Report

Dividing al-Aqsa compound a "declaration of war"

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN - An Israeli Knesset member's proposal to split Islam's al-Aqsa Mosque complex between Muslims and settlers has been met with fierce opposition by the Palestinian resistance who say it amounts to a "declaration of war".

Amit Halevi, a member of the Likud party, which has a slim majority in the Israeli Knesset, has proposed a plan to divide the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied al-Quds between Jewish settlers and Muslims, sparking warnings by the Palestinian resistance.

There has been long-held suspicion by Palestinians and the wider Muslim world of the regime's plans to Judaize Islam's third holiest site.

Halevi made the deeply controversial remarks during an interview with a Hebrew-language newspaper, where he outlined a plan that would divide the large complex, in which Muslims would be subjected to the southern end that contains the al-Aqsa Mosque.

All the remaining compound, including the central and northern parts, would be reserved for settlers, including the area where the Dome of the Rock, another very holy Muslim site, is located.

Halevi has also proposed that Jordan's role as custodians of both the Muslim and Christian holy places in the occupied Palestinian city of al-Quds be replaced with Israeli authority.

"If they (Muslims) pray there, it does not make the entire (al-Aqsa Mosque complex) a holy place for Muslims. It wasn't and it won't be," Halevi said. ▶ Page **5**

Iran insists its missile program is in accordance with international law

TEHRAN- The meddling remarks about Iran's first hypersonic missile by certain Western nations have been denounced as "invalid" by Iran, who asserted that its missile activities are "conventional" under inter-

"The missile activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are conventional, defensive and completely legitimate based on international law," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Thursday.

The remarks by Kanaani followed after the U.S., UK, and France made negative comments on the debut of Iran's first hypersonic missile called Fattah.

"Hosting nuclear missiles and playing a destructive role in regional and international issues, these countries, which have a long and clear history of violating ▶ Page 2

Diplomatic Sabotage

Israel steps up efforts to derail diplomacy with Iran



Iran planning to launch cell therapy centers in neighboring countries

TEHRAN – The Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology is planning to launch cell therapy centers in neighboring countries and boost exports of related products as well.

The Vice Presidency is cooperating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish links with the neighboring countries in the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine, IRNA reported.

In this line, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a number of ambassadors of the country in several countries and a group of CEOs of companies active in the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine in attendance.

The meeting aimed to support the de-

velopment and transfer of technologies in the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine and interaction with the target

It was also aimed to create opportunities for the development of educational and research cooperation between Iran and other countries. ▶ Page 7

Sarajevo hosts Iranian children's film festival

TEHRAN – A festival Iranian children's dren and Youth. film festival was held in Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia Herzegovina, from June 5 to 8.

The Soureh Cinema Organization of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization and the Sky-Frame animation studio organized the festival in collaboration with the Novo Sarajevo International Center for Chil-

The festival opened with "Dolphin Boy". a SkyFrame animated movie by Mohammad Kheirandish.

In this movie, a little boy survives a plane crash and is rescued by a young wild dolphin. They grow up together, entertaining marine life with their funny tricks. One day, the peace of their joyful world is destroyed by an evil octopus.

The festival went on with a screening a Soureh acclaimed animation "Loupetoo" by Abbas Askari.

The movie is about Mr. Kamali, the owner of a sanitarium who treats patients by teaching them to make toys. The toys are creative, so they are very attractive for the children. ▶ Page 8

Iran volleyball's future looks bright

TEHRAN - Iran national volleyball team have so far suffered two losses in the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 1 but the team's future looks bright.

Team Melli started the prestigious campaign with a 3-0 loss against hosts Japan in Nagoya but showed a great performance against Poland in their second match. Behrouz Ataei's men lost to the world's No. 1 3-2 but they showed how strong they are.

Pouria Hossein Khanzadeh, Ali Hajipour and Mohammad Valizadeh are three talented and young players who have a bright future ahead in the National Team.

Despite not winning a match, the team showed a great potential and determination, leaving the Iranian fans optimistic about what's to come.

Iran has a rich history in volleyball, with the sport being one of the most popular in the country. The national team has had some notable achievements over the years, including winning multiple Asian Championships and qualifying for two Olympic Games (2016, 2020). ▶ Page **3**



Raisi inaugurates industrial, infrastructure projects in northwestern Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has inaugurated numerous industrial, energy, and infrastructure projects during a two-day visit to the northwestern East Azarbaijan province, IRNA reported.

President Raisi, who arrived in Tabriz in East Azarbaijan province on Thursday morning, was warmly welcomed by the people and provincial officials.

Upon arrival at Tabriz International Airport, Raisi told the press that creating employment for the young generation and solving ▶ Page 4

Iranian, Azeri FMs seek to resolve misunderstandings

TEHRAN- In a phone conversation on Thursday, foreign ministers from Iran and Azerbaijan placed emphasis on the requirement to settle current disagreements between the two neighbors to make relations return to normality.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian of Iran and his Azeri counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov discussed the most recent situation in relations and emphasized that the quality of ties ought to be consistent with the idea of good neighborliness and fit with their shared objectives.

The officials underlined that the negotiations between the two sides must continue, adding that both sides must exchange technical and specialized teams to work on resolving their long-standing issues.

They also highlighted the need for proper management of each side's media outlets' coverage of their relations.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that Tehran pursues a policy of good neighborliness and the removal of visa requirements for citizens of Azerbaijan. ▶ Page 2

IAEA board meeting concludes without resolution against Iran

TEHRAN - The meeting of the Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was concluded on Friday without any resolution against Iran despite the tireless efforts by some Western nations and the Israeli regime.

During the board meeting, some Western countries, including the European troika and the United States, tried to guestion Iran's nuclear program by issuing unfounded statements.

Notwithstanding such statements and the Tel Aviv regime's continuous efforts at the international level against Iran's civilian nuclear program, no resolution was issued against Tehran, and instead it was hoped that the current deadlock would be overcome with continued cooperation between Iran and the IAEA.

The meeting covered a variety of topics pertaining to nuclear safety, implementation of safeguards agreement, and enhancing the IAEA's scientific and research endeavors.

The U.S., UK, and Australia's trilateral security agreement, known as AUKUS, as well as North Korea's nuclear program, Syria, were discussed.

TehranPapers 🕕

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

Martyr Soleimani never trusted America

The Kayhan newspaper wrote in its editorial that Sardar (General) Soleimani never trusted America, but the optimistic side who trusted the West many times and who gave huge concession from the "pockets" of the Iranian people, ▶ Page 2

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·TEHRAN PAPERS·

Martyr Soleimani never trusted America

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

The Kayhan newspaper wrote in its editorial that Sardar (General) Soleimani never trusted America, but the optimistic side who trusted the West many times and who gave huge concession from the "pockets" of the Iranian people, saw deception and disloyalty. Despite all this, they still promoted trust in America and, unfortunately, they opened the main front inside and against sympathetic critics. Haj Qassem - like the members of Zarif's team - never said: "Kerry's signature is a guarantee" and "it is not possible for America not to fulfill its commitment". After revelation of facts and the public protest, Zarif said: "The agreement with the United States is not as valuable as the ink on the paper." The result of adhering to the JCPOA was more sanctions. But even stranger than these bitter and costly confessions of Zarif's team was the next position of Mr. Rouhani who said: "Trump, who is illiterate, left the JCPOA with a signature; the new president of the United States just signs one, (and) we will return to the commitments"! The psychology of this team was completely in the hands of the enemy, as the Radio France website wrote in Mehr 1392(October 2013): "The West's evaluation of Rouhani's government is an interaction with a debtor and eager salesman who finds himself perforce to sell national rights. If the buyer is patient, the seller will sell at a lower

Iran: Washington is worried and confused

The Iran newspaper discussed the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia. It wrote: Following the agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the Zionist authorities, who had used all their capacities to normalize relations with Riyadh and define Iran as a common enemy, are now unable to find out an answer to the question of "exactly where they are now". Previously, Tel Aviv's main focus was on mobilizing regional and international parties to block any solution that would recognize Iran's important role in the region and thus change the balance of power and security and strategic equations at the regional level. This is despite the fact that the current changes following the reconciliation between Tehran and Riyadh can create security-military challenges against Tel Aviv and then neutralize this regime's crisis-making policy and provide an opportunity for the Islamic Republic to end crises and reduce tension with neighboring Arab countries. Therefore, the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran was an unexpected hit to actors such as Tel Aviv, who had placed their power source in provoking conflicts and sectarian divisions, and creating chain of crises. The sum of these changes gives enough reasons to evaluate the hasty trips of American officials to Riyadh. The Islamic Republic's innovative diplomacy has confused Western actors, especially the United States, and made them flustered to put a brake on the rapid developments in the Middle East. However, this time it seems they cannot withstand the strong determination by regional countries to heal the rifts among themselves.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Bin Farhan's souvenir

Arman-e-Emrooz addressed Blinken's trip to Riyadh. The paper said: Richard Goldberg, an expert on political issues, said that one of the motivations to hold the recent negotiations is to prevent Saudi Arabia from moving more toward China. In an agreement which was brokered by Beijing in March, Riyadh and Tehran agreed to restore formal diplomatic relations that had been cut seven years ago. Goldberg said: "The kingdom is on the defensive. Obviously, efforts to warm up relations will require more than a trip by the National Security Advisor and the Secretary of State."

The coincidence of these events with the declaration of Bin Farhan's visit to Tehran and the reopening of the Iranian embassy in Saudi Arabia has caused more suspicions about the triangle of Iran, America and Saudi Arabia. The triangle whose sides tend to reduce tension in the Middle East, and may also be the souvenir of Bin Farhan from Riyadh for Tehran. A souvenir that should be expected to arrive in Iran in the coming days, although the exact time of the visit of this high-ranking Saudi diplomat to Iran has not yet been declared.

