

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 45th year | No. 14521 | Wednesday | June 21, 2023 | Khordad 31, 1402 | Dhul Hijjah 2, 1444

IRGC intelligence chief revealed new details behind the scenes of last year's riots



TEHRAN- Up to 20 foreign spy services actively participated in the Western-backed riots in Iran last year, according to the head of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) intelligence organization.

Brigadier General Mohammad Kazemi broke the story in an exclusive interview with the khamenei.ir published on Monday.

In the interview, he discussed the various aspects of the violent riots that broke out in September of last year after Mahsa Amini, 22, died in police custody.

According to Kazemi, the unrest broke out when American authorities decided to step up the so-called maximum pressure campaign on the Islamic Republic under the Trump administration because their foreign policy against Iran had failed when President Joe Biden assumed office.

He averred in the interview that "after the Biden administration came to power, the Americans reached this strategic conclusion that they had faced failure in many foreign cases, and the reason for that was the actions of Iran and the management of its Leader; these failures had caused America's international position to be overshadowed, so Iran must pay the price."

In order to constrain and limit the Islamic Republic, he continued, "They proceeded toward rewriting Trump's version of maximum pressure." ► Page 2



Iran's Intelligence Ministry held an exhibition revealing the behind-the-scene role of foreign intelligence services in last year's riots, March 9, 2023.

Interview



Great achievements made in technology and innovation: deputy science minister

TEHRAN - Hashem Dadashpour, the deputy science minister for student affairs, says the country's capacities in the fields of technology and innovation have increased greatly thanks to the infrastructures that have been formed in recent years.

"This issue has caused Iran's position to be very reliable in the world rankings."

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Dadashpour expounded on science diplomacy and priorities of the higher education sector to attract more foreign university students.

Increasing the number of foreign students is one of the ministry's priorities in line with the goal of science diplomacy. ► Page 7

Modern electricity monitoring center opened in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iran's Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian inaugurated a modern electricity and energy monitoring center in the capital Tehran on Monday amid efforts to manage the supply and consumption of energy in the country.

Tehran's electricity monitoring center is the first of its kind in the country, IRNA reported.

This site of the art center has been launched to help successfully pass the summer peak demand for electricity in Tehran, a city of more than 10 million people.

The facility is capable of online monitoring of electricity consumption through connections with smart meters supplied to subscribers.

The center also provides monitoring and control of energy consumption in government departments and organizations as well as in banks, businesses and other public facilities in Tehran.

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

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has repeatedly announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Six surprising and overlooked travel destinations in Iran

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - For backpackers looking to venture off the beaten path, Iran has a wealth of lesser-known attractions that rival the breathtaking beauty and historical significance of many well-known ones.

The well-traveled tourist route of the nation includes scenic forests, canyons, towering mountains, serene deserts, waterfalls, historical arch bridges, ancient places of worship, mud-brick towers, and old villages, to name a few. A

selection of those places is listed below:

Khaneh Motamedi

Khaneh Motamedi, aka Mollabashi house, is a festival of colors and lights because it is so densely decorated with almost all Iranian traditional ornaments.

The historical house is in Isfahan and features chandeliers, mirrorwork, tilework, stuccowork, woodwork, stained glass, and woodwork, as well as elements of both traditional and neoclassical Persian architecture.

Its courtyard features a charming little garden with well-kept trees that leads to a summer alcove that serves as a reminder of the Zand era.

Rainbow Valley

Imagine a narrow valley with colorful mountains in shades of red, purple, yellow, ochre, and blue, as well as multicolored earth and sand that are the result of the uneven cooling of molten rock. ► Page 6

Albania police storms MEK headquarters, one member killed

TEHRAN - The Interior Ministry of Albania announced Tuesday that Albanian police conducted a raid into the headquarters of the MEK terrorist group.

The raid was carried out based on the Balkan nation's counter-terrorism laws.

"Today's operation was carried out in accordance with the laws and according to the ruling of the Supreme Court against terrorism," the statement said.

The statement added that according to the agreement between Albania and the organization in 2014, the members of this organization had become refugees in this country only for humanitarian reasons, but they have violated this agreement by carrying out terrorist and cyber acts.

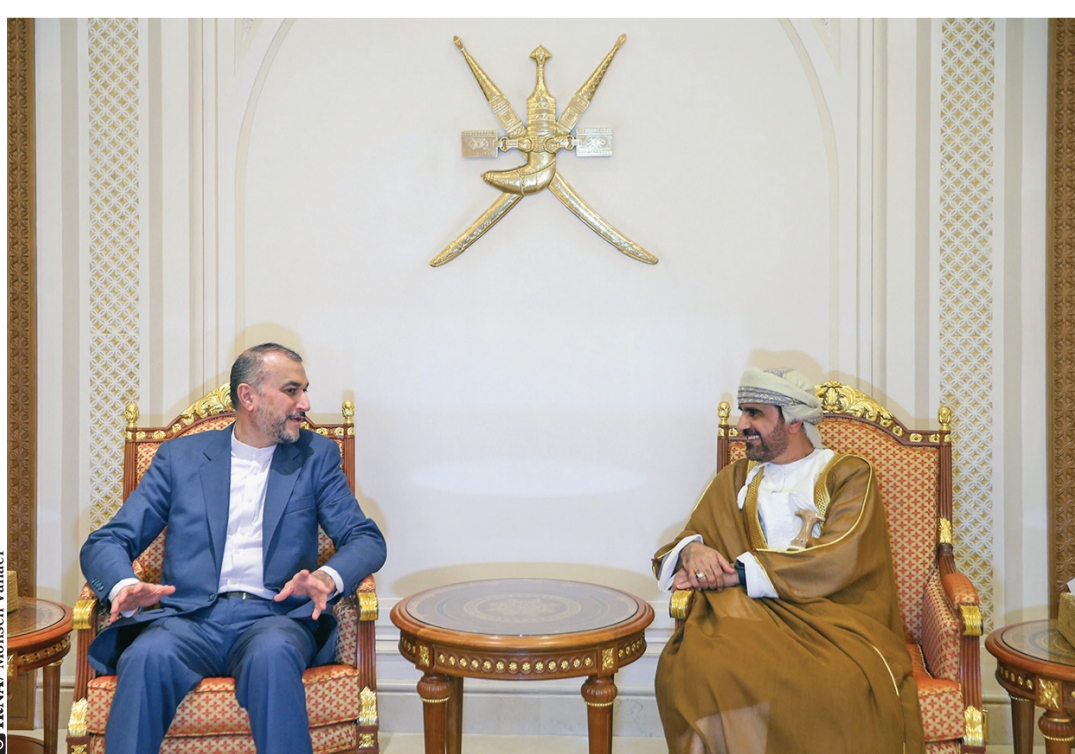
The operation took place on Tuesday morning, when Albanian police took control of the MEK's headquarters for an hour. ► Page 3

Iranian navy chief visits Pakistan to increase military cooperation

TEHRAN - Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the commander of the Iranian Navy, visited Islamabad on Monday for a three-day visit to discuss methods to strengthen bilateral collaboration in a number of military domains with top military commanders of Pakistan.

Irani visited Islamabad at the request of his Pakistani counterpart Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi's request.

Irani, who is accompanied by a senior military team, visited naval headquarters in Islamabad, where he was greeted by his Pakistani counterpart and witnessed a guard of honor, according to a Pakistan Navy press release. ► Page 2



After talks in Doha, Amir Abdollahian visits Muscat

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, paid a visit to Qatar and later Oman for a number of political meetings.

