saipa last season but was sacked after failed to secure promotion. Havadar came 10th place in the 16team table last season.

From 17 – 25 June 2023, Berlin will welcome 7,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from approximately 170 countries to compete in 24 sports.

JUNE 8, 2023

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

IRAN IN FOCUS

SPORTS

The athletes will be supported by more than 3,000 coaches and 20,000 volunteers.

Iran defeat Lebanon at AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Lebanon 2-1 on Wednesday at the Group A of AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers.

Hasti Forouzandeh scored both goals for the Iranian team.

Maryam Jahan Nejati's girls lost to hosts Vietnam 3-2 in their opener and then were defeated against Australia 3-0.

"I am happy for winning our last match but we failed to book a place in the next stage unfortunately. We need more preparatory matches and I hope the football federation arrange more friendly games for our team in the future," Jahan Nejati said after the match.

Group B action on Thursday will see China PR and Myanmar aiming to seal qualification ahead of their Matchday Three clash.

Wins for both would mean early qualification with China PR playing Nepal while hosts Myanmar will meet Chinese Taipei.

The Group B winners and runners-up will join Australia, Vietnam and the three highest-seeded teams from the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 - Japan, DPR Korea and Korea Republic - as well as host nation Uzbekistan in the 3-16 March, 2022 Finals. Following a roundrobin format, top two teams from each group will qualify for the finals of the tournament.

They will be joined by the top three teams from the 2019 AFC U19 Women's Championship - Japan, DPR Korea and South Korea - as well as hosts Uzbekistan

The 2024 AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup is scheduled to take place from March 3 to 16, 2024.

Sa Pinto leaves Esteghlal

TEHRAN - Portuguese head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto bade farewell to the Esteghlal fans.

He was appointed as head coach of the Iranian

Iran's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia is Mohammad Reza Enavati, who was the director of the Persian Gulf department at the Foreign Ministry. Enayati was a participant in the dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia preparations and providing facilities for Iran's Hajj pilgrims.

The top Iranian diplomat added that in the previous talks, the two sides discussed the necessity of strengthening the

The top Saudi diplomat also said he will visit Tehran soon.

UN welcomes reopening of Iranian embassy in Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the UN, has welcomed the reopening of the Iranian embassy in Saudi Arabia, calling the move "helpful."

Responding to a question on whether the re-opening of the Iranian embassy in Saudi Arabia is a positive move in the region, Dujarric said, "I think any time two countries, especially two countries with so much influence in that area -- in the [Persian] Gulf -- are engaged in open and constructive dialogue, it is helpful to the region."

He made the remarks at a daily press briefing, according to Xinhua.

A ceremony was held on Tuesday, June 6, in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, to formally re-open the Iranian Embassy, in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary, and Iranian Expatriates Affairs Alireza Bikdeli, Hassan Zarnegar, the caretaker of the mission, Saudi

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consular Affairs Ali Al-Yousef and a number of other Foreign Ministry officials, as well as ambassadors and diplomats and representatives of regional and international organizations accredited to Riyadh.

During the ceremony, Bikdeli said Iran and Saudi Arabia have many capacities in different governmental and public fields for the expansion of their relations, according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

He thanked Saudi Arabia for providing the necessary facilities for the re-opening of the Iranian embassy and said the activation of the two countries' embassies will facilitate bilateral cooperation.

During the ceremony, Iran's national anthem was played as the country's national flag was raised and the embassy formally resumed its activities.

The re-opening comes days after the foreign ministers of Iran



and Saudi Arabia met in Cape Town on the sidelines of a BRICS meeting. At the meeting, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian told his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan that the ambassadors of the two countries have been introduced fortunately and the stage has been set for the opening of the embassies and consulates of the two countries.

Bin Farhan, for his part,

expressed satisfaction with the very good progress achieved in bilateral relations with Iran.

The top Saudi diplomat also said he will visit Tehran soon.

Iran and March agreed on March 10 to patch up their ties after seven years. They signed a Chinese-brokered agreement that set the stage for the restoration of their ties. The deal was widely hailed as a landmark.

Mohammadi wins bronze at Asian **Para Road Cycling C'ships**

TEHRAN – Mehdi Mohammadi of Iran claimed a bronze medal at the 11th Asian Para Road Cycling Championships on Wednesday.

He finished in third place in the Individual Time Trial - C5 underway in Rayong, Thailand.

The 11th Asian Para Road Cycling Championships is being held along with the 42nd edition of the Asian Road Cycling Championship and the 29th Asian Junior Road Cycling Championships.

Iran has sent 10 cyclists to the competition.

Iran to compete in **Special Olympics World Games**

TEHRAN - Iran will send 25 athletes to the 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany. The Iranian athletes will compete in nine events, Iran's Chef de Mission Ali Kashi said.

"Our slogan in the Special Olympics World Games is 'Together We Are Invincible' and our athletes will feature in futsal, cycling, badminton, table tennis, athletic, skate, bowling, boccia and swimming," Kashi said.

football team last season but failed to meet the expectations.

Sa Pinto has been handed a four-month suspension by the Disciplinary Committee of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) after he got involved in a controversial moment in the Tehran derby last week.

The Esteghlal coach harshly criticized the referee in the final moments of the match and was shown a red card.

"This farewell is the result of serious contemplation and recent events. I hope that under different circumstances, we may unite once again for our extraordinary club. Best wishes to Esteghlal. May it continue to soar. Until we meet again," Sa Pinto posted on his Instagram account.

Palizban advances to final at Asia **Archery cup**

TEHRAN - The Iranian Archer Mohammad Saleh Palizban advanced to the final match at the Archery Asia Cup 2023 stage 3 in Singapore.

In the semi-final stage, Palizban defeated his Indian opponent 150-146 at the compound and booked a place on the medal table after reaching the final match.

The Iranian archer will face an opponent from Malaysia in the final match which is to be held on Saturday, June 10.

Asia Cup 2023 archery stage 3 is being held in Singapore from June 5 to 10.

ECONOMY



Investment packages introduced for Russia partaking in Iran's petchem sector



from page 1 > with neighboring and friendly countries in the oil, gas, and petrochemical industry, he said: "Iran's rich oil and gas reserves, proximity to open waters, easy access to export markets such as India, China, East Asian countries and African countries, the

existence of specialized workforce, localization of technology, production of goods and equipment needed by the industry, and low finished price are among the advantages of foreign investment in Iran."

He put Iran's current nominal petrochemical capacity at over 92 million tons per year, emphasizing that with NPC's strategic planning for the industry development, especially in the south of the country and along the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, as well as in the new phases of the two hubs of Asalouyeh and Mahshahr, this sector is expected to grow more rapidly.

TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi has said the country's major industries are currently constructing new power plants with a total capacity of 5,600 megawatts (MW) across the country, IRNA reported.

Back in 2021, the Iranian Energy Ministry announced a program based on which the country's major industries would construct 10,000 MW of new power plants across the country to meet their own electricity demand during peak consumption periods.