Ettelaat: Iran-Turkey ties from threat and controlling to cooperation

In a note, Ettelaat discussed the relations between Ankara and Tehran and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran can resolve Turkey's concerns in many fields through active and innovative planning and policies. Instead of bitter rivalry with Turkey, Iran can cooperate with this important and influential country in the region and change the course of events toward cooperation and meeting common interests. Cooperation and synergy on Syria, mutual cooperation to neutralize Western sanctions against the two countries, cooperation in the field of rational and effective confrontation with the Kurds in the region and joint planning to deal with the crisis of illegal immigrants are some of the reasons that Iran and Turkey have common interests and working on them can make the approaches of the two countries closer to each other and reduce the level of mutual threats and pressures of the two sides against each other.

Iranian, Azeri FMs seek to resolve misunderstandings



From page **1** ► He denounced attempts by the Zionist regime to damage relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The spokesman underlined that what the people of Azerbaijan should be afraid of is the Zionist regime, not the civilizational and Islamic Iran.

"Our policy continues to be the abolition of visa requirements and the open arms for the Azeri brothers and sisters," the spokesman stressed.

Kanaani stated that Iran sticks to the policy of good neighborliness within the framework of mutual respect and observance of neighborliness norms.

When the embassy of the Caucasian country was attacked in Tehran, the capital of Iran, the ties grew tense.

The attack was classified as a "terrorist" incident by Azerbaijan, despite the fact that an investigation revealed the attacker's motivation to be "personal and family-related problems."

Ilham Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan, also attributed the incident to the "Iranian establish-

Later, Baku expelled four Iranian diplomats, which prompted Tehran to take a similar action in

At the same time, Azerbaijan has been strengthening ties with the Israeli regime.

Isaac Herzog, the President of Israel, visited Azerbaijan around the end of last month. Herzog said that he and Aliyev had a lengthy conversation regarding the security of the world and the region, noting that it was "endangered and threatened by Iran."

Eli Cohen, the Foreign Minister for the Israeli regime, stated earlier this year that he and Bayramov had agreed on a stance towards Iran.

Tehran has criticized Baku for working with the occupying regime to create a unified front against the Islamic Republic.

Tehran rejects signing 'interim pact' with U.S.

TEHRAN- Reports that Iran and the United States are concluding an "interim deal" that calls for partial sanctions relief on the Islamic Republic in exchange for modifications to the nation's nuclear energy program have been roundly rejected by Iran's mission to the UN.

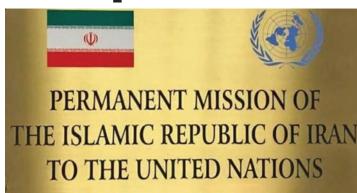
The London-based Middle East Eye (MEE) website purportedly said that both countries were close to reaching such an agreement despite the stalling of negotiations on the renewal of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

It cited two unnamed sources as saying Iran and the United States were "nearing a temporary deal that would swap some sanctions relief for reducing Iranian uranium enrichment activities."

The MEE also cited the sources as saying "the two sides have reached an agreement on a temporary deal to take to their respective superiors."

The report said Iran would commit to cease enriching uranium to purity of 60% or above and would continue cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog in return for being allowed to export up to 1 million barrels of oil per day and gaining access "to its income and other frozen funds abroad.

A White House National Security Council spokesperson also denied the MEE report on Thursday, label-



ing it "false and misleading".

The spokesperson added, "Any reports of an interim deal are false."

According to National News, Iran's mission also said, "Our comment is the same as the White House comment."

Iran and a number of countries, including the United States, concluded an agreement known as the JCPOA in July 2015. The Islamic Republic was given a little amount of sanction relief as a result, and it subsequently offered to modify part of its nuclear activity. The agreement went into force in January 2016.

However, the U.S. withdrew from the agreement in 2018 under the administration of former President Donald Trump, reinstating all the sanctions that it had waived.

In April 2021, talks were resumed under Joe Biden's presidency to renew the accord.

However, since Washington has refused to provide assurances that it won't back out of the pact again, the negotiations have been stalled since September 2022.

The Iranian mission to the UN stated on Thursday that there is no interim agreement "meant to replace the JCPOA" and that no such agreement is on the table.

On Wednesday, Mohsen Naziri Asl, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations in Vienna, mentioned the U.S.'s self-proclaimed willingness to rejoin the JCPOA.

"Despite the arduous negotiations that lasted for more than 18 months, mainly due to the lack of American political will and determination, we could not bring the talks to a conclusion," he added.

The talks to revive the JCPOA started in April 2021 and lasted until September 2022.

Naziri Asl described Iran's recent

cooperative efforts with the IAEA as "constructive" and "logical," calling expectations from Iran "unreasonable" and "illogical."

"Iran's nuclear activities, including uranium enrichment at various levels, are completely peaceful and in accordance with the Iranian people's rights based on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and are under the supervision and verification of the IAEA safeguards," the top diplomat emphasized.

According to the diplomat, the U.S. government has lately emphasized in many occasions that reviving the JCPOA is "not on the agenda for months," expressing concern that certain parties have turned a blind eye to the "irresponsible attitude," and are even aligning with it.

"The measure shows that miscalculations and minor political considerations are dominating the revival of an agreement that the international community has invested for years to achieve," Naziri Asl remarked.

He also said that "it is a matter of serious concern that despite Iran's extensive cooperation with the UN nuclear agency, the European Union, especially Germany, Britain and France, continue to resort to outdated tactics and play a dirty game with political motivation to target Iran's ongoing cooperation with the IAEA."

Iran-Saudi ties have positive impact on regional issues: envoy



TEHRAN- The relationship between the two regional powerhouses of Iran and Saudi Arabia will undoubtedly have a good effect on regional concerns, according to Iran's new ambassador to

In an interview with Iran's Arabic-language al-Alam news network that was broadcast on Wednesday, Alireza Enayati said that Israel is trying to sabotage the restoration of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Riyadh.

He stated, "Many of our friends and brothers welcomed the restoration of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia," adding that some were simply angry or, like the Israeli regime, found it intolerable and attempted to undermine the thriving relationship.

However, he emphasized that what matters is to work constructively together and give the issue of regional security top priority based on growth in the economy, trade, society, and culture.

Enayati continued by stating that providing security through such reproachment could result in the removal or decrease of foreign troops in the region.

He went on to say that nothing can undermine regional collaboration when it is strengthened.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are two regional powerhouses, and their connections would undoubtedly have a good effect on issues in the region, the ambassador said.

he added, "The Islamic Republic has often expressed willingness to improve ties with its

Ambassador Enayati said that there are several areas where cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia could create economic prospects for the advancement of neighboring nations.

In addition, the ambassador noted, Iran's ties with some of its neighbors are "very strong" and that their economic cooperation is expanding steadily.

Enayati also praised China's contribution to encouraging the restoration of Tehran-Riyadh relations in the wake of crucial negotiations between the two parties in Beijing.

Iran and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement on March 10 to reestablish diplomatic ties and reopen embassies and missions within two months after their seven-year separation. The agreement followed several days of intense discussions hosted by China.

Much to the U.S. and Israel's chagrin, the détente has the potential to relieve tensions throughout a region that has been plagued by turmoil for decades, according to observers, who see it as a counterweight to measures aimed at alienating regional countries from

In another interview with al-Alam on Tuesday, the ambassador said he believed that the regional nations should embrace a new approach to regional security that is focused on development rather than militarism.

"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 nations 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

"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.

'missile program is in accordance with international law'

From page 1 ▶ their international well-established." obligations in various fields, including nuclear tests and the non-proliferation regime, have no right to comment on the legitimate and completely legal defense capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Kanaani said.

The Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) placed Fattah on display on Tuesday. The 1,400-kilometer-range hypersonic missile can move up to 15 times faster than sound while dodging air defenses.

President Ebrahim Raisi, who attended the unveiling ceremony, said the new missile will increase Iran's "power of deterrence" and "bring peace and stability to the countries of the region."

Reacting to the development, principal deputy spokesperson for the U.S. State Department Vedant Patel said Washington's "concerns about Iran's missile program are

France expressed alarm about Iran's development of a new missile, calling it "yet another breach of UN Security Council Resolution 2231."

The UK Foreign Office claimed that Iran's "continued disregard of international sanctions" is further demonstrated by the missile's unveiling.

In his response, Kanaani stated that the U.S., UK, and Australia's signing of the AUKUS pact is "a clear example of nuclear powers' political and discriminatory approach on transferring technology and highly-enriched uranium to a non-nuclear country in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

America and Britain promise to assist Australia in building at least eight nuclear-powered but unarmed submarines.

The spokesperson praised the Iranian Armed Forces' continuing efforts and strategic breakthroughs in bolstering the nation's defensive might.

Such initiatives, he said, are a proper and efficient way to repel threats from abroad and protect Iran's national security.

Iran reiterates worry over military action in Ukraine

Also on Thursday, Iran reaffirmed its opposition to the Ukraine war and called for finding about the major cause of the demolition of a dam in Ukraine's Kherson region and identifying the culprits.

Writing on his Twitter account, Kanaani said the damage to the dam endangers civilian life and asked all sides to follow internationally accepted conventions.

The Soviet-era Kakhovka hydroelectric dam broke early on Tuesday, sending torrents pouring over the southern Ukraine combat zone and driving tens of thousands of people from their homes. Russia and Ukraine have swapped accusations of responsibility for the disaster.

Russia has said that Ukraine used heavy artillery attacks to deliberately destroy the dam. Kiev has also said Moscow was in charge of the explosion.

Alexander Shulgin, the Russian ambassador to the Netherlands, said Kiev purposefully increased the reservoir's water level to a dangerous level before launching the

The Russian-controlled Kakhovka dam on the Dnipro River burst on Tuesday, causing floods that swamped the whole region and forced hundreds of civilians to flee territories controlled by Russia and Ukraine.

Oleksandr Prokudin, the regional governor, said on social media that the Kherson region is under water to a total of 600 square kilometers.

Diplomatic sabotage

Israel steps up efforts to derail diplomacy with Iran

By Farmarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN - Israel seems to have gotten a whiff of reported diplomatic engagement between Iran and the U.S. And it is apparently trying to prevent that engagement from coming to fruition.

While Iranian and U.S. officials both have rejected media reports of an imminent nuclear deal, Israeli media outlets continue to give the impression that one is looming large.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported on Wednesday that Iran and the U.S. are inching toward a nuclear deal that would include U.S. easing sanctions on Iran and Iran curbing its nuclear activities.