Amir Abdollahian arrived in Qatar's capital early Tuesday after receiving a formal invitation from his counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, who is also Qatar's prime minister.

Iran's top diplomat traveled with an entourage that included the foreign minister's aides, foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani, and an MP sitting on the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee. ► Page 2

Report

Israel resorts to Apache helicopters in brutal Jenin raid

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- Palestinians bravely defend the occupied Jenin refugee camp after an Israeli military invasion ended with 5 martyrs and injury of 8 Israeli troops.

The occupied West Bank towns, cities and villages have become used to pre-dawn Israeli raids.

But the latest invasion of Jenin and its adjoining refugee camp may prove to be a game changer.

Since the rise of newly formed Palestinian armed factions over the past two years, Israel must now carefully study its military operations before raiding West Bank regions, in particular the flashpoint cities of Jenin and Nablus. ► Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

Desired and rational path in foreign policy

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

In an analysis, the Javan newspaper wrote that the thirteenth (sitting) government has taken a desirable and rational path on foreign relations, and has successfully pursued its intended foreign policy approach. With revolutionary determination, this trend should be accelerated. The government did not wait for reaching an agreement with the United States to revive the JCPOA, and primarily focused on relations with its neighbors (with a focus on ensuring security and facilitating trade and economic exchanges). We should be hopeful about this move and have faith in its success. This situation is the result of a fundamental change in Iran's foreign policy in contrast to the previous administration which just sought the Western approval. But now, by utilizing existing capacities, the government has succeeded to regain its significant share on the global stage. Continuing this policy can also have more favorable results for Iran.

Kayhan: Iran turned into a center of regional diplomacy without JCPOA

Kayhan reported that President Raisi has focused his foreign policy on neighborhood diplomacy, relations with emerging global powers, and support for multilateralism in the international arena. The efforts of Raisi's government to strengthen extensive relations with countries that have considerable potential have marked a new era in Iran's foreign policy and changed the conditions in the international arena. In the new year, our country's president, by traveling to various influential countries and signing cooperation agreements in areas of economy and trade with them, has created new opportunities to counter U.S. sanctions and its allies. The thirteenth government has shown through diplomacy and cooperation with various countries that it knows how to interact with the world and influential countries in public forums and multilateral organizations, and these institutions have also understood Iran's positions well and extended their hands of friendship towards Iran's diplomatic power.

Sobh-e No: Opposition is supported financially under guise of enmity with Iranians

In an interview about financing the opposition, Sobh-e No newspaper wrote: "Money is necessary for being an opposition, but it is not enough. The movements that are happening inside the country are of this kind and are pseudo-movements. They are financially in a good situation but since they do not have the necessary will or faith, they cannot get anywhere. The Iranian people are peace-loving and do not side with anyone who adopts a hostile approach. If the 1979 revolution succeeded, it was because it had belief and ideals, and people rallied around that belief. The breath of these pseudo-movements is purely financial, and the opposition is supported financially by Western intelligence and security services under the guise of enmity with the Iranian people. Ali Karimi, Masih Alinejad, and others need financial support and are only together because of financial support. For this reason, their charters, organizations, and movements last less than a few months before collapsing."

Iran: 15 million tourists by 2027

The Iran newspaper reported that the final draft of the seventh development plan, submitted to parliament by the president, includes a chapter dedicated to cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts. The absence of cultural heritage in the initial draft and its subsequent inclusion in the sixteenth chapter, published a month ago, led to objections from activists in the field of cultural heritage and media. At the same time, Azizollah Zarghami, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, promised that cultural heritage would also be added to tourism and handicrafts. Finally, in the 17th chapter of the seventh development plan, cultural heritage was included alongside tourism and handicrafts for the first time in the five-year development plan. According to the plan, Iran must host 15 million foreign tourists by 2027. This plan was initially calculated from 2022 when inbound tourists exceeded four million. By 2027, Iran should have 57 registered world heritage sites and double its handicraft exports compared to 2022.

After talks in Doha, Amir Abdollahian arrived in Muscat

From page 1 ▶ Amir Abdollahian exchanged views with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

The authorities from Iran and Qatar discussed topics of common interest on bilateral, regional, and global levels.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized Tehran's readiness for joint cooperation with Qatar to develop relations in various areas and speed up the implementation of the past agreements in economic and commercial fields.

Expressing his satisfaction with the excellent political relations between the two countries, the chief diplomat said it is necessary to increase and improve economic, commercial and cultural relations between the two countries along with the political ones.

He also called for promotion of dialogue and cooperation between the eight countries bordering the Persian Gulf (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia) in order to create a collective mechanism with the aim of securing the common interests and security of the countries.

Amir Abdollahian appreciated Qatar's efforts and initiatives in helping to resolve regional issues and problems and emphasized Iran's continued support for Qatar's constructive actions in this direction.

The Emir of Qatar, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the very good, strong and sincere relations between the two countries. He said that Iran has a special place in the region and his country has no limits for developing relations with Iran.

He also expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the relations between the two countries, suggesting that it is necessary to increase joint efforts to achieve the highest goals set in the talks with the President of Iran in the commercial and economic fields.

Amir Abdollahian and Sheikh Mohammad dis-



ussed several issues of mutual interests, particularly in areas of economic cooperation.

In a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Qatar, they also reviewed strategies for enhancing economic and commercial ties between their two energy-rich countries.

Additionally, they talked about the revival of the Iran nuclear agreement with foreign powers and lifting of U.S. sanctions against the nation.

They talked about strategies for boosting the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Qatar, facilitating private sector's economic and commercial activities, fostering maritime transportation cooperation, and enhancing the activities of the ports in the two nations for the transportation of goods and passengers.

The economic cooperation joint commission sessions were also reviewed, and the foreign ministers discussed consular matters, including the situation of Iranian nationals detained in Qatar.

His travel to Qatar comes after the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Mohammad Reza Farzin, made similar trip to Doha last week.

Iran's top banker met with Qatari officials during his visit to explore ways to strengthen the two nations' financial, banking, and economic ties.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

From page 1 ▶ Based on his remarks, the U.S. authorities came up with three strategies to keep the riots going: creating an emotional climate following Amini's death; transforming protest into unrest through daily strikes; and converting the mood of discontent into an armed movement by mobilizing armed groups.

He said that more than a dozen nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Canada, Belgium, Austria, Albania, Australia, Iceland, Italy, Kosovo, Norway, Bahrain, New Zealand and the Zionist regime played an active role in the events of last year.

The IRGC intelligence chief highlighted that in the trilateral meeting of representatives of the United States, UK, and the Zionist regime, they decided that the 5th Fleet of the American Navy supply Kurdish anti-revolutionary elements with an avalanche of weaponry.

It is worth saying that as a part of the project, the enemy tried to allocate \$550,000 in media aid to incite ethnic and religious minorities in Iran's border areas.

With the initiative and financing of the United States and other countries, the Zionist regime did its best to enflame the protesters and create a financial support for strikers and protesters, according to Gen. Kazemi.

He went on to add that the CIA requested the creation of a joint team with Israel's Mossad and UK's MI6 to re-launch the project of assassinating Iranian experts, particularly in the nuclear, space, and military fields.