According to Rajabi Mashhadi, currently, more industries have expressed readiness for constructing new power plants and the total capacity that was supposed to be built has been increased to 14,000 MW from the previously agreed 10,000 MW.



Major industries constructing 5,600 MW of new power plants

The official noted that based on the agreement signed between the industry and energy ministries, those industrial units whose electricity is supplied by their own power plants are not subject to the Energy Ministry's summer peak period consumption management programs.

In July 2021, the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade

have started their work in the field of power plant construction. Based on the contract concluded with these industries, the said industries will not be provided with electricity from the national grid if they cannot deliver the power plants based on the specified schedule."

The first power plant unit constructed by the industrial sector went operational in Semnan Province in late August 2022.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

40 idle production units to be revived in Ardebil province by next March

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 40 idle production units will be revived in Ardebil province, in the northwest of Iran, by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024).

Ramin Sadeqi, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, also announced that 200 new units will be added to the province's production and industrial units this year.

The official has previously announced that 43 idle production units were revived in the province during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Sadeqi said that the mentioned units returning to the production cycle created jobs for 750 persons.

He mentioned removing production barriers, maintaining and creating new and sustainable employment as a guarantee of economic development and added that due to the government's prioritization of production boom and job creation, the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department examines the existing problems and legal obstacles, through cooperation with the executive bodies, and tries to remove them.

43 idle production units revived in Ardebil province last year

Sadeqi further announced that there are 1,056 production units in Ardebil province, of which 91 percent are active and nine percent



of the Ministry of Science to establish knowledge-based parks in industrial estates so that companies can take advantage of these parks", he added.

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

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

Stating that handing over affairs to the private sector is one of the policies of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the official emphasized: "It is easier to revive the stagnant units than to provide financial support to the units, and therefore we are trying to connect the driving companies to the stagnant units."

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

IRISL operating regular shipping line to export Iranian goods to Syria

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has announced launching a container shipping line with Syria through which every month a ship will carry Iran's non-oil goods to the Arab country, IRIB reported.

March 21), a regular program of shipping oil goods to the country.

cargo to Syria has been put on the agenda, based on which, at least one sea voyage every month has been planned to export Iranian goods to this country," IRISL said in a statement

As reported, last year IRISL fleet made 14 "For the current year 1402 (started on voyages to Syria to deliver 6,522 TEU of non-

Accordingly, this year too, the owners of businesses interested in exporting to Syria can hand over their export cargoes to the national shipping fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in coordination with the company's container shipping department.

Iran preparing 5-year comprehensive plan to expand transit ties with trade partners

TEHRAN - Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry is preparing a five-year comprehensive plan for increasing transportation and transit relations with Central Asia, as well as the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman countries, Deputy Transport Minister Shahriyar Afandizadeh announced.

Iran has a special status in trade and transit due to its strategic location.

According to Afandizadeh, the mentioned plan is being prepared in collaboration with all related bodies, and negotiations are underway for its finalization under the framework of several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) at the level of the relevant ministers, IRNA reported.

The plan includes the basic strategies and executive roadmap in a step-by-step manner for the next five years and will mark the evolution of the bilateral transport and transit relations with the target countries, including the countries of Central Asia and the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Afandizadeh explained.

This year, the issue of transit and playing a role in major programs such as those related to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is one of the main priorities of the Transport Ministry in developing transport relations with regional and extraregional target countries, the deputy transport minister noted.

After seven years of reduction in the transit of goods from the country, the growth path of transit resumed in the past



Ministry signed a memorandum

of understanding (MOU) with the

Energy Ministry for constructing

Later in November of that

year, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar

Mehrabian announced that the

construction of 10,000 MW

capacity power plants was started

by various industrial sectors,

saying: "Four major industries

power plants for big industries.

Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022) and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world, and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran, and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

are stagnant.

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

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

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

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

"We agreed with the Technology Department

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

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

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

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

Over 630,000 tons of steel ingots exported in a month

TEHRAN- Iran exported 631,000 tons of steel ingots in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20).

As reported, the figure shows 5,000 tons decline as compared to the export in the first month of the previous year.

As previously announced by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), the country exported 7.372 million tons of steel ingots in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

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

The World Steel Association (WSA) in its latest report announced that Iran is ranked eighth among the world's top steelproducing countries in April, rising one place in the list of the world's top steelmakers.

The latest report released by the WSA shows that Iran's crude steel output has increased 5.9 percent in the mentioned month while the global average growth rate stood at – 2.4 percent.

Based on the WSA data, Iran produced 3.1 million tons of crude steel in the mentioned month.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic produced 9.7 million tons of steel in the first four months of 2023, registering a 0.1 percent growth compared to the same period in the previous year.

WSA report says that the world's 64 steel producers managed to produce 161.4 million tons of the commodity in April, 2.4 percent less than the figure for the previous year's same period.

The steelmakers produced 622.7 million tons of steel in the first four months of this year, which indicates a 13 percent drop compared to the same period last year.

According to the WSA report, China, India, Japan, the U.S., and Russia were the world's top steel producers respectively.

Iran has maintained its place as the world's 10th biggest steel producer during the mentioned four months, according to the WSA data.

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

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

Iran was ranked first among the world's top steel producers in terms of production growth in the previous year.

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



vear.

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

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

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

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

TEDPIX loses 1,100 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 1,100 points to 2.288 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 9.224 billion securities worth 66.805 trillion rials (about \$159 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).

Mass shooting "terror" in American schools

From page **1** According to police, the shooter, who has been arrested, was armed with four firearms, when he maimed his victims at the Huguenot High School's commencement ceremony inside a theater on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Obviously, this should have been a safe space... It's just incredibly tragic that someone decided to bring a gun to this incident and rain terror on our community," Edwards said.

These days, mass shootings in public places such as schools, shopping centers and places of worship have become a norm in the U.S.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, the latest mass shooting was the 279th in the first 157 days of 2023 in the United States.

The gun violence monitoring group defines a mass shooting as four or more people being shot or killed in a single incident, not including the shooter.

The latest tragedy came on the same day as a new study showed 1 person had been killed in the U.S. every 11 minutes in 2021 as a result of the tragic reality of gun violence.

Titled "U.S. Gun Violence in 2021: An Accounting of a Public Health Crisis" by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, the study revealed that in 2021, gun deaths reached the highest number ever recorded for the second consecutive year.

"Nearly 49,000 people died from gun violence in the U.S. in 2021. Each day, an average of 134 people died from gun violence - one death every 11 minutes," the study said.

It indicated that 48,830 lives were lost to firearms in 2021, an increase of over 3,600 deaths from 2020 -- the previous record high. Of those, the report revealed that 26,328 suicides involving a firearm took place in 2021, and 20,958 homicides were recorded.