"In an effort to reach an agreement on a nuclear deal, the contacts between the United States and Iran have made major progress in the past few days," the newspaper alleged, adding, "Israeli defense officials say the talks are moving forward more rapidly than expected, with the possibility that the two sides will reach an agreement within weeks."

The reports came against a backdrop of speculations in Western media about meetings between U.S. envoy for Iran Rob Malley and Saied Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who fiercely opposed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, also implied that a deal might be in the making. In a phone call with U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken,



U.S. diplomatic efforts with Iran.

"There are reasons to think that

the reports are misleading, and

on the Israeli side, are meant to

try to scuttle any far more limited

understanding to head off a crisis

in the absence of conditions for a

major new diplomatic resolution on

Citing her own sources, the

journalist said Washington's closest

European partners in the JCPOA

have not been briefed on the Israeli-

officials, the leaking, and spinning,

by Israeli officials, has got to be

a source of extreme irritation. All

the more so because they seem to

distort and weaponize information

the U.S. has briefed to the Israelis,

to keep them in the loop and try

to reassure them of the seemingly

quite limited nature of the effort

Raisi averred.

Biden administration

rumored U.S. Iran contacts.

Iran," Rozen wrote.

Netanyahu said Israel will not be "obligated" to any arrangement with Iran.

Israeli officials appear to operating from the position that a return to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is a foregone conclusion. So, they are working the butts off to use distorted narratives and slanted reports to derail any possibility of diplomacy with Iran.

"Israel is concerned that it has lost the ability to impact understandings being formulated between the United States and Iran regarding Tehran's nuclear program, as levers that were used in the past are no longer relevant," Haaretz wrote.

American diplomatic journalist Laura Rozen wrote that Israeli media reporting on Iran is misleading and aims to damage

deal comes at a time when both Iran and the U.S. are saying in no uncertain terms that no such deal is

The Israeli hype over the rumored

being pursued," she added.

under discussion. Iran's mission to the United Nations denied reports that Tehran and Washington are concluding an interim agreement under which Iran would curb its nuclear program in return for sanctions

relief, according to Tasnim.

Iran's UN mission made the remarks on Thursday after the London-based Middle East Eye (MEE) news and analysis website claimed that the countries were close to clinching such a deal amid the stagnation of talks on the revival of the JCPOA.

"There is no interim deal [meant] to replace the JCPOA," said the Iranian mission to the United Nations, adding that no such agreement is on the agenda, Press TV reported.

Also on Thursday, a White House National Security Council spokesman similarly rejected the MEE report, calling it false and misleading.

As things stand, Israel's "leaks" are another diplomatic act of sabotage that is aimed at keeping the atmosphere highly charged. Israel has been a major force behind the destruction of the JCPOA and it's now working to not only prevent the revival of this deal but also hinder any possibility of diplomacy with Iran.

IRAN IN FOCUS

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Iran volleyball's future looks bright

Frome Page 1 ▶ In recent years, Iran have struggled to maintain their position as a top contenders on the international stage. This is partly due to a lack of investment in youth development programs and infrastructure. But with their recent participation in the VNL with a young team, it seems that Iran are taking steps towards rebuilding their program.

The 2023 VNL saw Iran fielding inexperienced players along with veterans like Mohammad Mousavi and Mohammadreza Hazratpour. With many players making their debut on the international stage, they managed to hold their own against powerhouses Poland in Nagoya on thursday.

There are still plenty of talented players that could make splash in the future.

Looking ahead, it's clear that Iran team have a bright future in volleyball. With more investment in youth development programs and infrastructure, we can expect to see even more talented players emerge from Iran. And with players like Amin Esmaeilnejhad leading the way, there's no doubt that Iran will continue to be a force to be reckoned with on the international stage.

Iran's participation with a promising young team bodes well for their future prospects. With more investment and support from governing bodies and the fans as well, Iran volleyball team have the potential to become a dominant force in volleyball in the future.

Iran climb at FIFA Women's World Ranking

TEHRAN - Iran climbed six spots in the latest FIFA Women's World Ranking released on Friday.

The Iranian team have moved to 61st place in the ranking.

The U.S. stay unchanged on top, while Australia are the best Asian team in the ranking at 10th.

Japan, unchanged at 11th, are Asia's second highest side with China PR dropping a notch to 14th. Korea Republic stayed at 17th with Vietnam, set to make their FIFA Women's World Cup debut, improving one spot to 32.

The Philippines, the sixth Asian side headed to the FIFA Women's World Cup, moved up three spots to 46th in the Ranking - their highest ever. Rounding off the top 10 for Asia were Chinese Taipei (37), Thailand (44), Myanmar 47) and Uzbekistan (50).

The next FIFA Women's World Ranking will be published on Aug. 25

Azmoun, Taremi called up for 2023 CAFA

TEHREAN - Bayer Leverkusen striker Sardar Azmoun and Porto iconic forward Mehdi Taremi were called up for the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup.

Team Melli coach Amir Ghalenoei has invited 25 players to the National Team for the 2023 CAFA, which will be held in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan from June 10 to 20.

Iran are drawn in Group B along with Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan, while Group A consists of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Oman.

Iran Squad:

Goalkeepers:

Alireza Beiranvand, Payam Niazmand, Hossein Pourhamidi

Defenders:

Hossein Kananizadegan, Majid Hosseini, Ramin Rezaeian, Ehsan Hajisafi, Sadegh Moharrami, Morteza Pouraliganji, Vahid Amiri, Omid Nourafkan

Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Mehdi Torabi, Alireza Alizadeh, Mohammad Karimi, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Reza Asadi, Saeid Ezatolahi, Saeid

Mehri, Rouzbeh Cheshmi

Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Taremi, Shahab Zahedi, Mehdi Ghaedi, Mohammad Mohebi

Stage set for inaugural tournament

TEHRAN - Seven teams will vie for the CAFA Nations Cup 2023 which kicks off on Saturday.

Central Asian sides Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will be joined by guest team Oman in the inaugural tournament to be played in Bishkek and Tashkent.

Except for Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, the remaining teams are part of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 cast.

Group A, to be played in Bishkek, will be a three-team affair with hosts Kyrgyz Republic getting their campaign underway against Afghanistan on Saturday Iran will meet Afghanistan three days later with Kyrgyz Republic to come on June 16.

Tajikistan will play Turkmenistan in Group B's opening clash on Sunday, with hosts Uzbekistan to test themselves against Oman in the later match.

The respective group winners will face off in the final while the runners-up will play for third place, with both matches scheduled for June 20.

Iran's U16 girls' basketball to play Iraq in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iraqi U16 girls' basketball team will travel to Iran to hold a training camp in Tehran.

Iraq will arrive in Tehran on June 16 and will play two friendly matches with their Iranian counterparts.

Iran, headed by Serveh Zarghamian, prepare for the FIBA U16 Women's Asian Championship.

The competition will be held from July 10 to 16 in Amman, Jordan.

Iran to start 2022 IWBF World **Championships on Saturday**

TEHRAN - Motivated Iran will begin the 2022 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) World Championships on Saturday.

Iran will take on two-time champions Britain in their opening Group D game at the World Trade Centre halls in Dubai.

The Persians are scheduled to face the U.S. and Iraq on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

Group A consists of Australia, Italy, Brazil and the UAE. Egypt, Germany, Canada and Thailand are in Group B and the Netherlands. Argentina. South Korea and France are drawn in Group C.

The competition was originally scheduled for November 16 to 27, 2022 but was postponed until June 9 to 20, 2023.

The first unofficial Wheelchair Basketball World Championships for men was held in 1973, with Bruges, Belgium being the first host city.

The U.S. are the most decorated team in the competition with six titles.

Sa Pinto takes charge of APOEL

TEHRAN - Portuguese coach Ricardo Sa Pinto was named the new head coach of Cypriot team APOEL.

The 50-year-old coach will be accompanied by his technical team: José Dominguez (assistant coach), Nuno Morais (assistant coach), Paulo Santos (physical trainer) and João Abreu (analyst coach).

Sa Pinto was named as Esteghlal's coach last season, where he reached third place in the league and reached the final of the Hazfi Cup.

This will be the first adventure of the Portuguese coach in Cyprus, at the service of a club that has not been champion since 2019.

Raisi visits East Azerbaijan province housing. Good measures have been taken people in this era, the Iranian nation turned these threats and sanctions into opportunities,

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi paid a visit to East Azerbaijan Province to take a closer look at the needs of the province.

Raisi entered East Azerbaijan for a two-day trip as the 5th destination of provincial trips of his Popular Administration. He entered the province through Tabriz's Martyr Madani International Airport, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Upon his arrival, Raisi spoke to reporters on the airport's tarmac. He called East Azerbaijan Province the hub of culture, industry, minerals, tourism and agriculture, and said, "East Azerbaijan has many capacities, and more importantly, hard-working young people who are considered the most important assets of the province".

He added, "The civilization of Azerbaijan is one of the oldest civilizations of Islamic Iran. and a great support, not only for Azerbaijan, but also for the Islamic Iran, and the World of Islam".

He noted, "Some of the previous decisions have been implemented, and those that have not been completed, will be followed up so that nothing is left unfinished".

President Raisi said, "With the educated men and women of the province, we will hopefully

He pointed out, "As the Supreme Leader of the Revolution stated, the future will be very bright, and most of the problems today, will be resolved with the help of the dear young people of the province".

"One of the very important issues that will be solved is the issue of unemployment and

for solving these problems, which will be completed with the decisions that will be made in this trip," he said.

facilities and held many meetings. He visited Charmshahr Industrial Town of East Azerbaijan. Ayatollah Raisi also obliged the related departments to provide the requirements of the

to East Azerbaijan province, Ayatollah Raisi

Automobile Company manufacturing line, which is owned by Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company, during his visit to East Azerbaijan province.

Also, Raisi inaugurated Azerbaijan Diesel

province, Raisi also pointed to the wave of unrest that gripped Iran last year.

result of the enemy's anger over the country's

Despite all the hardships imposed on the

During his visit, Raisi visited many economic

development of leather industry while observing environmental considerations. President Raisi also issued three orders for the development of Tabriz's leather industry. Following the plans of his two-day visit

unveiled two new products of Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company. Raisi also announced allocating 5 trillion to farmers for buying Iranian tractors.