Kazemi also revealed that think tanks affiliated with the American ruling body had been activated by examining and diagnosing the protests in Iran, especially the events of November 2018, and recommended focusing on the field of women and youth for the long-term overthrow of the Islamic Republic system. For example, in the report of the FDD Institute, it was emphasized that the future protests in Iran are likely to involve more violence, including vandalism against public property, etc., and protests are likely to occur



exclusively with shorter intervals between each uprising.

Last year, General Kazemi added, the spy services emphasized that the operation regarding the mandatory hijab would be a prelude to the overthrow of the regime, therefore, by focusing on the issue of compulsory hijab, they created a wave of opposition surrounding hijab, especially in social networks.

Given the historical hatred of Iranian people for terrorist groups, especially the terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) and royalists, he pointed out that "they have never had the ability to create waves and social security outcry inside the country, and have always waited for an opportunity to surf the waves and create insecurity and unrest in Iran."

The participation and involvement of the intelligence agencies of close to twenty different countries in the riots last year were revealed via investigations by the IRGC's intelligence organization, he explained.

Kazemi added that efforts by French diplomats in Tehran to acquire information about the riots and the condition of Iran's security and law enforcement apparatus, and to share such information with an intelligence officer of a European country's embassy.

IRGC intelligence chief said that 28 European countries' ambassa-

Decoding a failed collective plot

dors gathered at a European embassy to debate the potential closure of their embassies, with Germany starting first.

He highlighted that the use of non-European nationals (Afghans, Pakistanis, and Iraqis) and the presence of European nationals to gather information on the riots resulted in the arrest of 40 people from nearby countries. For example, he said, a French-Irish national in Khorasan Razavi Province and a German national in Ardabil Province were detained.

20 foreign intelligence services participated actively in riots of last year

Kazemi also stated that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had ratcheted up its activities to enhance the essential cyberspace platforms for disseminating news of the riots, including efforts to send technical equipment, escape tools, and lifting sanctions on mobile communication devices.

Referring to riots, he said that the intelligence agencies of the UAE and the Zionist regime held meetings on a regular basis in an Arab nation to inflame the unrest in Iran.

In his interview, Kazemi also emphasized that the enemy sought to instill fear among Iranians of all social classes and political inclinations by inducing discrimination and violation of women's rights, as well as the collapse of the Islamic Republic and the end of the Islamic Revolution.

After the death of Amini, an Iranian woman of Kurdish origin, protests with foreign assistance broke out in Iran in the middle of September.

She fainted at a police station in Tehran and was declared dead three days later.

Official examination by the forensic medicine found that Amini's death was brought on by disease rather than claimed blows to the skull or other important body parts.

Iran's intelligence community said that various nations, notably the U.S. and the UK, utilized their espionage and media infrastructure to incite violent disturbances in the country.

Rioters went on the rampage, viciously assaulting law enforcement forces and severely damaging public property.

On February 5, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, pardoned or commuted the sentences of a large number of prisoners who had been arrested during the riots.

West can't be so reckless in face of refugee crisis, Tehran says

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday criticized the West for trying to avoid taking responsibility for the current refugee crisis, stating that the U.S. and Europe are at fault since their "wrong policies" caused a migrant tsunami.

Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the statements on Twitter following the sinking of an overloaded fishing vessel carrying up to 750 migrants, including around 100 children, in the Mediterranean Sea on Saturday.

Men, women and children from Syria, Egypt, the Palestinian territories and Pakistan were aboard the trawler.

Trawler sank off the coast of Greece.

'Israel's acts are clear example of organized crime and official terrorism'

Also on Monday, the spokesperson also sharply denounced Israel's slaughter of Palestinians, saying that the occupying regime is engaging in "organized crime and official terrorism" while the rest of the world remains mute.

Iranian navy chief visits Pakistan to increase military cooperation

From page 1 ▶ Additionally, Irani and Niazi discussed regional partnerships and marine security in the region.

Niazi briefed Irani and his accompanying team on the professional activities of Pakistani naval forces to maintain maritime security and bolster bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Irani's current trip to Islamabad, in the opinion of Pakistan's Navy, will be a significant step in fostering closer naval cooperation between the two nations.

In the meanwhile, Irani and Pakistani Air Force Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu met. They emphasized the value of strengthening military, educational, and aviation cooperation.

In a statement, Pakistan's Air

At least five Palestinians were murdered and 66 others were injured in an attack by Israeli Special Forces on the occupied city of Jenin in the northern West Bank on Monday.

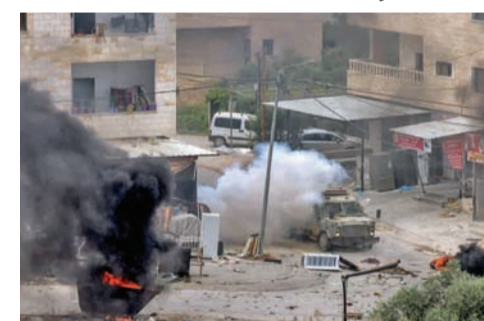
The massacre of Palestinians, including children, women, and the elderly, as well as the destruction of Palestinians' property and homes, he asserted, are "clear examples of organized crime and official terrorism."

These crimes have increased by the Zionists in recent months in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian official underscored that immediate action must be taken by the international community, particularly the United Nations, to stop such heinous activities.

Kanaani also raised worry about the UN and other nations' inactivity about Israel's increase of unauthorized settlers in the West Bank.

He criticized Western nations for remaining silent over Israel's settlement operations and asked



international organizations and Palestinian-supporting countries to uphold their legal, moral, and ethical obligations by defending the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Iranian official emphasized that Israel must be held accountable for its crimes and actions that violate international law and conventions.

Over the last year, tensions in the occupied West Bank have risen as a result of violent raids carried out by the Israeli military under the pretense of apprehending so-called "wanted" Palestinians.



Force said, "The meeting between Irani and Baber Sidhu is a testament to the deep-rooted friendship and unwavering commitment of the two nations to work towards a peaceful and stable region."

The Pakistani marshal also underscored on the advancement in space, electronic warfare, cyber and niche technologies coupled with artificial intelligence (AI) which have profoundly affected the traditional environment of national security.

He gave the dignitary a briefing on the numerous initiatives the Pa-

kistan Air Force is working on, paying particular attention to modernization and the growth of indigenous capabilities.

"Tehran and Islamabad enjoy longstanding religious, cultural, and historical bonds which are manifested through strong ties between both sides," the Pakistani air chief noted.

The commander of the Iranian Navy praised the professionalism of the Pakistan Air Force troops and the extraordinary advancements made by the PAF on its path to modernization.

Irani further commended Pakistan for its ongoing efforts to maintain security in the region and emphasized the significance of strengthening military-to-military cooperation, particularly in the areas of operations, training, and the

aviation sector.

Irani stated earlier this month that the Islamic Republic intends to create new intra- and extra-regional partnerships to improve security.

Along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Iraq, he also mentioned Pakistan as a nation that is in earnest for international naval cooperation.

He said that almost all of the nations in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean have decided to support Iran and work together more effectively to build security.

A number of Persian Gulf Arab nations, led by Saudi Arabia, realigned their coalition and resumed their relations with Iran, shattering the Israeli regime's and its old partner, the U.S., dreams of a "NATO-like" anti-Iran alliance in the region.

Ayatollah Khamenei meets family members of shrine martyrs

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday received members of the families of the shrine martyrs.

During the meeting, the Leader officiated at the wedding of a martyr's sister. The meeting also took place on Marriage Day.