By Martin Love

Badly disposed homo sapiens inhabit every

nook and cranny of the globe. There are enough of

them, though they are a small, distinct minority,

to make a soul sometimes feel ashamed of

being one of the species. There is absolutely NO

other species on earth that has done so much

damage to other species and to themselves and

to Nature for millennia as homo sapiens, and

perhaps especially in the last couple of centuries

as the earth's number of humans has swelled in

Malthusian leaps and bounds. Among mammals,

it's not even remotely possible to compare

destructive human behaviors to the behaviors



It adds, "The U.S. government

basic human rights. Despite the

huge number of guns in circulation

and the sheer numbers of people

killed by guns each year, there is a

shocking lack of federal regulations

Some of the deadliest mass

1. Enoch, Utah (4 January) - eight

2. Goshen, California (16 January)

3. Monterey Park, California (21

4. Half Moon Bay, California (23

6. Louisville, Kentucky (10 April) - six

7. San Jacinto County, Texas (28

8. Henryetta, Oklahoma (1 May) -

9. Lake Wales, Florida (2 May) - five

killed, eight injured

April) - five killed

seven killed

suicide rate represented an 8.3% "U.S. governments have allowed increase from 2020, the largest gun violence to become a human one-year increase in more than four rights crisis.' decades, whereas the gun homicide rate was up 7.6%. is prioritizing gun ownership over

"Guns, once again, were the leading cause of death among children and teens in 2021, accounting for more deaths than COVID-19, car crashes, or cancers," said the study.

that could save thousands." According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, as of May 1 this year, at least 13,959 people have shootings so far this year in the U.S. been shot dead. include:

But 2023 is on track to break the glim record of mass shootings, killed which traumatizes and terrorizes an entire community. At one point six killed this year, there were more mass shootings in the U.S. than days.

January) – 12 killed, nine injured That has sparked some serious soul-searching as well as rising January) - seven killed, one injured protests against authorities for tighter gun control laws in a country 5. Nashville school shooting, where there are more firearms in Tennessee (27 March) - seven killed, the hands of people than there are one injured U.S. citizens.

Despite the outcry, the prospects of tighter gun control measures are slim with little appetite in Congress to address the deadly matter in the face of powerful gun lobby groups, whose

killed, seven injured

The deadliest mass shooting to date in the U.S. remains the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, when a gunman opened fire on a crowd attending a music festival. The attacker killed 60 people.

The most heartbreaking act of terrorizing a community with bullets is still the May 24, 2022, mass shooting that occurred at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

The attacker shot 19 little kids to death, along with two teachers, while 17 others were injured. The eldest victim among the children who were murdered on that dark day was just eleven years old.

What made the incident more tragic was that police had been waiting outside the very classroom where the shooter was shooting at his victims one by one. An investigation was launched to try and establish why the police did not enter the classroom and confront the attacker.

Following the first anniversary of the massacre, the parents of the dead children are still seeking answers.

Since 2014, on average, the U.S. has witnessed nearly 40,000 gun deaths every year. Tens of thousands of others have sustained injuries.

As the U.S. sends its military across the world under the slogan of "bringing peace" to other countries, it is incapable of bringing peace to its own citizens back at home.

On both fronts, it has been unsuccessful with countries subject to U.S. invasions, wars, and conflicts instigated by Washington seeing nothing but havoc, instability and terror.

Experts point out that the U.S. is a country that has been built on violence and only through violence it can survive, thrive and make a vast amount of profit.

Profit in selling weapons to fuel war overseas and profit in selling firearms 10. Allen, Texas (6 May) - nine at home that result in mass shootings.

INTERNATIONAL

Germany prepares to host **biggest NATO** air deployment exercise

Germany is preparing to host one of the biggest air deployment drills in NATO's history, in an effort to show off force intended to impress allies and adversaries like Russia, according to German and American officials in the country.

The Air Defender 23 drill will take place from June 12-23 and will see 10,000 participants and 250 aircraft from 25 nations train, in order to respond to a simulated attack on a NATO member country.

"This is an exercise that would be absolutely impressive to anybody who's watching, and we don't make anybody watch it," United States Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann told reporters in Berlin, highlighting that an audience could include Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"It will demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt the agility and the swiftness of our allied force in NATO as a first responder," she added.

Pope Francis hospitalized for abdominal surgery

Pope Francis is at a hospital in Rome preparing for abdominal surgery, the Vatican press office has said.

"The Holy Father went to the Gemelli University Hospital where in the early afternoon he will undergo a surgical operation of laparotomy and plastic surgery of the abdominal wall," read a Vatican statement published on Wednesday.

The procedure was agreed in previous days by the medical team assisting the pontiff due to "a lacerated incisional hernia which is causing recurrent, painful and worsening sub-occlusive syndromes", the

US seeks to freeze assets of world's biggest crypto exchange

JUNE 8, 2023

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has asked a federal court to issue a temporary restraining order to freeze the US assets of cryptocurrency exchange Binance, Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing a filing in a Washington DC federal court.

The motion comes a day after the regulator sued Binance and its CEO Changpeng Zhao, filing 13 charges alleging that "Zhao and Binance entities engaged in an extensive web of deception, conflicts of interest, lack of disclosure, and calculated evasion of the law," according to the SEC press release. The charges apply to Binance Holdings Ltd. and its affiliate firm Binance.

Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange by volume, said in a statement that it was "disappointed" and "disheartened" by the lawsuit and warned that the SEC's actions "undermine America's role as a global hub for financial innovation and leadership."

"Any allegations that user assets on the Binance.US platform have ever been at risk are simply wrong," the company added.

Sudan condemns armed men's storming of Palestine residence and embassy in Khartoum

Sudan has condemned the recent storming of the residence and embassy of Palestine in Khartoum by armed groups. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry has deemed this act a blatant violation of international law and customs related to the status of diplomatic missions' headquarters and property.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has also condemned the repeated storming by armed gangs

killed According to the study, the gun Amnesty International says that Countries can rot like fish out of water — from the head down...

> TIME STRUCTURAL CORRUPTION

and trying to distance themselves and their countries from many things "American", and it's about time they did to limit further harm derived from U.S. arrogance and hubris especially since the fall of the Soviet Union but probably beginning in the 1960s with the unnecessary war on Vietnam that murdered millions. Many have spent most of their lives dismayed and confused sniffing out the rot that has seized

planet and humanity closer to nuclear annihilation than anyone else ever has with his provoked proxy war on Russia in Ukraine and his failure and refusals for a decade to negotiate a deal with Vladimir Putin to allay Russia's reasonable security and border concerns. All Putin wanted was the enactment of the Minsk Accords, which even Angela Merkel called a sham. And this solely to maintain U.S. hegemonic pretensions via the gross expansion of vassal European countries into NATO since the 1990s.