In a meeting with a group of clerics of the

Referring to the efforts of the enemies during the past 44 years to weaken the system of the Islamic Republic, the president recalled the analysis of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution about last year's riots, which considered these conspiracies to be the

He continued, "We do not consider surrender and retreat as the way to deal with the conspiracies and intrigues of our enemies. These challenges can only be overcome by becoming strong and building a strong Iran."

Raisi said, "We believe that there is no unsolvable problem in the country; The government is determined to solve the country's problems and the enemy has received this message from the performance of the Popular Government."

With the aim of stopping Iran's progress, Raisi said, the enemy spread rumors, attacked the psychological security of the society with false figures in the economy and created inflationary expectations during the cognitive war that it imposed on Iran.

"In spite of all these conspiracies, we are seeking to establish stability in the country's economy, and with trust in God, as well as people's support and help, we will definitely succeed in this direction," Raisi added.

Raisi also met with a group of activists affiliated with the Popular Front of the Islamic Revolution in the province. He called on the activists to explain the dimensions of the cognitive war imposed by the enemy on Iran.

"Cultural activists should pay more attention to playing a role in Explanation Jihad," the president said, referring to a term used to describe a campaign aimed at educating the people on the conspiracies of the enemy.

Iranian military chief holds phone talks with Turkish defense minister

TEHRAN - General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spoke over the phone with new Turkish Defense Minister Yasar Guler.

In this call, the two sides discussed military issues of mutual interest. "As two good and strategic neighbors, Iran and Turkey have common borders of peace and friendship. The existence of common borders between the two countries makes the continuation of joint cooperation even more necessary," General Bagheri told Guler.

In the phone call, he emphasized bilateral meetings at different levels, transfer of experience and knowledge in training centers and implementation of mutual

Guler, for his part, stressed the need for increasing and developing the level of military relations

between the two countries. "Turkey witnessed the fraternal and friendly help of Iran in the tragic incident of the recent earthquake. Turkish people always praise this help and cooperation," he said.

General Bagheri also invited Guler to pay a visit to Iran.

Iran and Turkey enjoy good relations. And after the recent Turkish presidential elections, President Ebrahim Iranian Raisi underlined the need for strengthening relations in a phone call with Recep Tayyip Erdogan who was reelected president on May 28.

Raisi expressed hope that the economic, political, security, cultural and commercial relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries will expand even more in the new era, according to a statement by the Iranian presidency.

Raisi also pointed to the effective role of regional cooperation



countries in the region. For his part, Erdogan expressed gratitude for Raisi's goodwill on behalf of himself and the people of his country in the telephone

"In the upcoming period, the process of expanding relations between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue with more strength and seriousness in various fields," Erdogan said.

Erdogan also announced his country's desire to continue regional cooperation, including in the framework of the four-way cooperation between Turkey, Iran, Russia and Syria.

The call came after Raisi sent a congratulatory message to Erdogan. In the message, Raisi considered the re-election of Erdogan a sign of the continued valuable trust of the Turkish people in him.

ECONOMY



50,000 tons of garden, greenhouse products produced in Sistan-Baluchestan



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 50,000 tons of garden and greenhouse products have been produced in Sistan-Baluchestan province, in the southeast of Iran, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Ardeshir Shahraki, an official with the province's Agriculture Department, named pistachio, date, tomato, and eggplant as the major products exported from the province.

As announced by the Iranian acting minister of agriculture, the country's value of average annual agricultural export stands at \$5 billion.

Mohammad Aqa-Miri added, "We hope that we can increase the export of agricultural products with a supportive approach".

Stating that agriculture is one of the most important sectors in the field of trade, he said that with more presence of knowledge-based firms in the agriculture sector, the export from this sector has grown significantly day by day and this growth continues.

The official further emphasized the development of trade relations with other countries, as well as serious support for the private sector and facilitation for the export of the country's agricultural products.

Back in late January, the chairman of Iran's Chamber of Agricultural Guilds emphasized that incentives should be considered for agricultural production.

Pointing out that the issues should be solved at the root and the solution to market regulation is not to create obstacles, Qasem Pishehvar reiterated that incentives for production should be considered.

"We should increase the guaranteed purchase price of the products that we need more and reduce their bank loans profit. Good incentives should be considered for market regulation", he added.

The chairman of the Chamber of Agricultural Guilds further stated that the government should not interfere in the agricultural sector because it is an economic sector.

Pishehvar believes that the farmer's opinion has not been seen in the "cultivation model" that has been prepared and presented.

Naturally, such plans will not be implemented and the farmer will do his work based on his interests and what the market dictates, he commented.

Monthly non-oil export from Iran to Armenia up 144% yr/yr

to Armenia increased by 144 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the first month of the past year, the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade

Ruhollah Latifi said that Iran exported nonoil commodities worth \$32 million to Armenia in the first month of this year.

As previously reported, the value of Iran's non-oil export to Armenia rose by 62.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), from the preceding year.

Iran exported commodities worth \$478 million to Armenia in 1401, while the figure was \$294 million in 1400.

Liquefied natural gas, iron and steel rods, bitumen, light oils and related products, unalloyed iron and steel products, bituminous mineral oils, floor coverings, liquid cream, linear alkylbenzene, and rebar were Iran's major products exported to Armenia in the

Iranian Labor and Social Welfare Minister Solat Mortazavi has said Tehran and Yerevan are determined to use all their capacities to expand economic ties.

Mortazavi made the remarks in a meeting with his Armenian counterpart Narek Makratchian in Yerevan in late February.

Referring to the targeting of three billion dollars of annual trade between Iran and Armenia, Mortazavi said the development of all-out ties with Armenia is one of the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The minister stated that the main approach of the Iranian government is to advance economic diplomacy with neighboring countries, especially in the Caucasus region. adding: "Iran and Armenia's interactions in the economic, commercial, and investment fields are going to be diversified."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to put all its facilities and capacities in the service of establishing peace and stability in the Caucasus region," he said.

Makratchian for his part referred to the long-standing and friendly relations between the two countries and noted that the joint cooperation between the ministries of labor of Iran and Armenia in the field of social welfare, employment, well-being, and the development of technical and vocational training complexes will expand with the formation of joint specialized working groups.

"The Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Armenia is fully prepared to develop economic

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's non-oil export and social cooperation with the Ministry of Labor of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he

> Mortazavi, who visited Yerevan on top of a high-ranking delegation, also met with Gnel Sanosyan, Armenia's minister of territorial administration and infrastructures.

> During this meeting, the minister expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with Armenia in

> Iran and Armenia always enjoy very good friendly relations based on mutual respect and good neighborliness, he underlined.

> The official emphasized the significance of Armenia for the Iranian foreign policy, saying that Armenia's role in the development of foreign relations and access to the Eurasian Union market is of prime importance for Iran.

> He further mentioned some of the areas for mutual cooperation, saying that various projects in the fields of construction, road, tunnel digging, dam construction, urban development, energy infrastructure as well as technical and engineering services are among spheres of cooperation between Tehran and

> The Armenian minister, for his part, said that the Armenian government pays special attention to the development of cooperation with the Islamic Republic in its five-year plan.

> Iran and Armenia signed an MOU at the end of the two countries' 17th meeting of the Joint Economic Committee in Yerevan last May.

> The MOU, which covers cooperation in areas of transit, transportation, facilitation of exchange of goods, energy, development of environmental cooperation in Aras area and removal of pollution from border rivers, as well as medical tourism, was signed by Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, who are the chairmen of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee.

> In that meeting, which was attended by a large number of deputy ministers, senior officials, ambassadors, and members of parliament of the two countries, the main issues that play a key role in the development of relations between the two countries were

> According to the officials, the purpose of holding the 17th meeting of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee was the real and tangible development of relations between

Among the issues raised at the meeting were transit, transportation, facilitation of trade, and broader cooperation in the field of

Raisi inaugurates industrial, infrastructure projects in northwestern Iran

From page 1 ▶ the housing problem are the major concerns of the 13th government regarding the East Azarbaijan province.

"About the housing problem, good measures have been taken in the province, but they must be completed," the president said.

Some 16 electricity supply projects, a dam, a water treatment plant, seven projects in the health and medical sectors, and several projects in the Aras Free Zone were among the projects inaugurated by President Raisi.

The president also inaugurated a major railway project and a railway station on Friday, the second day of his visit to the

The 44-kilometer-long Bostanabad-Tabriz railway



shortens the route between Tehran and Tabriz for about four hours of travel time as compared to the previous 12-hour time. The railway is the second phase of the broader Mianeh-Tabriz railway project.

He also attended a ceremony for reviving 220 idle industrial units in Tabriz on Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking at this ceremony, Raisi said the government is determined to revive idle production units across the country, emphasizing: return of these units to the production cycle will increase employment and lead to the prosperity of the country's industry."

He also put into operation a new production line at Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company in Tabriz. The new production line is going to create employment for 200 people directly.

This line has an annual production capacity of 4,000 units of light, heavy, and tow commercial vehicles in an area of 5,000 square meters and with an investment of 2.8 trillion rials (about \$5.5 million).

This was President Raisi's second official visit to East Azarbaijan Province since he took office in August 2021.

Industrial parks in deprived areas prioritized for fund allocation

TEHRAN- The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) said that the industrial parks in deprived areas are prioritized for fund allocation.

Emphasizing the need to create an industrial balance in the country, Ali Rasoulian said that to achieve this goal, the establishment of new industrial parks and zones in deprived areas is also in the

Rasoulian has announced that 1,714 idle production units were revived in the country during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

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

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

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

"We agreed with the Technology Department of the Ministry of Science to establish 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."

According to Rasoulian, the approach of reviving the idle units is very important since the country has been dealing with the most this regard, Rasoulian said.



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

Steel products export rises 56% in a month on year



TEHRAN- Iran's export of steel products increased by 56 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the same month of the past year.

As reported, the country exported 220,000 tons of the products in the first month of this year, while the figure was 184,000 tons in the first month of the previous year.