Members of the family of martyr Majid Ghorbankhani were present at

the meeting. After officiating at the wedding of Zeinab Ghorbankhani and Ehsan Attaei, the Leader advised the couple to get along with each other in order to have a happy conjugal life.

Majid Ghorbankhani was martyred in the Syrian city of Khantouman.

Iran refers to those killed in the fight against terrorists in Syria and Iraq as shrine martyrs.



Iran has agreed with Oman initiative on frozen funds in South Korea: MP



TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has revealed new details about Oman's mediatory efforts to de-escalate tensions between Iran and the United States, saying Tehran has agreed an Omani offer in this regard.

The lawmaker, Shahriar Heidari, who is the deputy chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said the Omani initiative has also struck a responsive chord with South Korea.

The remarks came at a time as Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian is visiting Qatar and Oman, with diplomatic efforts underway to include Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in this tour.

"Oman and Qatar are two good and reliable neighbors of Iran. Many times they announced their readiness to resolve the differences between our countries and Iran. Oman has announced its

readiness to resolve disputes between South Korea and Iran. We have no fundamental differences," Heidari told Iran's SNN news agency.

He added, "Our dispute is about Iran's blocked money in South Korea. In this regard, Oman has made a proposal that has been approved by Iran and South Korea. We hope that this proposal will be implemented."

He also said that holding talks over Iran's frozen assets in South Korea is on the agenda of Amir Abdollahian's visit to Oman.

On Tuesday morning, Amir Abdollahian left Tehran for Qatar at the head of a delegation for talks with high-ranking Qatari officials. Different issues of mutual interest at bilateral, regional and international levels are on the agenda of talks, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

In Doha, the Iranian foreign minister met with Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar.

Amir Abdollahian is also expected to visit Oman. A Qatari newspaper said on Monday that Amir Abdollahian is also expected to visit Muscat.

Citing Iranian sources familiar with the matter, Al Araby Al Jadeed said diplomatic efforts are being done to include Kuwait and the UAE. "The visit to Kuwait and the UAE is not confirmed until this moment, and coordination is underway with the

foreign ministries of the two countries to include them in the tour as well," it said.

The sources added that the tour "aims to discuss ways to enhance regional rapprochement between Iran and its Arab neighbors in light of the new positive atmosphere."

The sources pointed out that the visit also comes in the context of the Iranian government's "neighborhood diplomacy", following up on "issues of common interest" and "strengthening bilateral relations."

The Qatari newspaper said the importance of Amir Abdollahian's visit to the two countries goes beyond the bilateral relations with them to ongoing developments between Tehran and Washington, as Oman and Qatar are currently playing a mediating role in reducing tension between the two parties, nuclear negotiations and a possible prisoner exchange deal.

Amir Abdollahian's visit to Muscat comes three weeks after Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman visited Tehran and met with senior Iranian officials, amid talks that he had conveyed an American message to them.

Iran is improving relations with its Arab neighbors. Heidari had earlier said President Ebrahim Raisi has prioritized improvement of relations with neighbors and regional countries.

Albania police storms MEK headquarters, one member killed

TEHRAN – The Interior Ministry of Albania announced Tuesday that Albanian police conducted a raid into the headquarters of the MEK terrorist group.

The raid was carried out based on the Balkan nation's counter-terrorism laws.

"Today's operation was carried out in accordance with the laws and according to the ruling of the Supreme Court against terrorism," the statement said.

The statement added that according to the agreement between Albania and the organization in 2014, the members of this organization had become refugees in this country only for humanitarian reasons, but they have violated this agreement by carrying out terrorist and cyber acts. The operation took place on Tuesday morning, when

Albanian police took control of the MEK's headquarters for an hour.

The police forces inspected the offices of the organization, all electronic systems, including computers, mobile phones, etc.

Some unconventional electronic devices, including a number of drones, were seized by the police. During the inspection, the security forces faced the resistance and attack by some members of the organization.

The MEK confirmed the Albanian police raid in a statement. A member of the terrorist group was killed in clashes with the Albanian police.

MEK is a terrorist group that moved from Iraq to Albania with American help.

France bans rally by MEK
MEK also expressed fury after Paris police

refused to grant permission for a major rally next month. The so-called National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) alleged that the ban on the rally was the result of "pressure" on France by the Iranian government.

The group, that claims it has abandoned acts of terrorism, had asked permission for the rally in Paris on July 1 with supporters expected from France and across Europe.

Paris police did not grant approval for the rally as it is "likely to generate disturbances to public order because of the geopolitical context", a Paris police source, asking not to be named, told AFP.

Regarded as a cult by detractors, the group enjoys the support of several former U.S. officials such as former vice president Mike Pence and former national security advisor John Bolton.

Iran envoy to Afghanistan meets UN official

TEHRAN – Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's presidential envoy for Afghanistan who simultaneously serves as Tehran's Ambassador to Kabul, met on Tuesday with the United Nations secretary-general's envoy for Afghanistan.

Qomi discussed with Markus Potzel, the Deputy Special Representative (Political) for Afghanistan in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), ways to help the Afghan people.

In the meeting, consultations and exchange of views were held regarding increasing cooperation between Iran and the United Nations to help the people of Afghanistan, according to IRIB News.

The issue of Afghan refugees, humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan in the current tough and difficult situation, as well as helping to establish stability, are among the common areas of

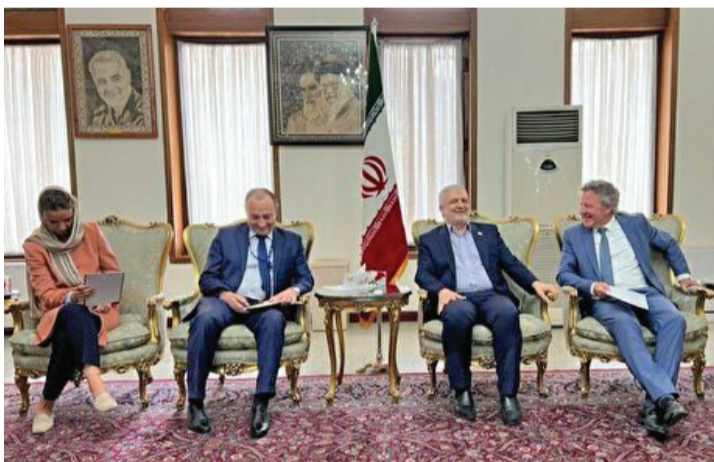
cooperation between Iran and the United Nations to help the people of the war-hit country.

Currently, about six million Afghans live in Iran, and inside Afghanistan, two-thirds of the country's population needs humanitarian aid.

The meeting came after tensions between Iran and the Taliban subsided. Tensions between Tehran and Kabul had flared up over water issues and border clashes.

In the latest de-escalatory step, the Taliban have agreed to let Iranian specialists assess the quantity of water behind the Kajaki dam in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, according to Iran's envoy in Kabul, despite a dispute between the two neighbors about who gets how much water from the Helmand River.

Qomi stated during a televised interview that Iran is making significant efforts to defend its rights to a portion of water from



the Helmand River.

The Taliban have now agreed to allow Iranian experts to personally inspect the situation and observe the amount of water behind the Kajaki dam, the envoy noted, describing it as a "good step" despite Kabul officials' claims that the issue is caused by lack of water and Tehran's insistence on

verification of the matter.