Biden himself became a millionaire during his long career slurping at public expense in Congress and by other means and later as Obama's Vice-President. And perhaps also his infamous son, Hunter, now 53 a professed drug addict, failed lawyer and all around opportunist who served on the board of Ukraine's largest natural gas concern, Burmisma, in recent years past, for which he was paid handsomely and did nothing. It has been suggested one reason Biden provoked the war in Ukraine may have been connected with his desire to bury dealings between the Bidens and possibly the most corrupt government anywhere in Ukraine. Hunter has also been under investigation for years for tax avoidance issues by the IRS. Nepotism works, it has seemed. Father Joe has recently claimed Hunter "never did anything wrong", but the infamous laptop computer that Hunter lost control of or left behind by mistake in a computer repair shop is now strongly suggesting otherwise. It's full of incriminating business, finance and political e-mails and many hundreds of photos, the latter at least just now coming to light publicly, of Hunter engaged in sexual escapades with a variety of people, apparently including underage girls. The photos reveal some of the raunchiest pornography one might scrape up from the fetid bowels of the Internet. In any event, Joe Biden has done the bidding of his Neocon handlers but is not popular nowadays and a good majority of Americans consider him unfit for a second term in the White House. Corruption is rampant in Washington like never before. There seems to be a mad scramble among politicians and lobbyists to pad their personal wealth before the economy and financial system eventually collapse in a heap of debt that cannot ever be repaid.

lucrative money finds its way to the pockets of lawmakers. International rights group

proceeds from

and usually on a

flood of lies and

narrowly self-

serving, mostly

and policies.

of other mammals because, simply, there is no comparison to be made.

Of all existing countries and cultures today, and since the end of World War 2 when the first and only couple of atomic bombs were unnecessarily dropped in 1945 at war's end The rot of countries, over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in ever increasing degrees as with dead fish, of expression, it is arguable that the United States has the top, from their done the most harm, the most unnecessary harm, of any heads, downwards country. towards their tails

This is not to claim at all that average citizens of other countries are "better" than 95 percent of Americans. The mainstream Western media this century especially has made it difficult for most Americans to be informed and most are not. But it can be argued that average citizens anywhere else are a lot "better" overall than that small minority of Americans

who have at the top and have exercised power and control in Washington and on Wall Street and built for decades the extant but now crumbling so-called "empire" - even while many others have profited and enjoyed some personal, even selfish advantages and benefitted from the crumbs accruing to some U.S. citizens as simply lucky parts of the "richest country in history", including some so-called allies elsewhere.

Most of earth's population is waking up fast

the U.S. in ever increasing ways — politically, socially and economically — and it's worth noting that the rot of countries, as with dead fish, proceeds from the top, from their heads, downwards towards their tails and usually on a flood of lies and narrowly self-serving, mostly destructive actions and policies.

This progression of rot and dissolution has played out for millennia in various degrees in other societies, cultures and polities, but perhaps not so much and so blatantly as destructive actions in recent decades with the U.S. This progression began in top leadership circles.

> In the U.S. it can be surmised legitimately that Joe Biden will

be exposed as the worst President ever, and the most morally compromised, but Donald Trump and Barack Obama and George W. Bush and Bill Clinton are not far behind given their own histories with war crimes and other ills.

With Biden the world is witnessing the fullest expression of insanity (and also senility) in a POTUS, and this for several reasons, but perhaps especially because he and his overbearing Neocon bosses and handlers have literally brought the Vatican said.

The pope, 86, is expected to remain in the hospital for "several days" to allow full recovery.

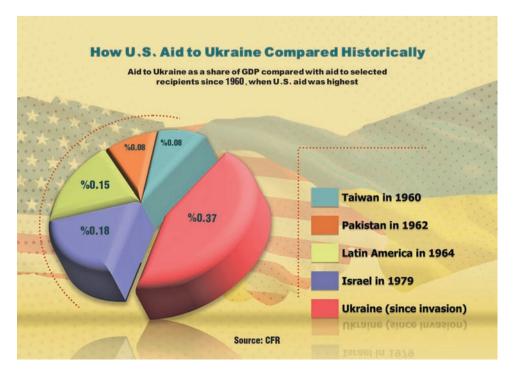
This is the second time in recent months that Francis has been admitted to hospital.

At the end of March, a storm of television news crews and reporters gathered in front of the Gemelli where the pope was recuperating after a bout of bronchitis. He was discharged after three days.

and groups of the Embassy of the State of Palestine and the ambassador's residence in Khartoum.

They have considered these acts a severe violation of Palestine's sovereignty, an attack on its official headquarters, and a flagrant violation of the Vienna Convention.

The ministry has emphasized that it will take necessary legal measures to protect the embassy, ambassador's residence, and its staff.



TOURISM



Tourism projects come on stream in East Azarbaijan



TEHRAN -Some 74 tourism-related projects have been inaugurated across East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran, over past two years, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 32 trillion rials (\$64 million) has been channeled into the projects, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh explained on Wednesday.

The projects include hotels, guest houses, eco-lodge units, tourist complexes, travel agencies, museums and handicrafts workshops, the official added.

The projects have been carried out in close collaboration with the private sector, he noted.

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

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

Tabriz was declared a world craft city of carpet weaving by the World Craft in 2016. It also bore the title of the Islamic Tourism Capital in 2018.

of gold and copper for purposes of ornamentation, was known in the Stone Age, it is the melting and smelting of copper that marks the end of the Stone Age. In Western Asia, this occurred by about 3,000 BC, when bronze became widespread. According to available data,

the first well-documented evidence of human habitation in the Iranian plateau was found from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

From Page 1 > The period last-

ed for roughly 3.4 million years,

and ended between 4,000 BC

simple metalworking of mallea-

From the Caspian in the north-



Traces of Chalcolithic settlements

discovered in northwest Iran

west to Baluchestan in the southeast, the Iranian plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. The land encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River, containing some 3,700,000 square kilometers. Despite being called a "plateau", it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 m, and the Dasht-e Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran, falling below 300 m.

Located in West Azarbaijan province, Oshnavieh boasts 106 sites registered on Iran's National Cultural Heritage List. It is also home to five bas-relief carvings, originally belonging to the Kingdom of Urartu (860 BC - 590 BC), the main reason why Oshnavieh is called an archaeologist's paradise.

However, over the past couple of years, the region has witnessed a series of unauthorized, unprecedented drillings and excavations committed by unauthorized diggers and antique dealers.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

Conference to explore Iranian handicrafts in Bandar Abbas

TEHRAN -The southern port city of Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan province will be hosting a national conference to discuss Iranian handicrafts and traditional arts On June 17, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The conference will be attended by artisans, craftspeople and masters of different handicrafts fields, Sanaz Ramji explained on Wednesday.

A handicrafts exhibit and several workshops will be held on the sidelines of the conference. the official added.

Bordering the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the south and bounded by Bushehr and Fars provinces on the west and northwest, Kerman on the east and northeast, and Sistan-Baluchestan on the southeast, Hormozgan is widely renowned for having incredible culture and heritage, stunning sceneries, and above all its warm and hospitable people.