As previously announced by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), Iran exported 3.199 million tons of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

The country's steel products export fell six percent in 1401, as compared to 1400 when the figure was 3.406 million tons.

The World Steel Association

(WSA) in its latest report 622.7 million tons of steel in the the previous year. eighth among the world's top which indicates a 13 percent drop steel-producing countries in April, rising one place in the year. list of the world's top steel-

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

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

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.

announced that Iran is ranked first four months of this year, compared to the same period last

> According to the WSA report, hina, 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 The steelmakers produced in terms of production growth in

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

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).

Iran's monthly PMI registers 44-month record high

TEHRAN - A survey of the Iranian economy's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) by the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) showed that the index reached its highest over the past 44 months in the second Iranian calendar month of Ordibehesht (April 21 – May

According to the new PMI data released by ICCIMA Research Institute, Iran's monthly PMI grew 15.26 points in comparison to that of the previous month to settle at 57.30, the ICCIMA portal reported.

All the main five sub-indexes have been reported above the threshold (above 50) in the new PMI reading.

As reported, the PMI for the industrial sector had the highest growth among the three main groups of activities, standing at 66.96 points.

PMI is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends, aiming to provide information about business conditions to company directors, analysts, and purchasing managers.

Dividing al-Aqsa compound a INTERNATIONAL "declaration of war"

Al-Aqsa is not only revered by Muslims across the globe but has also become symbolic of Palestinian culture and their

Over the past years, the al-Aqsa Mosque compound has seen a sharp rise in Israeli settlers storming the compound and performing rituals there in violation of the status quo.

That has sparked clashes between Palestinian worshippers and witnessed Israeli forces brutally beating up women and men protesting against the desecration.

In May 2021, the regime's attacks and desecration of the Mosque triggered operation "sword of al-Quds", by the Palestinian resistance in the besieged Gaza Strip, which saw missiles rain deep inside the occupied Palestinian territories targeting critical Israeli infrastructure facilities. Israel responded by indiscriminately bombing the besieged coastal enclave, killing dozens of women and children.

Israel's occupation of the holy city of al-Quds itself is not recognized by the United Nations, which rejects the grabbing of land through war. Despite this, the world body has done little to defend the oppressed Palestinian people living there.

Halevi also seeks to change the access procedures for Israeli settlers storming al-Aqsa, by demanding that settlers be allowed to enter the complex through all the gates, rather than only through the southwestern Moroccan Gate, which is the only gate out of the mosque's 15 entry points under the full control of Israeli authorities which no Palestinians can access.

In September last year, Israeli settlers stormed the Mosque through the Lions' Gate, the first time settlers entered the courtyards of the holy site from the gate since Israel waged another war against the Palestinians and occupied al-Quds in 1967.

The Palestinian resistance

Nazi iconography and symbols.

infamous Nazi SS unit.

then quietly deleted it.

and time again.

Earlier this week, the New York Times

published an article conceding that there is

a serious problem within the ranks of the

Ukrainian armed forces: they proudly brandish

course of Russia's "special military operation,"

numerous accounts associated with Ukrainian

armed forces have published images and videos

of their personnel brandishing Nazi symbols

like the "Totenkopf:" a skull associated with the

The article further noted that the official

NATO account posted an image of a Ukrainian

soldier with Nazi imagery in March of 2022, and

It then attempted to obfuscate the usage of

the Nazi symbolism: something the corporate

mainstream Western media has done time

Attempting to distort the imagery to signs of

"Ukrainian Mythology" or "Ultra Nationalism,"

Western media has constantly performed

Olympic-level mental gymnastics to defend

their proxy war against Russia. Any sign of

questioning the official narrative is met with

However, facts are stubborn things, and

even if we entertain the idea of "Ukrainian Ultra

Nationalism" we would trace it back to its root.

All someone needs to do is a simple search of "Stepan Bandera" in order to understand the

Bandera was a Ukrainian nationalist who

wanted to pursue independent statehood for

Ukraine in the early 20th century. However, this

pursuit led him to join hands with Nazi Germany.

as the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists

(OUN), would then be responsible for the

systematic murders of thousands of Polish

Though the OUN would eventually be crushed

and imprisoned by the Soviets, their cells

people at the behest of the Nazi regime.

Bandera and his supporters, now known

smears of being a "Russian troll."

"Ukrainian Ultra Nationalist" mindset.

The article stated that throughout the



According to the Palestinian Information Center, the Palestinian resistance groups have published a joint statement that held the "Zionist government responsible for the disastrous consequences of the implementation of any plan to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque."

The statement said that the "Palestinian nation and the resistance will never accept such aggression, even if it requires self-

In another excerpt of the statement, it is emphasized that the remarks by Halevi is "a continuous crime that is being carried out by all the elements of the Zionist regime and it is part of the planned and targeted plans to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque, Judaize it and exercise sovereignty over this

highlighted that "this act sounds the alarm that the whole nation should fulfill their responsibilities towards this occupation plan against Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa

The statement also called on all Palestinian resistance groups "to strengthen their presence at the al-Agsa Mosque and its surroundings, as well as to increase the level of retaliatory operations and confrontation, in order to stand up against the aggression of the occupation and increase the cost of their criminal actions, and in this regard, to carry out brave operations."

The resistance groups underscored the importance that the retaliatory operations be expanded to the occupied Palestinian territories of 1948.

Meanwhile, Israel has raided Ramallah in the occupied West Bank to demolish a home of a Palestinian inmate who had carried out a retaliatory operation against Israeli settlers.

The regime's military, backed by a convoy of some 200 armored vehicles and bulldozers, was confronted by Palestinian youth, who came out of their homes to protest the attack. The Israeli army responded by attacking the protesters with live fire. rubber bullets and a wave of tear gas as well as targeting several journalists, who have sustained

According to the Palestinian health ministry, one Palestinian has been killed, at least 35 others have been wounded, including at least 20 by live bullets. Two people also suffered serious abdominal wounds while a third was hit by a rubber bullet which penetrated his skull. Israel has been accused of forcefully targeting the journalists to prevent the atrocity from being publicized.

While Israeli raids on cities, towns and villages in the occupied

West Bank have now become an everyday occurrence, the allnight raid in Ramallah, where the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority government in the occupied West Bank is located is something rare. Yet it highlights the limits the new Israeli cabinet is willing to cross.

Israel routinely destroys the homes of those it suspects of carrying out retaliatory operations against settlers. The UN views this policy as collective punishment, which is illegal under international humanitarian law.

The regime eventually demolished the home of the Palestinian prisoner Eslam Froukh.

"What the occupation authorities did was a heinous crime," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh has been cited as saying by the official WAFA news agency. "It turned an entire family overnight into a homeless family."

The Palestinian Foreign Minister has also condemned the latest house demolition expressing its utter discontent with the international community's silence over the repeated Israeli crimes against the occupied Palestinian people.

This comes as reports have surfaced that newly formed armed resistance in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin fought off an Israeli military convoy from entering the city.

Reports suggest the regime had carefully planned the operation in a bid to arrest several resistance figures by flying surveillance aircrafts for several days before kickstarting the offensive on Friday morning.

Before the Israeli convoy could enter the soil of Jenin, it was faced with a heavy armed resistance that forced it to halt its operation and withdraw, signaling a new strength of power for the youthful Palestinian resistance in the occupied West Bank. A generation that only took up arms some two

Many netizens and prolific media figures who beat the drums of war on the side of Ukraine attempt to paint the Nazi alignment as "Russian Propaganda." But one has to ask, if reality is staring you in the face, when does one fact stop being "Russian propaganda" and become a

The media spectacle of the war has slipping grip on geopolitics?

Western media outlets and Ukrainian military accounts have alike published multiple photos of Ukrainian soldiers brandishing the sonnerad, the totenkopf, and the swastika. Sometimes these pictures are deleted. Sometimes, they are left for the world to see, including on President

Although outlets like the New York Times may be offering apologies on behalf of Ukrainian soldiers and "ultra-nationalist" elements, members of the Washington war machine have made little to no comments, as the war has enjoyed much bipartisan support, even granting Ukraine hundreds of millions of dollars easily in the middle of a budget default threat.

So the pertinent question that needs to be asked is: Are Americans willing to open their eyes and see, or would they rather keep their eyes closed and their wallets open?

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

WORLD HEADLINES

Seven African presidents to meet **Putin and Zelensky**

Members of the African Peace Initiative mission will travel to Ukraine and Russia next week to present their "road to peace" plan to the leaders of the two countries, the Brazzaville Foundation, an NGO facilitating the trip, announced on Wednesday.

The seven-member delegation is scheduled to be in Kiev on June 16 where they will meet President Vladimir Zelensky, the NGO said. The group will then be received by Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saint Petersburg on June 17, it stated.

Heads of state from South Africa, Comoros, the Republic of Congo, Uganda, Senegal, Zambia, and Egypt are leading the peace effort.

The African leaders held discussions earlier this week to explore ways of bringing an end to the conflict in Ukraine and agreed to visit both Moscow and Kiev in mid-June. They also put their respective foreign ministers in charge of finalizing the elements of a potential roadmap

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that President Putin had agreed to host the group during a phone conversation with his South African counterpart.

West has done everything for Ukraine - Biden

Washington and its allies have exhausted their efforts to arm and prepare Ukraine for its counteroffensive against Russian forces. US President Joe Biden has claimed after meeting with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the

"We've done everything we could, collectively but individually in the United States, to make them ready, to support ..," Biden told reporters on Thursday in a joint press briefing with Sunak in Washington. He called Kiev's faltering attempts to mount an attack "an evolving situation where we're very optimistic."

"Long-term security to deter future aggression after this war ends is the goal, and we're advancing this goal by providing the support Ukraine needs now on the battlefield and helping them strengthen their military over the long term," Biden said. "I believe we'll have the funding necessary to support Ukraine as long as it takes."

Malaysia will 'not survive' if it does not change: Anwar **Ibrahim**

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has reaffirmed the need for reforms, saying Malaysia must change or it will not survive.

"When it comes to governance, I think it is my duty to undertake and effect change because the country is somewhat destroyed. Unless

there is a clear political commitment and resolve to change, I do not believe Malaysia will survive," he said in an in-depth interview with Al Jazeera's 101 East programs, stressing he was committed to transitioning Malaysia from race-based to needs-based affirmative action policies.