Iran and Afghanistan have been locked in a protracted dispute over the water of the Helmand River, which originates in the Hindu Kush Mountains near Kabul and flows 700 miles (1,126 kilometers) south before flowing into the Hamoun wetlands in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

Azerbaijan-Iran ties at lowest level: envoy

TEHRAN – The ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Israel has said that relations between Tehran and Baku are at an all-time low.

In an interview with Israeli media, Mukhtar Mammadov said, "We seek good relations with all countries, particularly our neighbors," according to I24news.

He added, "With Iran we have trade relations and cooperation in the field of energy and transportation. Azerbaijan is not once the one that affects relations with any country. Unfortunately, our relations with Iran are at their lowest levels

ever since we gained our independence."

He also lauded relations between Israel and the Republic of Azerbaijan, saying the sky's the limit to these relations.

The Azeri ambassador touched on the talks, which he described as positive, between Israel and Azerbaijan. He said these talks will "lead to results for the establishment of joint projects in the field of industry, high-tech and agriculture." Mammadov stressed that "making artificial intelligence within the reach of local companies will allow the market to leap forward technologically."

"The tourism potential is great" the ambassador said. During Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's visit to Baku in April, the two sides discussed this issue," according to Mammadov. "We take care of marketing, and travel agencies do a hectic job. We work with travel agents and bloggers, and we believe that the volume of Israeli tourism to Azerbaijan will increase," Mammadov said.

The remarks came amid efforts by Iranian officials to improve relations with Azerbaijan, whose officials have been blasé about restoring relations with Iran to their previous status.

Iran crowned champions of 2023 CAFA Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Uzbekistan 1-0 on Tuesday in the final match of the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup.

In the match held at the Milliy Stadium in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Sardar Azmoun found the back of the net with a right-footed strike in the 48th minute. Earlier in the day, Oman defeated Kyrgyzstan 1-0 to finish in third place.

Iran had defeated Afghanistan 6-1 and Kyrgyzstan 5-1 in Group B.

Iran forward Mehdi Taremi scored six goals in the tournament and became the top goalscorer.

The 2023 CAFA Nations Cup is the first edition of the CAFA Nations Cup, the biennial international men's football championship of Central Asia organized by Central Asian Football Association (CAFA). The event was held in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan from June 10 to 20.

Iran overpower Germany in 2023 VNL

TEHRAN – Iran overpowered Germany in straight sets (25-23, 26-24, 25-16) in the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 2 on Tuesday.

Amin Esmailnejad led Iran's with 16 points and Germany's Moritz Reichert collected 11 points.

Iran are scheduled to meet powerhouses Italy on Wednesday and play the U.S. and the Netherlands on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

The VNL Preliminary Phase will feature three weeks of competition, with each of the 16 teams playing 12 matches.

The eight best-ranked national teams in the Preliminary Phase will qualify for the Final Phase, which will be held in Gdańsk, Poland, from July 19-23 – host country Poland are already guaranteed a spot.

Sabre team runners-up at 2023 Asian Fencing Championship

TEHRAN – Iran's men's sabre team lost to South Korea 45-28 in the final match of the 2023 Asian Fencing Championships on Tuesday.

China also won the bronze medal after defeating Japan in the third-place match.

Farzad Baher, Mohammad Fotouhi, Ali Pakdaman and Mohammad Rahbari represented Iran in the event.

Pakdaman and Rahbari had previously won a gold and bronze medal respectively in the men's sabre discipline.

The competition is being held in Wuxi, China.

Chinese Taipei sweep Iran at 2023 AVC Challenge Cup

TEHRAN – Chinese Taipei went for a strong finish in Preliminary Round of the 2023 AVC Challenge Cup for Women by sweeping Iran 3-0 (25-18, 25-16, 25-13) on Tuesday.

Hitters Chang Li-Wen and Lin Shu-Ho provided consistent performances, suiting up nearly all match long. They delivered double-digit markers, with 16 points and 13 points respectively.

Team Melli will meet Vietnam in Pool F on Wednesday.

The tournament has brought 11 Asian teams together in Gresik, Indonesia.

The 2023 Asian Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup is the fourth edition of the Asian Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup, an annual international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Indonesian Volleyball Federation (PBVSI).

The tournament is being held at the Tri Dharma Petrokimia Gresik Gymnasium, Gresik, East Java, Indonesia from June 18 to 25.

Iran make history in 2023 IWBF World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran won their first ever medal at the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) World Championships.

Team Melli beat the Netherlands 72-54 in the bronze medal match on Tuesday in Dubai, the UAE.

Iran lost twice to titleholders Britain and 2020 Paralympics champions the U.S. and defeated Iraq, France, Germany and the Netherlands in the prestigious tournament.

Britain and the U.S. will lock horns in the final on Tuesday.

The competition was originally scheduled for Nov. 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.

Iran's flagbearers for 2022 Asian Games named

TEHRAN – Javad Foroughi and Nahid Kiani have been named as flagbearers of Iran for the 2022 Asian Games by Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC). Foroughi became the oldest Iranian athlete to win an Olympic medal, earning gold in men's 10-meter air pistol in the 2022 Olympics in Tokyo.

The 43-year-old Foroughi surpassed weightlifter Mahmoud Namdjou, who was 38 when he took bronze at the 1956 Melbourne Games.

It was Iran's first medal in shooting in the history of Olympics.

Kiani is also the first Iranian woman taekwondo athlete to win a gold medal in the history of the World Championships.

She claimed the gold at the 2023 World Taekwondo Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan in early June.

The 2022 Asian Games will be held at Hangzhou, China, from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8. The 15-day-long continental showpiece, which shifted from 2022 to 2023 due to COVID-19, will feature 40 sports, with Asia's best competing for top honors.

The national teams can appoint a man and a woman as their flagbearers at the opening ceremony to send a message of gender parity.

Abdi laments dropped points against Qatar in AFC U17 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Hossein Abdi lamented his team's missed opportunity to collect three points after they were held 0-0 by Qatar in the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup Group B tie on Monday.

Following an impressive 6-1 triumph over Afghanistan on Matchday One, a second win would have sealed Iran a place in the knockout stage but they now need to avoid defeat against already-qualified Korea Republic on Thursday to advance.

"I think the team worked really hard, but Qatar put a lot of pressure on our defense and pressed very well," said Abdi.

"We were forced to play a lot of direct balls in the first 45 minutes. But in the second half, when we saw the Qatari players getting tired, we tried to take advantage of the situation and created several scoring opportunities but unfortunately couldn't convert them," he added.

With the cloud of being held to a stalemate looming over the squad, Abdi's focus now lies on motivating his players to regain their winning mentality ahead of their final group stage tie.

"This was one of those matches where you do everything correctly and yet things don't go your way. So right now, it is important that I keep the boys motivated and inspire them to work hard for the next match.

"Moreover, the fact that our opponents were so happy to secure a point against us will surely play a huge role in helping the team feel good," said the Iranian.

Iran willing to export technical engineering services to Burkina Faso



TPO Acting Head Mehdi Zeyghami (R) and secretary general of the Foreign Ministry of Burkina Faso Issa Boro

TEHRAN – The acting head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has said Iran is willing to expand trade ties with Burkina Faso and export technical engineering services to the country, the TPO portal reported on Tuesday.

Mehdi Zeyghami made the remarks in a meeting with Issa Boro, the secretary general of the foreign ministry of Burkina Faso, in Tehran.