It embraces arrays of islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most popular ones and top tourist destinations in the southernmost parts of the country.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laidback and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is

situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists by its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

Hengam Island has scenery rocky shores, serene sunset, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

Wide-ranging handicrafts

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Safavid-era caravanserai in Mahabad to turn into handicrafts center

TEHRAN - The Safavid-era (1501-1736) caravanserai of Simon in the northwestern city of Mahabad, West Azarbaijan province, is planned to turn into a handicrafts center, a local tourism official has said.



official travelers. According to Encyclopedia Iranica, from the number of surviving caravansaries and their sizes, it is clear that in Safavid and Qajar times there was a state architectural department that was specifically concerned with the construction of caravansaries and stations on the overland routes. Furthermore, in the cities, several caravansaries were erected as lodging houses, depots, and commercial offices in the vicinity of the bazaars. A typical caravansary consists of a square or rectangular plan centered around a courtyard with only one entrance and arrangements for defense if necessary. Whether fortified or not, it at least provided security against beasts of prey and attacks by brigands.

Brunei envoy visits Fatima Masoumeh shrine in Qom

TEHRAN -On Tuesday, the 2nd Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei, Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Yusof, paid a visit to the holy shrine of Fatima Masoumeh (SA).

He was accompanied by Brunei's ambassador to Iran Avang Haji Esmaeil, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Located in Qom, some 140 km to the south of Tehran, the shrine is where the sister of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Shia Imam, is laid to rest.

Each day, the holy shrine draws thousands of pilgrims and visitors from Iran and some from across the globe. According to available data, 6,427 international travelers from 82 countries visited the shrine during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 21.

People from Spain, Poland, Italy, the U.S., Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, France, the Czech Republic, and Brazil constituted the highest number of international visitors to the shrine, a local official said.

In 815 CE, according to legends, Hazrat Masoumeh (SA) traveled to Khorasan from Medina with a large number of her relatives to visit her brother, Imam Reza (AS).

However, the Abbasid Caliph Mamun ordered his men to stop them at Saveh, a town near Oom, which is home to a large Shia population. Mamun's soldiers killed many of her companions in Saveh, where she fell ill. She, therefore, decided to take refuge in Qom.



his companions upon their arrival in the city. However, she was in critical condition and eventually died in 816 AD.

Earlier, Mamun killed his brothers Hazrat Ahmad ibn Musa (AS) and Seyyed Alaeddin Hossein (AS) in the Fars region.

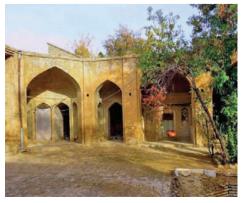
The second holiest city in Iran after Mashhad is Qom, which is home to many natural and cultural tourist destinations as well as important seminaries and madrasas.

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage, it is also a top destination for Shia scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

One of the most visited natural spots of Qom is Hoz-e Soltan. It is an eye-catching salt lake in the middle of the desert. The visitors could easily walk in the shallow parts and enjoy the shapes created by the salt, however, the center of the lake could be dangerous, as it is muddy and could easily trap people.

The Shia Muslims of Oom extended a very warm welcome to Hazrat Masumeh (SA) and

Qajar-era school in Borujerd to gain former glory



TEHRAN - The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Hojatieh School in Borujerd, the western province of Lorestan, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of five billion rials (\$10,000) has been allocated to the restoration project, Ata Hassanpur said on Wednesday.

The project involves repairing walls and rooftop as well as doors and windows, the

official added.

Last year, the official announced that the school is planned to be repurposed into a creative center for handicrafts.

As a handicrafts center, the school will be able to promote handmade works of local artisans and introduce itself as a tourist destination, he noted.

A region of raw beauty in western Iran, Lorestan was once inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Moreover, Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

Lorestan is famed for its ancient Luristan Bronzes for its eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, dating from this turbulent period.

Historically speaking, Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

The historical inn will open its doors to public after being fully restored, Nasser Sadafi explained on Wednesday.

A budget of 20 billion rials (\$40,000) has been allocated to the project, the official added.

The project is scheduled to come to an end within three months, he noted.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. The area returned to Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE. The Arabs controlled Azerbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers. The

region was overrun by the Mongols in the 13th century, and, under the ruler Hulegu, Azarbaijan became the center of a Mongol empire extending from Syria on the west to the Oxus River (now Amu Darya) on the east.

Possible UNESCO tag for Iranian caravanserais

Iran has put forward a selection of 56 caravansaries as a candidate for collective inclusion on UNESCO'S cultural heritage list.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran was developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture as well as historical and cultural values.

Caravansary (also Caravanserai or Caravansaray) is a building that served as the inn of the Orient, providing accommodation for commercial, pilgrim, postal, and especially

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

For many travelers, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back to a forgotten age. Such roadside inns were once con-

structed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

Silk Roads may be the most famous ex-

ample dotted by caravanserais.

It is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais, many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their actual usage.

However, a couple of years ago, the Iran tourism ministry introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to private investors for better maintenance. Now, some are exclusively renovated and repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Regional fund to help promote environmental diplomacy

TEHRAN - One of the measures taken by the Iranian government toward the development of environmental diplomacy was the holding of a regional summit on combating sand and dust storms last year.

The meeting was attended by ministers and representatives of regional countries and six international agencies, and its final statement was approved as the Tehran Declaration.

Hossein Mousavifar, an official with the Department of Environment, told IRNA that the participating countries were obliged to create an environmental fund and organization in cooperation with each other.

"In this regard, technical groups between countries have been formed. This was one of the initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Over the past year, the work on creating the environmental fund and regional organization has made good progress, and is almost at the final stage, the official noted.

On November 17, 2015, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, announced the general policies on the environment, emphasizing the need for comprehensive, harmonious, and organized management of vital resources based on ecological capability and sustainability, particularly by increasing capacities and appropriate legal and structural capabilities accompanied by public participation.

President Ebrahim Raisi has highlighted the importance of



environmental protection, emphasizing that the preservation of the environment is prior to every development.

Environmental protection will lead to power, security, investment, and production growth in the country, he said.

Both people and NGOs have an effective role to play in the protection of the environment, and they should be given a chance to play their role, he added.

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

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

One of the approvals of the regional meeting of environment ministers, which was held in Iran last summer, was the establish-

ment of a regional dust organization, he highlighted. "Environmental diplomacy is the main priority for the country's politi-

cal diplomacy, so holding the conference on combating sand and dust storms is important for us."

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

In February, Salajeqeh said that based on the successful experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of combating sand and dust storms, the United Nations introduced Iran as the host of the international conference on combating sand and dust storms, IRIB reported.

Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in July, this meeting will be held in Tehran with the presence of the environment ministers of the world countries, Salajeqeh said.

In the field of diplomacy, the Department of Environment has held meetings with neighboring countries to the extent that Egypt has also announced its readiness to attend the Tehran meeting, he highlighted.