Anwar, now 75, became prime minister after elections in November 2022, capping a turbulent rise to the top of Malaysian politics.

Trump: I have been indicted in classified documents case

Former President Donald Trump announced on Thursday evening that his attorneys had been informed that he had been indicted by the federal government for alleged crimes stemming from his handling of classified documents after leaving the White House in early 2021.

"The corrupt Biden Administration has informed my attorneys that I have been Indicted, seemingly over the Boxes Hoax," Trump wrote on his social media website, Truth Social, adding, "I have been summoned to appear at the Federal Courthouse in Miami on Tuesday, at 3 PM. I never thought it possible that such a thing could happen to a former President of the United States."

Reuters, ABC News and the Associated Press confirmed that Trump had been indicted on seven criminal counts in relation to his handling of the documents, his second indictment in as many months. The National Archives and the FBI sought to retrieve the classified documents before issuing a subpoena last spring for their return.

Among the charges that will be made public Tuesday, Trump will be accused of violating the Espionage Act, according to reporting from the New York Times.

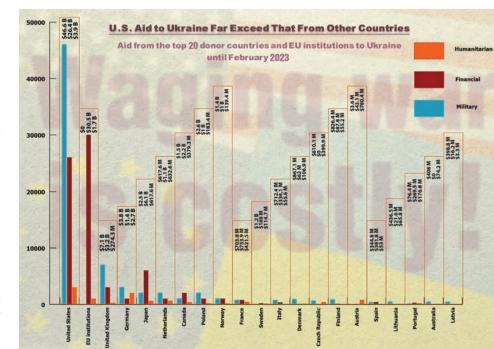
The act prohibits the unauthorized possession of national defense-related documents and makes special mention of those that are "willfully retained" despite government efforts to retain them. If convicted on that charge alone, Trump, 76, could face a sentence of 10 years

Erdogan names ex-US bank executive as the head of Turkish central bank

Re-elected Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has appointed a former US-based bank executive to head Turkey's central bank, in another sign that his administration is likely to pursue more conventional economic

Erdogan named Hafize Gaye Erkan, a former co-chief executive officer of the First Republic Bank, as governor, according to an announcement in the Official Gazette published on Friday.

The Princeton-educated Erkan, 41, becomes the central bank's first female governor.





implementation of any such move.

sacrifice"

holy place."

The Palestinian resistance Mosque."

remained strong in the western part of Ukraine for decades to come.

How long can mainstream Western media defend Ukraine's Nazi problem?

Strong enough for the American spy agency CIA to remain in constant contact with them in their anti-Soviet operations during the Cold War. In fact, the CIA would foster this relationship for years to come.

CIA Specialist Douglas Valentine makes it very clear: the CIA was directly involved in cultivating fascist forces in Ukraine for 70 years.

Today, the seeds planted by the Cold Warera CIA agents have become troublesome but effective assets for Washington.

Effective because those battalions like the infamous Azov battalion are considered national heroes not only in Ukraine but the Western media spectacle has made them "defenders of democracy" in the US.

Troublesome because throughout the course of the war, and even before that, they do not hold back their Nazi insignias, beliefs, and salutes.

When the Western media concedes that there is a Nazi problem in Ukraine (even prior to the war), when the goal of Russia's military operation is "De-Nazification," and even the fighters on the side of Ukraine are willing to brandish Nazi imagery and slogans, one has to wonder - what will it take for Americans to realize their hard-earned money is being poured into the hands of Neo-Nazis?

The amount of \$23.5 billion in taxpayer money alone has been spent on weaponry in Ukraine. Then, \$18.3 billion in taxpayer money in security assistance - training and logistics. The numbers here do not include other forms of aid - financial aid and loans (for more weapons, of course).

The Joe Biden administration is effectively letting schools in the country suffer, infrastructure erode, and health plummet while pouring billions of dollars into the hands of Neo-Nazi soldiers - soldiers that will more than likely apply for refugee status and be auto-approved for living in the US.

If Americans want a small taste of what Neo-Nazis in their neighborhoods are capable of, they can reference the racist Buffalo shooter - who shot up a grocery store in a black neighborhood while bearing the Sonnenrad, a popular Neo-Nazi logo seen on many Ukrainian soldiers.

hard-to-swallow reality?

manufactured public support for Ukraine while attempting to block out inconvenient truths. But, with Nazi imagery seemingly unrepentant, Americans who dare question the mainstream media war drive will have to ask - did the White House know about this? And if they did (and they definitely did) just what really is the United States government willing to do to maintain its

Zelensky's own Instagram.

(Source: Press TV)

TOURISM



Mianeh holds high potential for agritourism, minister says



TEHRAN – Mianeh county in East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran holds a unique potential in developing agritourism and rural tourism, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Thursday.

The tourism ministry has prioritized the development of rural tourism and agritourism, recognizing the wealth and significance of the county's villages, the minister said.

Mianeh has the potential to become a top tourist destination instead of just a transit city, he added.

With unique historical and tourist sites, there is a great opportunity to attract investors through tailored investment packages, which could lead to tourism prosperity in the region, he mentioned.

When it comes to rural tourism, Iran, which has many pristine yet diverse natural settings, has many to offer to nature lovers. Rural tourism as well as agritourism and farm stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities and post-modern travelers who are tracing unique experiences.

Sightseers may stay with a rural or nomadic family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, agriculture,

traditions, arts, and culture.

Rural tourism, most of all, sets the ground for economic development in rural areas by creating additional income and employment. It can also improve the social well-being in rural areas, for instance by stimulating improvements in infrastructure, sanitation, and electricity networks.

The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sight-seeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and onfarm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

It is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production

Archaeologists hail find of 7,000-year-old relics in northwest Iran

TEHRAN - A team of Iranian archaeologists has found arrays of relics estimated to date some 7,000 years during its recent excavations conducted in Oshnavieh, northwest Iran.

The relics were found near Sufian Hill, which dates 7,000 years and belongs to Dalma culture, Mehr quoted archaeologist Mahnaz Sharifi as saying on Friday.

"In this research, we tried to get a clearer picture of the Old Copper and Stone Ages and particularly the Dalma culture in northwest Iran," the archaeologist said.

Dalma is the name given to a prehistorical culture whose widespread ceramic remains were excavated in central and northern valleys of the Zagros Mountains in north-western Iran.

"The preliminary results of the excavation show the remains of solid and permanent architecture used for permanent settlement, and this issue is significant in this respect because, before this, most of the sites of the 5th millennium BC had poor architecture," Sharifi explained.

Inside the architectural space, terracotta pots were found, which were made in the basket method, she said.

The team has found an adobe [architectural] platform in this excavation, she said. "Another very important point in this excavation is the discovery of a structure (probably a furnace or a thermal structure), which is also unique in its kind and has not been reported in the same sites so far."

During these archaeological excavations, more than three and a half meters of [soil] accumulation related to the 5th millennium BC was



identified, which adds to our knowledge of human civilization in that era, the archaeologist said.

ra, the archaeologist said. A heaven for archaeologists

Oshnavieh county, which is surrounded by towering mountains, lies on a thick layer cake of civilizations that emerged and disappeared over millennia

Situated in West Azarbaijan province, Oshnavieh is home to archaeological sites and hills, tomb chambers and bas-relief carvings belonging to the Kingdom of Urartu (860 BC- 590 BC). Moreover, it boasts some 100 sites registered on the national cultural heritage list.

The main reason why Oshnavieh is called an archaeologist's paradise is that it was once a prosperous settlement for the Urartu kingdom, whose entombed relics still draw the attention of archaeologists and even illegal excavators to the region.

Over the past couple of years, Oshnavieh and its surrounding areas have witnessed a series of unauthorized, unprecedented drillings and excavations committed by unauthorized diggers and antique dealers, and smugglers. The Urartu kingdom rose to power in the mid-9th century BC, but it went into a gradual decline and was eventually conquered by the Iranian Medes in the early 6th century BC. The Urartians were succeeded in the area in the 6th century BC by the Armenians.

Urartu is an ancient country of southwest Asia centered in the mountainous region southeast of the Black Sea and southwest of the Caspian Sea. Today the region is divided among Armenia, eastern Turkey, and northwestern Iran. As mentioned in Assyrian sources from the early 13th century BC, Urartu enjoyed considerable political power in the Middle East in the 9th and 8th centuries BC.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, the territory of the ancient kingdom of Urartu extended over the modern frontiers of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and the Republic of Armenia. Its center was the Armenian highland between Lake Van, Lake Urmia, and Lake Sevan.

Urartian archeological finds in modern Iran include castles, settlements, water channels, other water constructions, rock chambers, rock graves, stelae, rock inscriptions and building inscriptions.

Most impressive are the Urartian architectural remains, with their different building forms and ground plans, mainly castles and larger fortresses. They range in size from small, mostly rectangular castles or road stations to the extended fortification systems of large settlements.

Urartian pottery is mainly earthenware and, to a lesser extent, red polished ceramic, so-called palace-ware, since it is found only in the larger, central Urartian sites. Urartian pottery is mostly monochrome ware made by the potter's wheel.

Cuneiform inscriptions have been found on clay tablets, cylinder seals, and bullae; there are inscriptions on building stones, as at Bastam, and rock inscriptions, and others on stelae and clay vessels.

The Urartian rock chambers influenced the Achaemenid rock graves in layout and stonecutter techniques. The monumental scale of the Urartian rock cuttings and surface preparation for cuneiform inscriptions prepared the way for the Achaemenid monumental inscriptions, in particular, that of Darius at Bisotun.

Archaeological excavations suggest that agriculture entered into a new stage owing to the practice of irrigation by Urartus in northwest Iran. Thanks to the water management exercise, the Oshnavieh Plain was so productive for a long time. The water supply system realized by the Urartu in the first half of the first millennium BC has been so remarkable that the contemporaneous people imitated them.

Tourism minister attends hotel inauguration ceremonies in Tabriz

TEHRAN – On Thursday, the Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami attended the inauguration ceremonies of a 4-start hotel and a boutique hotel during his visit to Tabriz.