In this meeting, the two sides emphasized the expansion of commercial relations in parallel with political ties and discussed the business plans that are to be presented in the upcoming Joint Economic Committee meeting of the two countries.

According to Zeyghami, the expansion of business relations is not possible without the businessmen of the two countries getting to know each other, and it is necessary to hold conferences on the business opportunities of Burkina Faso and Iran for the businessmen of the two countries to get familiar with the two countries' markets.

Earlier on Saturday, Boro had announced that the West African country is going to open embassy in Tehran.

Over 112,000 tons of aluminum ingots produced in 2 months



TEHRAN – Iran produced 112,767 tons of aluminum ingots during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Based on the IMIDRO's data, the country's two-month aluminum ingot production fell two percent from 114,850 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

Among the country's four major producers, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) had the best performance in the two-month period, producing 49,220 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) producing 31,067 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 26,155 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 6,325 tons of the product.

As previously reported, production of aluminum ingot stood at 632,166 tons in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Among the country's four major producers, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) had the best performance in the past year, producing 270,185 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) producing 178,077 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 147,749 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 36,155 tons of the product.

According to the data previously released by

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization, production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 20 percent in Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to the preceding year.

The IMIDRO's data put the annual production of aluminum ingot at 538,633 tons in 1400, while the figure was 446,836 tons in 1399, and 278,318 tons in 1398.

Among the country's four major producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance in 1400, producing 177,058 tons of aluminum ingots, although the figure was 185,000 tons in the preceding year.

South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) produced 173,594 tons, production by Almahdi Aluminum Company stood at 150,738 tons, and Iran Alumina Company produced 37,243 tons of aluminum ingots in the mentioned year, the IMIDRO's data indicated.

Production of aluminum ingot stood at 632,166 tons in Iran during past Iranian calendar year.

Iranian officials estimate the country's aluminum sector has a value of \$22 billion, which is sufficient to meet the country's aluminum needs.

At present, Iran is the 18th biggest aluminum-producing country in the world.

The country plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

TEDPIX gains 2,700 points on Tuesday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 2,718 points to 2.166 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 6.69 billion securities worth 57.91 trillion rials (about \$137.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

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

Last week, Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said attracting capital for the companies active in the stock market is a priority of the organization which is being seriously pursued in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), IRIB reported.

"Funding through the capital market should be

facilitated and achieved in a short period of time," Eshqi stressed.

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

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

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

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

"By using modern financial instruments in the capital market, we can envision a prosperous future for the market and witness the re-entry of liquidity to the stock market," he added.

Exhibition of Iranian export capabilities to be held in Belarus in early August

TEHRAN – An exclusive exhibition of Iran's export capabilities is scheduled to be held in Belarus's capital in early August.

As IRIB reported, the exhibition will be held at Bel Expo Center in Minsk during August 10-13.

According to the organizer of the exhibition, the ministries of Industry, Mining and Trade, Energy, and Oil, as well as the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), and Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) have so far announced their readiness to participate in this exhibition.

Also, automobile manufacturing companies, including Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) and Saipa, and a number of auto part manufacturing companies have registered to take part in the event.

The exhibition will focus on the influential role and export capabilities of Iran's knowledge-based companies in the future of economic relations between Iran and Eurasia.

Iran and Belarus signed a comprehensive cooperation roadmap and seven MOUs in mid-March.

Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe that borders Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. The country is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which is comprised of Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan which have a large market of 185 million people worth about \$500 billion.

Russia is the largest trading partner for Belarus and the small neighbor is the corridor for imports to Russia.

Iranian and Belarusian economic and political officials are resolved to expand bilateral relations and an increasing number of high-ranking Belarusian economic officials along with private sector representatives have been visiting Iran in recent months.

Back in late April, the former head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said that the private sectors of Iran and Belarus have significant capacities for cooperation.



Gholam-Hossein Shafeie made the remarks in a meeting with Belarusian Ambassador to Tehran Dmitry Koltsov at the place of ICCIMA.

The ICCIMA head described the cooperation capacities of the private sectors of the two countries, especially in the field of technical and engineering services, agriculture, and tripartite cooperation with neighbors as significant and a necessity for the development of bilateral relations.

Referring to the positive economic interactions between Iran and Belarus in the past years, Shafeie said Belarus is one of Iran's priorities in establishing business relations. Because this country has had a favorable economic situation and GDP growth in the past years, and the existing capacities of the country can help in the development of bilateral cooperation.

The Belarusian ambassador for his part said that Iran and Belarus have long-standing relations, and in recent years, delegations have been exchanged at different levels between the two countries.

He considered transportation to be one of the primary and important fields in Iran-Belarus trade relations.

The envoy further said Khorasan Razavi province (in the northeast of Iran) has considerable capacity in this field due to its geographical location. This province has good potential in the field of machine building, agricultural equipment, food industry, and electronic devices.

Back in mid-March, Iran and Belarus signed a comprehensive cooperation roadmap and seven memorandums of understanding (MOU) as Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko made a visit to Tehran.

The cooperation roadmap and MOUs include various commercial, transportation, agricultural and cultural fields.

The roadmap was signed by the presidents of the two countries, while the MOUs were inked by senior officials from the two sides.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Belarusian counterpart after signing the document, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said: "Good agreements were made in the field of industry, mining, trade, agriculture, roads and various fields, and we hope that it will be a step towards the development of the two countries."

Referring to the determination of Iran and Belarus to develop relations in all fields, Raisi said: "Both countries are against unilateralism. We believe that independent countries can have good relations with each other which lead to the neutralization of sanctions."

Lukashenko, for his part, pointed to his last visit to Iran in 2006 and said that no sanctions or pressures have been able to stop the Iranian nation from progressing, and it is a fact that an independent and strong Iran is continuing its path.

Referring to the MOUs between the two countries, Lukashenko noted that if all these MOUs are implemented, the two countries can achieve \$100 million of annual trade.

"The volume of trade between the two countries tripled in 2022 compared to 2021," he noted.

The Belarusian president expressed hope that the implementation of the comprehensive cooperation roadmap will help develop the relations between the two countries even more.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Lukashenko visited Tehran for a two-day official visit. The trip was aimed to expand ties between the two countries.

As part of the Belarusian delegation's schedule in Tehran, the country's Minister of Industry Rogozhnik Alexander Nikolaevich met with Iranian former Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin to discuss ways of developing mutual ties.

During the meeting with Nikolaevich, who was accompanied by a group of industrial officials, Fatemi-Amin referred to the cooperation of

the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) with its Belarusian counterpart and also an agreement between banks of the two countries, emphasizing that the infrastructure needed for the development of trade between the two countries has been created.

He stated that an agreement on the possibility of barter trade between the two countries is also going to be signed soon, adding: "With the full accession of Iran to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in less than a year from now 80 percent of the tariffs between the two countries will be zeroed."

Nikolaevich in his turn said Belarus pays special attention to the expansion of trade relations with Iran.

"In the days when both countries have been subjected to heavy and cruel sanctions, we must make a double effort to defeat the sanctions," Nikolaevich suggested.

Stating that with Iran's joining the EAEU, many issues in the field of transportation will be resolved, he emphasized: "Our goal is for Iranian products to flourish in the Belarusian market and Belarusian products to enter the Iranian market."

In his joint press conference with the Belarusian leader after a meeting at the Saadabad Palace, Raisi asserted that the Islamic Republic has capitalized on the threat of unilateral sanctions as a chance to advance significantly.