He pointed out that a delegation from Iran will travel to Iraq in the near future to discuss the issue of sand and dust storms in order to make decisions to deal with the problem.

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

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

Addressing the opening ceremony, President Ebrahim Raisi emphasized that the preservation of the environment is essential and an inevitable priority.

Raisi had earlier obliged the Department of Environment to diligently pursue the solution of sand and dust storms through diplomacy and international forums, as well as interaction with neighboring countries. Women from the Leader's point of view-9

Iranian women's role in Sacred Defense literature, cinema undeniable

From page **1** • Over the past two decades, the role and status of women during the Sacred Defense era have taken on a significant portion of the war literature, but there are still a variety of topics that have not been paid much attention to.

Many authors and film directors have investigated the role of women especially in the stories of the war period and the characters who lived in Sacred Defense literature.

They have particularly been focusing on the role and characters of mothers and wives of the martyrs, war veterans and prisoners and women who stayed at home but helped frontline combatants.

> The role of women during the Sacred Defense has taken on a significant portion of the war literature.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei considers the period of Sacred Defense as one of the most important eras of the country that can be shown through art and literature to the young generations.

Ayatollah Khamenei in on May 25, 2017 address to a gathering of war veterans and commanders, as well as artists, filmmakers, writers and narrators producing works of art about the Sacred Defense hailed the memories of the war as a "national asset", and likened the works of art about that era to "cement being pumped into the pillars of the Revolution, national identity and country's progress."

The Leader has on various occasions emphasized the necessity for cherishing the memories of the Iranian soldiers' courage and devotion to their motherland during the Sacred Defense.

Iranian literature is full of books that remind us of the suffering, resistance and other dignities of the nation during the Iraqi imposed war on Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei also pays special attention to the books written by Iranian fecommendation of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

JUNE 8, 2023

SOCIET

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

"The books that these ladies have written--those I have read and seen--are among the best stories in terms of imagery and the like; they are not novels; rather they are memoirs. But they are truly beautiful. I really thank you for your work," said Ayatollah Khamenei on the sidelines of a meeting with the publishers of the book 'Faranguiss'. (September 30, 2018)

In a meeting with the publisher and production team of 'One Woman's War: Da' [a memoir by Ms. Seyyedeh Zahra Hosseini detailing her experiences during the Iran–Iraq War] the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated, "The book 'Da' which is actually a fine book and presentable to the world, is related to a small part of the history of the imposed was and this shows that our 8-year holy defense has to potential to produce thousands of books in order to convey Islamic culture and values to society and to the world." (May 10, 2010)

He also appreciated Ms. Zahra Hosseini, narrator of 'Da' and Ms. Azam Hosseini, author of the book.

The historical record of Iranian people's resistance against the aggression of Baathists, as an important and sensitive action, has played a decisive role in explaining the existing realities. In this regard, the role of television and especially cinema in showing the importance of the Sacred Defense era is also great and can never be denied and belittled.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution about the importance of cinema in one of his speeches said that cinema is more valuable than many other arts fields because the way of conveying its message is better, more prominent, and more valuable than others.

Directed by Iranian filmmaker Rasoul Mollagholipour in1998, 'Hiva' is one of the most successful examples of films produced in Sacred Defense genre that portrays the character of a martyr's wife.

"Heeva Akbari after 15 years of the disappearance of her husband Hamid in the war decides to visit the old house she was living there by her husband," the synopsis of the film read.

Ayatollah Khamenei in a message issued to Congress '7,000 Martyred Iranian Women' on March 6, 2013 said, "I hope that by the blessed blood of these noble women [Iranian women martyred in imposed war], the media, artists, intellectuals and the cinema can show the world how Muslim Iranian women engaged in great jihad."

Iran to equip Venezuelan science and technology park

TEHRAN – Iranian companies, researchers, and experts will provide equipment for the Venezuelan science and technology park.

Amir-Hossein Mirabadi, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, has recently paid a visit to the Venezuelan science and technology park, IRNA reported.

During the visit, he met with the head of the Venezuelan science and technology park in order to finalize previous agreements.

"We are ready to equip the park with Iranmade equipment," he said, announcing readiness to hold training courses for the Venezuelan workforce.

In November 2022, Iranian Science Minister Mohammad Ali Zolfigol in a meeting in Tehran with his Venezuelan counterpart Gabriela Servilia Jimenez announced readiness to establish a science and technology park in Venezuela.

With 49 science and technology parks and 7,500 technological companies and numerous knowledge-based companies, Iran has valuable experiences in the field of science and technology and is ready to help Venezuela in establishing a science and technology park, Zolfigol said.

tween Iran and Venezuela to the same level as the political relations," he added.

Iran is not dependent on the East and the West and can interact and cooperate with different countries of the world by its will, he noted, adding, forming a joint committee can help operationalize the will to increase scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Jimenez also for her part stated that the two countries are serious to increase scientific and technological cooperation, and a road map for the development of cooperation should be drawn.

Venezuela also attaches great importance to science and technology, and soon the first industrial science and technology park will be opened, she added.

"We believe that science should be in the service of philanthropy, pacifism, environmental protection, and the development of humanity, and we believe that Iran also shares common ground," she also said.

At the end of this meeting, a memorandum



ences and holding meetings.

Some 200 companies attended this event and 60 cooperation contracts were signed. We tried to provide a field for interaction and synergy between companies, she said.

On June 11, President Ebrahim Raisi heading a high-ranking delegation will travel to Latin America, planning to visit Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

In an interview with IRNA, Iranian Ambassador to Venezuela Hojjatollah Soltani took stock of the state of relations between Iran and Venezuela. He said, "Our relations are very good and moving forward in all spheres politically, economically, culturally, scientifically, and technically. Currently, our political relations with Venezuela are at the highest level and we have high political commonalities with the government and people of this country."

"We must try and plan to promote the scientific and technological cooperation be-

of understanding on scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries was signed.

In September 2022, more than 82 knowledge-based firms attended an exhibition in Caracas with the aim of exchanging experimale authors about that era.

'Faranguiss' [a book compiled by Ms. Mahnaz Fattahi containing the memoir of Ms. Faranguiss Heidar-Pour on the 8-year Saddam imposed war on Iran] is among the most known books that were paid heeded by the



Cherry picking in Mazandaran

Bandbon village in the northern province of Mazandaran is one of the main areas for cherry cultivation in the country.

With some 200,000 tons of harvest, Iran is the third largest producer of cherry, ranking next to Turkey and the United States.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Special plan prepared to attract

overseas Iranian researchers

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has prepared a special plan to attract scientists and researchers living abroad, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The project aims to promote "supporting technological activities and startups", "postdoctoral facilities", "supporting employment in innovation centers and accelerators as a trainer and consultant", "providing facilities for opportunity studies", "providing housing facilities", "supporting employment in reputable domestic companies", "support for lectures and specialized workshops" and "support for cooperation as invited and appointed professors".

طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

جذب محققان و پژوهشگران خارج از کشور یکی از اولویتهای کشور محسوب می شود و در این راستا معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری طرحی ویژه پیشنهاد کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیتهای فناورانه و ایجاد شرکتهای نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهندهها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکتهای معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاههای تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین»است.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When two persons are together, two of them must not whisper to each other, without letting the third hear; because it would hurt him. Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:03

Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

Image of Persia, Persian literature among **French authors**

Evening: 19:39

Part 3

So much for Les Orientales. Differently, in the Légende des Siècles (1859), a precise link may be detected between a ghazal of Hafez and the biblical poem Booz endormi:

Et Ruth se demandait/Quel dieu, quel moisonneur de l'éternel été

Avait en s'en allant négligemment jeté/Cette faucille d'or dans le champ des étoiles.

may have borrowed the final metaphor from one of Hafez's ghazals:

Mazra-ye sabz-e falak didam o das-e mah-e now/Yad-am az keshte-ye khish amad o hangam-e derow.

"I saw the green field of the celestial vault and the sickle of the new moon; I remembered my seedbed and the time of the harvest."

In the unfinished poem Dieu revelations are made by birds as in Farid ad-Din Attar's Manteq altayr, translated in 1863 by Garcin de Tassy.

With Marceline Desbordes-Valmore (1786-1859), an early romantic whom Victor Hugo praised as "poetry itself," roses culled from the title of Sadi's Golestan had lent their perfume to her short poem "Les Roses de Saadi."

Omar Khayyam, the author of the Robaiyat first translated into French in 1867 by Jean-Baptiste Nicolas with an introduction, and retranslated many times, was very much debated: was he a mystic, a free-thinker, an epicure?

Théophile Gautier (1811-72), the founder of the school of art for art's sake, had a sound, balanced appreciation of the scientist-philosopher-poet. His daughter Judith wrote Le Second rang du Collier, inspired by Sadi's Bustan and much admired by her father.

regime, with generals pocketing the pay of their soldiers, etc.; on the other hand, in his Religions et philosophies en Asie centrale, and in his novel Amadis posthumously published in 1887, he not only portrayed ancient Persia as the paragon of the "Aryan race" but also, fascinated by Babism and Shiism and by several performances of tazieh, he prophesied the emergence, as in ancient Athens from the cult of Dionysos, of a new kind of tragedy.

Gobineau as an admirer of Shiism was followed, in our time, by another enthusiast, Henry Corbin, who taught both in Tehran and Paris and wrote, among other books, Face de Dieu et face de l'homme, 1983.

Maurice Maeterlinck's (1869-1949) Oiseau bleu was an avatar of the unattainable Simorgh, and his symbolistic play Pelléas et Mélisande the story told in the Shahnameh (translated by Jules Mohl from 1838 to 1878) of Zal and Rudabeh.

And it was used by Claude Debussy (1862-1918) as the libretto for an opera first performed in 1902, a landmark in the history of modern music.

Another great musician, Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) put to music Scheherazade, a poem by Tristan Klingsor (1876–1966), inspired by Hafez.

And the musician Paul Dukas (1863-1935), in his choreographic poem La Péri, portrays this replica of the Avestan pairikasas coveted by a man who forsakes his passion so that the seductress, who aspires to purity, may accomplish her destiny.

Both André Gide (1861-1951) in his Nourritures terrestres, and Henry de Montherlant (1895-1972) in his Eventail de fer laid out their debt to the "masters of Persia"; both found in Persian poetry a means of shaking off conventional morality; in particular, they were attracted, as homosexuals, to love poems which, owing to the ambiguity of the Persian language, can often not be said whether to

"Motherless" director honored at London Rainbow film festival

TEHRAN – Seyyed Morteza Fatemi won the best director award for his latest acclaimed drama "Motherless" at the 24th Rainbow International Film Festival London.

Also written by Fatemi, the film is about an educated, middleaged couple, Amir-Ali and Marjan, who lead a quiet life. When Marjan insists on renting a womb and a surrogate mother enters their life, unintentionally they go through different tests and face moral dilemmas.

IRIMAGE handles the international sales of the film starring Amir Aqai, Mitra Hajjar and Pejman Jamshidi.

"Motherless" was named best film at the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival in Bangladesh. It also was selected as the best film Asian film at the Bengaluru International Film Festival in India.

The winners of the Rainbow festival were announced on Sunday.

The Bangladeshi thriller "JK 1971" was picked as best film. Directed by Fakhrul Arefeen Khan, it is the first English-language Bangladeshi film about the Bangladesh liberation war that features Sabyasachi Chakrabarty and Subhra Sourav Das in lead roles.

The Indian drama "Gargi" won the award for best screenplay.

A scene from the documentary film

"Videograms of a Revolution".

TEHRAN - "Videograms of a Revolution", an

acclaimed documentary about the December

1989 Romanian Revolution, will be reviewed at

the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Sunday.

Critic Amir-Hossein Siadat will discuss the

documentary following a screening starting

at 5 pm.

Festival in Brazil.



Seyyed Morteza Fatemi (L) directs Pejman Jamshidi (C) and Amir Aqai in a scene from his film "Motherless".

in love with a troublemaker from

the orphanage. This brings Saule

into conflict with her husband. But

one day, they find out that their

daughter is diagnosed with cancer.

Painter" by Chinese director Da Fei

won the special jury mention, while

In this category, "The Coffin

Director Gautham Ramachandran co-wrote the screenplay with Hariharan Raju.

The film follows a young schoolteacher on a journey to prove her father's innocence with the help of a juvenile advocate who has never even seen the interior of a courthouse.

The Best Film for Humanity award went to the Kazakh drama "Mom, I'm Alive!"

Written and directed by "Satao" by Khandaker Sumon from

Muhammed Mamyrbekov and Aziz Bangladesh received the Rainbow Zairov, the film tells the story of Film Society Special Mention. Saule Iskakova, a young daughter The best film award in the short of a juvenile police officer who falls and documentary category was

> given to "Tulika" from Bangladesh. Finnish filmmaker Kati Kallio won the award for best director for "Walks with Me", while "Ebong Chad" from India received the best screenplay award.

"Arsu" by Abod Kazemi from Iran was awarded the special jury mention

Iranian Artists Forum to review doc on 1989 Romanian Revolution



Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu gave his last-ever public speech on December 21, 1989, from the balcony of the enormous People's House in Bucharest. Five days later he was executed, together with his wife Elena. Media images from the revolution that unfolded in a matter of days were sparse. Chaos and confusion reigned supreme.

Farocki and Ujica collected 125 hours of film made by both amateurs and official news gatherers. From this huge diversity of perspectives, they distilled a reconstruction of the popular uprising. With meticulous attention to the facts, they took each clip and indicated the moment it was shot, who made it and with what intention, camera position, image quality and anomalies.