The six-story Royal Palace Hotel and a fully restored luxurious house of a 19th-century merchant were opened to the public during the ceremonies, CHTN reported.

Tabriz is a perfect introduction to Iran for sightseers crossing over the border from Armenia, or through the Gurbulak Bazargan border from Turkey.

It 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 the ancient city.

Tabriz 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.

Downtown Tabriz is very walkable, and the people are also extremely friendly, something not particularly common in big cities.

Historical properties in Kordestan to be leased out to private investors

TEHRAN –A number of historical places and monuments across the western province of Kordestan will be temporarily ceded to the private sector in order to receive further care and maintenance, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The province's tourism directorate intends to hand over several historic landmarks to the private sector to help revive these structures with proper usage and foster tourism growth while creating job opportunities in the region, Mansour Mehrzad explained on Friday.

Ceding historical monuments to the private sector, along with restoring their historical significance, enables better preservation and sustainable maintenance of these landmarks for future generations, the official added.

Repurposing historical buildings as museums and cultural tourism destinations is not only a key driver for tourism development but

TEHRAN – Archaeologists in

northeast Iran have found archae-

ological ruins and remnants of an

ancient cemetery, estimated to

During their excavations con-

ducted on the site of Kalat-e

Yavor in North Khorasan province,

archaeologists have found evi-

dence of architecture and a cem-

etery, which dates back to some

4,500 years ago, ISNA reported on

Supervised by the Research

Institute of Cultural Heritage &

Tourism, the archaeological exca-

vation revealed brief evidence of

architecture and extensive buri-

date some 4,500 years.

also a powerful tool for safeguarding authenticity and showcasing regional culture in the most compelling manner possible, he noted.

Over the past couple of years, tens of historical places and monuments have been temporarily ceded to the private sector under the supervision of the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places.

Affiliated with the tourism ministry, the Fund is in charge of concession with the aim of historical sites receiving better maintenance by repurposing them into thriving boutique hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, or other profitable niches.

The country boasts hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

4.500-year old ruins and cemetery found

in northeast Iran



The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name was given to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

South Khorasan exports over \$500,000 of handicrafts in year



TEHRAN – Handicrafts exports from South Khorasan province reached over \$500,000 during the past Iranian calendar year 1401, which came to an end on March 20, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The eastern province earned a total of \$515,000 from exporting handicrafts, of which some \$400,000 was via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer), Hassan-Ali Fuladi explained on Friday.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions, such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

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

The value of Iran's handicraft exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of the 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 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.

al structures related to the third millennium BC in an area of over seven hectares, the report added.

Situated on the southeastern edge of the Bojnord plain, Kalat-e Yavor is a Bronze Age site where there are signs of settlement since the third millennium BC, archaeologist Kourosh Mohammadkhani said.

The evidence obtained from the archeo-geophysical investigations by the magnetometry method in this ancient place shows the extent and high capacity of this ancient place for conducting archaeological studies, the archaeologist added.

The Bronze and Iron Age is one of the most significant and com-

plicated cultural periods in Iran, which can be attributed to various episodes of migration, the rise of the earliest states, the discovery of new metals and the significantly changed interactions. The respective locations are characterized primarily by grey/black ware, cast vessels, absence or lack of painted ware, extracurricular cemeteries, and the occurrence of iron artifacts.

The technological advancements in pottery, tools, and metal objects as well as the emergence of monumental architectural plans during the late Bronze and early Iron periods are the most obvious examples of the dramatic changes in ancient societies.

Other notable adjustments to burial practices were made on the Iranian plateau and in most of Western Asia as the advent of urbanism permanently ended the long-standing custom of intramural burial and replaced it with the interment of the dead in distinct extramural cemeteries, which were typically located outside of the populated areas.

Home to many other kinds of historical tombs such as tomb towers and rack-hewn tombs, Iran is heaven for cemetery enthusiasts and grave hunters.

Qajar-era mansion undergoes urgent restoration



TEHRAN -An urgent restoration project on the Qajar-era (1789-1925) Aqaian Mansion in Mayamey, north-central Semnan province, has come to an end, a local tourism official has said.

The project involved strengthening the structure, repairing the damaged parts, restoring its rooftop, and replacing worn-out materials, Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq Razavian said on Friday.

Located in the historical structure of the city, the structure has undergone several rehabilitation works over the years, the official added.

The historical structure of Mayamey includes several caravanserais, natural sights, and historical sites such as the Shah-Abbasi caravanserai, Aqaian Mosque, Aqaian Mansion, Aqaian bathhouse, and Emarat cistern.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the

area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Iran planning to launch cell therapy centers in neighboring countries

From page 1 ► In November 2022, the first phase of a national project aiming to take advantage of gene therapy for the treatment of children with cancer, known as "CAR T-cell therapy", came on stream.

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy is a way to get immune cells called T cells (a type of white blood cell) to fight cancer by changing them in the lab so they can find and destroy cancer cells.

CAR T-cell therapy has been successful on a five-year-old boy suffering from chemotherapy-resistant leukemia.

The project took nearly seven years to be implemented, Amir Ali Hamidiyeh, head of the gene, cell, and tissue research institute of Tehran University of Medical Sciences said.

In November 2022. the first phase of a national project, known as "CAR T-cell therapy", came on stream.

After passing cell studies and preclinical studies on animals and obtaining a license and code of ethics from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, a gene therapy product was used for a patient for the first time in the country, he added.



This support has brought significant

achievements including technolo-

gies for reproducing, keeping, and

breeding of laboratory animals, the

development of research and trans-

lation of knowledge and technology,

and the development of technol-

ogies and laboratory services for

Another important step of the Council

for Development of Stem Cell Sciences

and Technologies last year was the es-

tablishment of a gene production center

for the Royan Research Institute. During

this process, two gene therapy projects

The launch of autophagy and re-

generative medicine is also one of

the plans supported by the Council

last year. In this program, the man-

agement of the autophagy process

in order to prevent tissue damage is

recognized as a functional indicator

Iran is one of the countries that has

made great efforts in the field of med-

icine to free itself from the struggle to

in-vivo studies.

became operational.

of this plan.

The method is currently in the clinical trial stage and was used on a child with leukemia who was resistant to all treatment methods, he highlighted.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has implemented four important projects in order to strengthen the country's scientific citation in the field of stem cells.

One of the keys to the development is to provide strategic infrastructure in important fields. Smart knowledge-based platforms promote the scientific citation of the country and accelerate the formation of the scientific ecosystem.

The support of university technology development projects took place in a purposeful interaction between the Vice Presidency and the large universities.

Another measure taken in this area was supporting the development of the National Network of Animal Modeling and In-Vivo Research.

supply medicine and bypass sanctions and be able to respond to its local needs by relying on knowledge-based companies. One of these areas is the production of biopharmaceuticals, which has grown to 28 items.

Iran is also ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of biotechnology, as 9.5 percent of the income of knowledge-based companies and more than 60 percent of their exports are related to biotechnology.

Stem cells are the "parent" cells from which all other blood cells develop. These are mainly red blood cells, platelets, and white blood cells. Bone marrow, the factory that produces stem cells, is the soft tissue inside bones like the breastbone or hip bone.

Stem cells are found in the brain, blood vessels, skeletal muscles, skin, liver, bone marrow, peripheral (circulating) blood, and the umbilical cord blood of newborn babies.

The 24th International Congress on Reproductive Biomedicine and the 19th Congress on Stem Cell Biology and Technology will be held on August 30-September 1 in Tehran.

In July 2021, Iran inaugurated an advanced ion therapy center for the first time in West Asia, with the aim of providing definitive treatment for all types of cancer.

Ion therapy is a unique and innovative form of radiation therapy in the world for the treatment of cancer, as the radiation can be focused exactly on the area of the tumor, ensuring that radiation-sensitive organs are best protected.

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

July 12 named International Day of **Combating Sand and Dust Storms**

TEHRAN - The United National General Assembly on Thursday proclaimed July 12 International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs), aiming to raise awareness about the importance of health, and sustainability.

Stressing the need for global and regional cooperation to manage and mitigate the effects of sand and dust storms, the General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution establishing 12 July as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to be observed annually.

The text titled "International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms" was adopted under the agenda item on sustainable development: combating sand and dust storms.

By the resolution, the Assembly also invited all Member States and other relevant stakeholders to observe International Day, in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, through education and activities aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of combating such storms for human health and well-being; the promotion of sustainable land use and management; enhancing food security and resilience to climate change; and sustainable livelihoods.

SDS in Iran

The Department of Environment has set up a secretariat for the international conference on combating sand and dust storms which is scheduled to be held in Tehran on September 9-10.

In February, DOE chief Ali Salajegeh 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, Salajegeh said.

The Department of Environment will hold five international meetings in the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21, he added.

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

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

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

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

In 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.

"Conservation of the ecosystem and environment, which is a global concern, especially for countries of the region, is an inevitable priority today. If the environment is not safe and peaceful for people, the development will not be in its proper place and it will even become a threat to human health," Raisi stated.

The SDS phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces.

According to studies, eight large sand and dust storm hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries are af-

Regional maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively.

According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

To deal with sand and dust storms, positive measures have been taken inside the country.

A ten-year plan has been prepared to curb internal sources of sand and dust storms.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

In recent years, about €370 million has been spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve.

Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), said in June 2022 that Iran is really at the forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

Brunei seeks to boost technological cooperation with Iran



TEHRAN - Brunei's foreign minister Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof has called for boosting cooperation with Iran in different fields of technology.

During a visit to Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) on Thursday, he referred to herbal medicine and medicinal herbs as one of the main subjects for bilateral cooperation, ISNA reported.

Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT), by supporting innovative ideas, and holding technological and innovative events will be a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houses of innovation and technology have already been set up in countries such as Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, Armenia, Kenya, and Iraq.

Houses of innovation and technology have been set up in Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, Armenia, Kenya, and Iraq.

President Ebrahim Raisi has said science and technology are the cornerstones of national de-

The chain of knowledge, research, innovation,

and technology ensures sustainable development in the country, he added.

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$7b to be allocated to retrofit, rebuild flood-devastated houses

A budget of 290 trillion rials (nearly \$7 billion) will be allotted to reconstruct and repair housing units destructed by flood in 18 provinces across the country, Mehdi Jamalinejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development has announced.