"Iran has benefited from the sanctions put on the country, and we have achieved remarkable advances despite the threats," Raisi said.

He added, "We are eager to share our experiences with our good friend Belarus."

Raisi also said the only way to overcome sanctions and advance is mutual opposition to unilateralism.

Lukashenko, for his part, stated that "Iran is flourishing and Iran keeps growing despite sanctions and pressure. The signing of several documents today can result in a 100 million dollars increase in commerce between the two nations if they are fully implemented."

The president of Belarus continued, "Sanctions are opportunities, and two nations should not lose these possibilities."

He remarked that both nations have a desire for a fair and multipolar world and that their stances on international and regional issues are comparable.

'Resolving banking issues a prerequisite for expanding Iran, Bangladesh ties'

TEHRAN – The newly elected Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi met with the Ambassador of Bangladesh in Tehran Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury on Tuesday to discuss ways of expanding trade ties between the two countries.

In the meeting, Selahvarzi underlined resolving banking and transportation issues as a prerequisite for boosting the economic exchanges between Iran and Bangladesh, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Referring to the close religious, cultural, and historical relations between Iran and Bangladesh, the ICCIMA head said that despite Bangladesh's great market and Iran's strategic position, the two countries have not been able to use each other's economic capacities well.

He further mentioned some of the potential areas for cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh, saying: "Cooperation in the fields of construction materials, minerals, agricultural products, industrial items, and petrochemical products can lead to the development of trade relations between the two countries."

Selahvarzi pointed to the need for the formation of a joint committee between the businessmen of the two countries as one of the necessary measures for increasing the trade exchanges between Iran and Bangladesh and added: "Within the next two months, an Iran-Bangladesh Joint Economic Committee will be formed in Iran and we hope that the corresponding institution in Bangladesh will also be established soon."

Stating that Iran and Bangladesh are members of a number of multilateral economic organizations including the D8, Selahvarzi emphasized the necessity of using this capacity and said: "Iran Chamber of Commerce will make the necessary arrangements with Bangladesh Chamber [of Commerce] for the exchange of business delegations between the two countries."

Chowdhury, for his part, congratulated Selahvarzi on his election as the new head of the ICCIMA, and reminded of the very close, historical and cultural relations between the two countries and said: "Unfortunately, the level of trade relations between Iran and Bangladesh is not in



ICCIMA Head Hossein Selahvarzi (R) and Ambassador of Bangladesh in Tehran Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury

coordination with the level of political relations."

He stressed that the governments of the two countries also want to increase trade relations, saying: "In this regard, we should try to facilitate the relations between the businessmen of the two countries as much as possible. Unfortunately, there is no direct transportation between Iran and Bangladesh, and the trade is mostly done through third countries."

Israel resorts to Apache helicopters in brutal Jenin raid

From page 1 ▶ In a statement on Monday, the Israeli military said that the operation started before dawn with the hope of arresting two Palestinians from the Jenin refugee camp.

What happened next was not expected.

The Israeli military brigade was met with resistance. A "massive exchange of fire" (as the Israeli military described it) ensued.

The regime's forces have been accused of using an indiscriminate level of force.

Israeli forces killed five Palestinians, including one child, and injured more than 90 others throughout the duration of its presence inside Jenin.

Not even journalists were spared, with a group being shot at by Israeli snipers despite hiding in areas where there were no resistance fighters at the scene. At least one journalist, Hazem Nasser, was wounded with a direct hit.

Another Palestinian Journalist, Mohammed Ateeq, who was reporting live while trapped under fire said "there is heavy gunfire, the ambulance was targeted and fled, a targeted car also fled, there was shooting at it, everybody here is on the ground, all the journalists are on the ground here."

Medics were prevented from attending to the injured. The Palestine Red Crescent Society says Israeli forces directly shot at and damaged four ambulances. "Our teams could only deal with 43 injuries, including 27 gunshot wounds and eight shrapnel wounds," a spokesperson told Al Jazeera.

An official with the Fatah Party has been cited by Reuters as saying resistance fighters from the nearby cities of Nablus and Tulkarem had arrived in Jenin to support the local forces defending the camp.

After the hours-long battle that led to injuries among the regime's troops, Israel called the operation off and began to withdraw.

As it was fleeing the Jenin refugee camp, the military convoy was caught in a trap. An explosive device, planted by the resistance, caused heavy damage to at least five Israeli armored vehicles, injuring more Israeli troops.

Palestinian gunmen ambushed the Israeli military convoy, which was struggling to leave the camp, and opened heavy fire at it.

A number of Israeli vehicles were prevented from leaving the city.

An Israeli military statement



said "as they were retreating, an explosive device detonated in an armored vehicle. The injuries range from mild to medium."

"The Israeli vehicles were subjected to gun shots and five vehicles were stuck. The operation to retract those vehicles could take hours," the statement added. The damaged Israeli vehicles were later seen on Palestinian media.

At this point, the regime's forces called for air assistance to help its troops evacuate.

Apache helicopters arrived at the scene and started firing in an attempt to target the gunmen and allow the convoy to depart.

"So that's why you also saw our forces in a very problematic area and we had to bring in a helicopter," an army spokesman told reporters.

Video clips circulating online show one military helicopter launching a missile and releasing flares.

The last time the regime had resorted to helicopter gunships in the occupied West Bank was more than 20 years ago. That is since the second Intifada more than two decades ago.

Unconfirmed reports have said the occupation army requested the intervention of F16 warplanes in the Jenin camp as a result of the shock from the method and confrontation of the resistance.

It all highlights the intensity of the gun battle and the amount of explosive devices with which the resistance targeted the Israeli military throughout the day. The Jenin battalion of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigades says it used high-grade explosives for the first time on Monday.

The use of more sophisticated explosive devices for the first time shows that Palestinians

have the knowledge to make them and the means to use them against the Israeli military professionally. This indicates a new reality for the West Bank.

At least eight Israeli troops were left injured during the entire brutal yet botched operation. The Israeli army said on its radio channel that the condition of one of injured troops had deteriorated "to serious".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later visited the injured troops in hospital.

The last time the regime had resorted to helicopter gunships in the occupied West Bank was more than 20 years ago. That is since the second Intifada more than two decades ago.

Military analysts on Israeli media have said the injuries of the regime's troops in the Jenin operation reminds the occupation regime a lot about Hezbollah's pattern of resistance in Lebanon before the Israeli occupation fully withdrew from the country in 2000.

The Palestinian Health Ministry has identified four of the Palestinian victims as Ahmed Saqr aged 15, Khaled Darwish 21, Qassam Sariya 19, and Qassam Faisal 29.

Following the deadly raid on Jenin, Palestinians took to the streets and clashed with Israeli soldiers in different parts of the West Bank,

with more casualties reported on both sides.

In a separate incident, a car was used in a retaliatory operation against Israeli troops at a checkpoint in the northern West Bank. The regime's forces shot two people in the car, while two Israeli troops also sustained injuries in the operation.

The Hamas spokesman in the Gaza Strip, Hazem Qassem, strongly condemned the Jenin raid and praised the resistance.

"The resistance fighters from all factions were united on the battlefield, it shows that the resistance still exists in the West Bank cities. The threats by the occupation of the military operation will not stop the resistance in the West Bank," he told different news outlets.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad published a statement that condemned the Israeli military operation.