Scenes of outraged demonstrators and the The film was compiled by German director storming of the palace, recall October (1928),

"The Lady" to compete in Brazil Olhar de Cinema festival

images of a reality that remains difficult to disentangle. "The determining medium of an era has always marked history, quite unambiguously so in that of modern Europe. It was influenced

Sergei Eisenstein's documentarv-style story

about the Russian October Revolution in 1917.

Eisenstein's revolution was staged, however,

while "Videograms of a Revolution" shows

by theater, from Shakespeare to Schiller, and later on by literature, until Tolstoy," Ujica has previously said.

"As we know, the 20th century is filmic. But only the video camera, with its heightened possibilities in terms of recording time and mobility, can bring the process of filming history to completion. Provided, of course, that there is history," he has added.

In 2004, the Austrian Film Museum selected the documentary as part of its Die Utopie Film program for the Best 100 in Film History list.

ambiance.

Ansari has previously been selected as best director for his short drama "Fashion" at the Omid International Short Film Festival.

shows that mix Brazilian and A jury comprising Nanako foreign films, enabling dialogue Tsukidate, Jéssica Queiroz, Hubert Sabino-Brunette, Guilherme Weber and Fabricio Boliveira will select the winners in the official competition.

movie theaters, 30,000 people watching movies online and exhibited more than 900 films from all over the world.

The festival seeks to compose

Maurice Bouchor (1855-1929), author of Le Songe de Khayyam, declared himself one of the followers of the poet, "a flower of life, wisdom and intelligence." And Khayyam was particularly praised by Princess Marthe Bibesco (1887-1973), author of Les Huit Paradis (1908).

The Parnassians admired the formal perfection of Persian poetry and could consider it a model for their own primacy of form.

Laconte de Lisle (1814-94) included in his Poèmes tragiques a poem, Les Roses d'Ispahan, inspired by Sadi's Golestan and Bustan, as well as by Jami's Layla wa Majnun.

In José-Maria de Heredia's (1842-1905) admirable sonnets, Les Trophées, a battle between Romans and Parthians provides a rhyme:

Les soldats regardaient comme des feuilles mortes/Tourbillonner au loin les archers de Phraortes.

famous for shooting backwards, on horseback, the Parthian shot, "la flèche du Parthe."

Armand Renaud (1836-99), a minor Parnassian, author of Les Nuits persanes published in 1865 and again in a revised version, in 1896, was haunted all his life by Attar.

Jules Michelet (1798-1874) had in his Bible de l'Humanité a chapter on La Perse which judged very favorably that ancient country, home of a religion of justice, Zoroastrianism. Gérard de Nerval (1808-55), in his Voyage en Orient, gives Persia as one of the destinations of the spiritual pilgrim, and his novel Aurelia the three sacred names of Shiism are inserted: Allah! Muhammad! Ali!

Joseph-Arthur, Comte de Gobineau (1810-82) described in his Nouvelles asiatiques a corrupt be addressed to a girl or a boy.

Pierre Loti (1850-1923), also a homosexual, in his fanciful Vers Ispahan pretends to have crossed the mountains at night on horseback from the Persian Gulf to the Safavid capital and to have spoken Persian and to have seen roses everywhere.

Louis Aragon (1897-1982), for some time a surrealist and always a communist, was inspired, in his enthusiastic celebration of the madness of Love. partly by Saint John of the Cross but mainly by Jalal ad-Din Rumi, Attar, and Jami.

He begins Le Fou d'Elsa with a hemistich translated from Jami's mystical poem Salaman & Absal: eshq-bazi mikonam ba nam-e u, and ends up calling himself a heart-piercing arrowhead to Jami's bent bow.

The story of Zal and Rudabeh told by Ferdowsi inspired Abel Bonnard's Le Prince persan (1908). It was also translated by Auguste Bricteux (1873-1937), who taught Persian at the University of Liège.

In addition, the latter author made a blank verse rendition of Roustem et Sohrab: épisode du Livre des rois (Paris, 1938) and provided Jami's mystical love poem Salaman and Absal (Salaman et Absal, Paris, 1911) with an introduction on Islamic mysticism and Persian rhetoric and prosody. He dedicated his translation of Jami to the famous statesman Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929), who had written Le Voile du Bonheur, also inspired by Persia.

Persia continues to inspire contemporary poets and novelists. A faint echo of Lettres persanes reverberates in Fanny Deschamps' novel Louison ou l'heure exquise (Paris, 1987).

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica. Concluded.

competition of the festival which will take place from June 14 to 22 in Curitiba.

Directed by Fardin Ansari, the

film will be screened in the official

TEHRAN – Iranian short drama

"The Lady" will be competing in the

Olhar de Cinema International Film

In this film. Lady Macbeth has returned to deliver a message and the forest animals welcome her in a bittersweet atmosphere.

In a reinterpretation of Shakespeare's classic character, the film creates a unique



"The Lady" by Iranian director Fardin Ansari.

environment that melds the theater-like interplay between a snake and a polar bear, personified by two female humanoids, with a humid, fog-filled, yet pop

Olhar de Cinema – Curitiba IFF began its activities as an independent film festival. Since 2012, the festival has attracted more than 150,000 people to and exchange between all these universes. Alongside the shows that make up the event's official selection, the festival also sheds light and pays tribute to masters of world independent cinema, restored classic films and also new directors who, even with a short filmography, already have a strong artistic identity.

Stage adaptation of Dostoevsky's short story "The Crocodile" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "The Crocodile", a play written by British actor and comedy writer Tom Basden based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's short story of the same title, has been published in Persian.

First published in 2016, the play has been released by Ney. Mahrokh Hemmati is the translator of the book.

Ivan is an actor who hasn't achieved the recognition he feels he deserves. But all that is about to change when he is swallowed whole by a crocodile.

"The Crocodile" is a ferociously funny, eyepopping theatrical play about art, animals and what happens when you try to take on the system from within... a crocodile.

Basden is also a member of the British fourman sketch group Cowards. He has written and performed extensively for comedy shows on the BBC and Channel 4 and often collaborates in two-man shows with fellow Cowards member Tim Key.

He was educated at King's College School, an independent school for boys in Wimbledon in South West London, followed by Pembroke College at the University of Cambridge.

He was vice president of the Footlights and his contemporaries included Stefan Golaszewski, Sarah Solemani, Tim Key and Dan Stevens.

Basden's one-man show at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival Fringe "Tom Basden Won't Say Anything" won the if.comedy award for Best Newcomer.

He also starred with Tim Key in the short film "The One and Only Herb McGwyer Plays Wallis Island", which won the UK Film Council Kodak Award for Best British Short Film.

Basden replaced Tim Minchin as the resident musician for the second series of "Mark Watson Makes the World Substantially Better" where he appears along with Tim Key and Mark Watson.





Front cover of the Persian edition of Tom Basden's play "The Crocodile".