Flood has devastated some 169,377 housing units, 68,333 of which are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, he stated.

Moreover, household appliances of 109,832 families also have suffered damages, he further regretted.

He went on to say that 20,000 housing units, undergone devastation by recent flooding in Aq-Oala county in northern Golestan province, are under construction.

اختصاص بیش از ۲۹ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی خانه های سیل زده

معاون عمران و توسعه امور شهری و روستایی وزیر کشورگفت: براساس مصوبه اخیر هیات وزیران مبلغ ۲۹ هزارو ۱۳۰ میلیارد ریال برای بازسازی و جبران خسارات ناسی از سیل در بخشهای مختلف ۱۸ استان پرداخت

سی سوم. بر اساس ارزیابیهای انجام شده در ۲۱ استان کشور، بیش از ۱۶۹ هزار و ۳۷۷ واحد مسکونی شهری و روستایی در سیلهای اخیر در کشور آسیب دیدهاند که باید دوباره احداث شوند. حیادات کا بین کوبرو ۱۰۰۰ سرکتا جمالی نژاد بیان داشت: در اثر سیل به ۱۰۹هزار و ۸۳۲ واحد مسکونی نیز خسارت معیشتی وارد شده است. وی اضافه کرد: امروز ساخت ۲۰ هزار دستگاه واحد مسکونی که در سیل

آسیب دیده بودند نیز در آق قلا شروع شد.



Sericulture in northern Golestan province

The northern province of Golestan is the third hub of sericulture (cultivating silkworms and extracting silk) in the country.

In 2021, traditional skills of silk spinning and keeping silk cocoons were collectively inscribed on the national heritage list.

DEIRANDI



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JUNE 10, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Prayer Times » Noon:12:03

Evening: 19:39

Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

Hoom Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by

Entitled "Narcissism", the exhibit will run until June 18 at No. 2, 4th Alley off Qaem Magam St.

' Paintings by Fatemeh Radpur are currently on view in an exhibition at Aria Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Segments of Being" will be running until June 23 at the gallery located at No. 10 Zarrin Alley, near Beheshti St., Vali-e Asr Ave.





* An exhibition displaying paintings by Mehdi Smart is currently underway at Homa Gallery

Entitled "Overlap", the exhibit runs until June 20 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Yaghma Sorusheh is showcasing a collection of his latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "The Comedy of the Sun" will run until July 4 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.





Fereshteh Setayesh is hanging her latest collection entitled Days and Orifices" in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

An exhibit named "The Hidden Side" is also showcasing paintings by Maral Ardalan at Vista + Gallery.

The exhibitions will run until June 19 at the galleries located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

* Paintings by Samaneh Es'haqi are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

Titled "The Multiple Disorder", the exhibit will continue until June 20 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.





* Mojdeh Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by

Entitled "Full and Empty", the exhibit will run until June 20 at the gallery located at No. 27, 18th Alley off North Allameh Blvd. in the Saadatabad neighborhood.

* An exhibition of paintings by Mamali Esmaeili and Amir

gallery located at 48 Jalal Hosseini St., Jahan Ara St., off Jalal Ale-





* An exhibition of paintings by Iranian painting masters, including Hossein Zenderudi, Ardeshir Mohasses, Karim Nasr, Ahmad Vakili, Mohsen Vaziri and Ali-Akbar Sadeqi, is currently underway at Tooba Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until June 15 at the gallery located at

17 Nasseri St., Vali-e Asr

Drawing

* Drawings by Sam Samiei are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery

The exhibit named "Trial and Error" will be running until June 23 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.



Frome Page 1 ▶ The toys are creative, so they are very attractive for the children. But when the toy studio shuts down because of sabotage, it adversely impacts the patients' critical mental status. Mr. Kamali tries hard to solve the problem but he is unable to do anything and becomes terribly disappointed and sad. And then an angel of hope appears.

"Loupetoo" has won awards at several international festivals, including the award for best animation film at the 2022 Ahmedabad International Children Film Festival in India.

"Mobarak", a movie with live-action and animation by Mohammadreza Najafi-Emami, was also screened.

Starring Elnaz Shakerdoost, the film is about a storyteller who performs puppet plays based on stories from the Shahnameh, the masterpiece of Persian poet Ferdowsi. Major changes occur in the life of Golpari, the storyteller's grandchild, when the puppets in her grandfather's stories come



A poster for an Iranian children's film festival organized in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina.

The festival ended with "Little Heroes" by Hossein Qenaat.

this action comedy, smugglers are planning acts of sabotage to shut down a factory other office supplies. Five children, whose fathers are working at the factory, enter to trace the smugglers to avoid the shutdown.

Bosnia Herzegovina manufacturing pens, pencils and previously hosted several Iranian

cultural festivals.

Five Iranian movies were screened during a six-day festival organized in the Bosnian city of Bijeljina in December 2017.

Karlovy Vary festival to spotlight new generation of Iranian filmmakers in "Another Birth"



A scene from Mohammadreza Shayannejad's debut film "Trip to the Moon".

TEHRAN - The 57th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will celebrate the new generation of independent Iranian filmmakers in a special section entitled "Another Birth. Iranian Cinema, Here and Now".

Nine films offering "an insightful testimony of the burning creativity of Iran's artists in face of the challenging reality" will be screened in this section, announced the organizers of the Czech festival, which will take place from June 30 to July 8 in Karlovy Vary in Czech.

The selection comprising melancholic dramas, comedies, war movies, sci-fi films and movies about love have been made over the past four years.

"This cinema should not be read with the regular tools we use to decode most films," said the retrospective's curator Lorenzo Esposito.

"This cinema compels us to reinvent our

tools, to reinvent how we see and interpret film, in order to engage with the intentions of these filmmakers," he added.

"As the title of a poetry collection by Forugh Farrokhzad read, 'We present here and now another birth of Iranian cinema," he asserted.

The directorial debut "The Skin" by twin brothers Bahram and Bahman Ark is a highlight of the lineup.

In this film, a young man named Araz screened in the Proxima Competition.

seeks to marry his true love, but his mother, a sorceress, has cast a spell to keep her son with her. The closer he gets to his beloved, the weaker his mother becomes. He seeks to break the spell with the help of an itinerant musician and a mysterious recluse with access to the spirit world.

Mohammadreza Shayannejad's debut film "Trip to the Moon" will also be screened.

Zoya's voice is placed in a bottle. Something both ethereal and mechanical is shimmering in the air. Farid plans to construct a device, which would enable him to record this invisible movement. Reality breaks up into tiny fragments; voices from the past and future start to materialize. Zoya sets off on a trip to the Moon. An electrifying film generated from brilliant waves, streaking through the air with tempestuous force.

The selection also features "Black and White River" by Farzin Mohammadi, "Creation between Two Surfaces" by Hossein Rajabian, "Dream's Gate" by Negin Ahmadi, "K9" by Vahid Vakilifar, "Locust" by Faezeh Azizkhani. "No End" by Nader Saeivar and "Zapata" by Danesh Eghbashavi.

In addition, Iranian director Karim Lakzadeh's movie "Dark Matter" will be

"A Man Asleep" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN - "A Man Asleep", a 1967 novel by the French writer Georges Perec, has recently been published in Persian.

Now is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Nasser Nabavi.

It uses a second-person narrative, and follows a 25-yearold student who embarks upon a disturbing and exhaustive pursuit of indifference, following his experience in non-existence with relentless logic.



Front cover of the Persian edition of Georges Perec's novel "A Man Asleep".

The novel was adapted into a 1974 film, "The Man Who Sleeps".

The novel was published in France through Éditions Denoël in 1967. An English translation by Andrew Leak was published in 1990 through Collins Harvill in the United Kingdom and David R. Godine, Publisher in the United States, in a shared volume with Perec's first novel, "Things: A Story of the Sixties". which was awarded the Prix Renaudot in

Upon the American release, Richard Eder of the Los Angeles Times compared the two novels of the volume, "Things" and "A Man Asleep", and wrote that "Things" was "the more engaging of the two, though less focused and ultimately, perhaps, less memorable."

He wrote that in "A Man Asleep", "Perec shows a beauty on the far side of the void; a humanity on the far side of refusal."

French literature in Persia

Part 1

In the last two centuries, French literature has had a significant impact on modern Persian literature.

The new trends in Persian literature in the beginning of the 20th century are closely related to social and political changes which began in Persia under Nasser ad-Din Shah (1848-96), and brought about the Constitutional Revolution of 1905-11 and the advent of the Pahlavi regime.

An analysis of the contributing factors such as the birth of the printing press, the development of newspapers and journals, and the reform of the educational system, enables us to define with relative certainty the different stages of the growth of a new reading public and the creation of new genres of fiction in whose formation translations of French texts played an important part.

A study of available sources, whether still in manuscript form or in print, conveys the

magnitude of this translation movement re'alism dar adabiyat (Tehran, 1955), were which, in its most active phase, extends over a century.

As the 20th century draws to a close, the great demand for translations shows no sign of abating. After the Second World War, for political reasons, French lost its dominant position to English, but this did not imply its disappearance from the Persian cultural scene.

On the contrary, a deeper and more subtle understanding of French literature seems to have developed in Persia, with many Persian literary critics exploring current French theories of criticism for theoretical scaffoldings to their own analysis of literary texts.

Works introducing western critical concepts which began to appear in mid 1950s, including Reza Sayyed Hosseini's Maktabha-ye adabi (Tehran, 1955) and Dr. Mitra's (Sirus Parham)'s Re'alism wa zedd-e

widely read and reprinted, and translations of essays by Roland Barthes (tr. Mohammad Tagi Ghiasi, Nagd-e tafsiri-ye bist magaleh, Tehran. 1973) and other modern critics continued the trend.

The first element in the evolution of the modern Persian literary system was the advent of the printing press in the beginning of the 19th century.

It was instrumental in creating a much wider and cheaper distribution of cultural works, in dissemination of newspapers, and in providing educational support for the

The establishment of Dar al-Fonun in 1851 and other modern schools required tens of translations on technical and scientific subjects, as well as on literary works.

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica. To be continued.