"We affirm that this heinous crime, during which the martyrs died and dozens of our people were wounded, will not stop our resistance in the West Bank. We salute our freedom fighters in the Jenin Battalion, and we confirm our determination to continue the fight. The enemy's threats will not frighten us and will not discourage the al-Quds Brigades from carrying out their duty," the statement read.

As Palestinians mourn their dead, there is a sense that the equation is changing in the occupied West Bank. Israel has much to think about following its latest operation.

The use of Apache helicopters for the first time in more than 20 years indicates how powerful the Palestinian resistance has become in tackling the Israeli regime's military raids in the West Bank.

It also suggests how desperate the regime's cabinet (which analysts say is the most fascist in Israel's short history) has become in dealing with the armed resistance.

The tactics deployed by the resistance in Jenin have been compared to those of Hezbollah more than 23 years ago. History has shown what Hezbollah inflicted on Israel in the 23 years that followed.

The facts on the ground over the past two years prove the ignorance of Israeli rulers.

The more force they use against the West Bank, the stronger the Palestinian resistance grows. Experts believe that resorting to more force will spell more misery and spring more surprises for Israel in the future.

WORLD HEADLINES

Four Israeli settlers killed in attack in the occupied West Bank

At least four Israeli settlers have been killed in a shooting near an illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Four people were confirmed dead and four others were wounded on Tuesday in the attack near the illegal Eli settlement, in the northern West Bank, the Magen David Adom emergency services said in a statement.

One of the gunmen was shot dead and Israeli forces are searching for a second, Israel's Channel 12 News reported. Palestinian officials did not immediately confirm his death.

Al Jazeera's Imran Khan, reporting from Jerusalem, confirmed the attack. "Suspects opened fire into a gas station" near the entrance of the Eli settlement between Ramallah and Nablus, he said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for an "urgent security consultation," Khan said.

His far-right allies have been calling for a large-scale operation in the West Bank.

Turkish drone strike kills 2 Kurdish local officials

A Turkish drone attack killed two Kurdish local officials and their driver in northeast Syria on Tuesday in the latest such strike in the war-torn country, officials said, as talks on Syria's conflict began in Kazakhstan.

The Kurdish-led authority in northeast Syria said Tuesday's strike hit a car near the town of Qamishli, killing the co-chairperson of the town's council, Yusra Darwish, and her deputy, Liman Shweish, as well as their driver. An additional local official was wounded in the attack.

The attack is the latest in a series of such strikes by Turkey's military that has been targeting Kurdish officials and fighters in northeast Syria for months. Turkey says the main Syrian Kurdish militia is allied to an outlawed Kurdish group that has led an insurgency against Turkey since 1984. That conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, has killed tens of thousands of people.

The authority said in a statement that the four were visiting institutions run by the Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria when they came under drone attack while on the road outside Qamishli.

Darfur governor calls for international probe in Sudan violence

The governor of Darfur has called for an international investigation into violence against residents of the region that has seen some of the worst fighting in Sudan's ongoing war.

Mini Arko Minawi on Tuesday urged the United Nations Security Council to allow the International Criminal Court (ICC) to probe "crimes

and assassinations" that have taken place in the western region over the past two months.

War in Sudan broke out in mid-April after two generals, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, started fighting over control of the country.

The conflict, which capped months of tensions between rival generals, has now killed more than 3,000 people and wounded more than 6,000 others, according to Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim.

Hunter Biden agrees to plead guilty on two income tax charges

U.S. President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden has agreed to plead guilty to two charges of willfully failing to pay income taxes in a deal with the Justice Department, according to court documents on Tuesday.

The federal charges against Hunter Biden arose from an investigation by David Weiss, the U.S. attorney in the Democratic president's home state of Delaware who was appointed by Republican former President Donald Trump.

According to the deal, Biden also entered the pretrial diversion agreement on one firearm offense. Hunter Biden, 53, for years has been the focus of unrelenting attacks by Trump and his Republican allies who have accused him of wrongdoing relating to Ukraine and China, among other matters. Hunter Biden has worked as a lobbyist, lawyer, investment banker and artist, and has publicly detailed his struggles with substance abuse.

Hunter Biden disclosed in December 2020 that Weiss's office was investigating his tax affairs. He denied wrongdoing.

Biden compares himself to Kissinger

Joe Biden has boasted about his vast foreign policy experience during a fundraiser for his 2024 re-election campaign, claiming that even veteran diplomat Henry Kissinger, who turned 100 in May, couldn't surpass him.

"I'm going to say something outrageous. I think I know as much about American foreign policy as anybody living, including Dr. Kissinger," Biden said during an event in Atherton, California on Monday.

"That's what I've done my whole life, for the last 207 years," he joked. The US leader, 80, has been a politician at the national level for 50 years. He also held the post of vice president in the Obama administration between 2009 and 2017 and was a US Senator for Delaware from 1973 until 2009.

Biden might be the oldest US president, but he's still 20 years younger than Kissinger, who was US Secretary of State and National Security Adviser in the Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford administrations in the 1970s. Kissinger has remained an influential figure since then. The diplomat was awarded the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for his involvement in negotiating a ceasefire in Vietnam.

Blinken's China visit unlikely to change US-China ties for better: journalist

Relations between the United States and China are unlikely to witness major changes despite US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's high-stakes visit to Beijing this week, says a Chinese commentator.

Hu Xijin, a prominent Chinese journalist and commentator, in an interview with the Press TV website, said although he doesn't expect major changes in Sino-US relations for the better after Blinken's visit, it's possible for the two sides "to listen to each other's opinions through dialogue".

"I think it is possible for China and the US to listen to each other's opinions through this dialogue, and make joint efforts to prevent the downward spiral of bilateral relations and form a certain level of stability at a lower level," said Hu, who was formerly chief editor of China's state-run Global Times.

Blinken, the first top US diplomat since 2018 to visit Beijing, held wide-ranging talks with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang on Sunday to de-escalate tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

A US State Department spokesperson said in a statement Sunday that Blinken had "candid, substantive, and constructive talks" with Qin, raising concerns as well as "opportunities to explore cooperation," while emphasizing the importance of open communication between the two arch-rivals.

Qin, for his part, said the China-US relationship is at "the lowest point since its establishment", adding that it "does not serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples or meet the shared expectations of the international community", Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

Qin reiterated China's "firm position and raised clear demands" on the issue of Taiwan, describing it as the "core of China's core interests" and "the most consequential issue and the most pronounced risk in the China-US relationship, the statement noted.

Hu, commenting on the Chinese foreign minister's remarks in the wake of recent provocative transits by US warships in the Taiwan Strait, said the risks in the Taiwan Strait region are "undoubtedly increasing".

"Taiwan authorities' pursuit of 'independence' is completely different from the strategic goal of the Chinese mainland's commitment to unification. The United States is obviously partial to and conniving with the Taiwan authorities, using the Taiwan issue as a tool to contain China," he told the Press TV website.

"This is the source of tension in the Taiwan Strait. But now, none of the three parties want to fight, which is another buffer zone for the situation."

Earlier this month, Chinese authorities reported another provocative transit in the Taiwan Straits made by US and Canadian warships, with a Chinese destroyer reportedly forcing them to alter course.

Hu said the "complex and sharp games" played by the US and its allies will continue, but if such games violate China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the mainland will take measures against it.

"The continuation of this game has become a heavy burden for the continued development of the Chinese mainland," he told the Press TV website, adding that China may take measures over it.

"If the United States and Taiwan restrain themselves, mainly the arms sales to Taiwan and not further enhance the official relationship between the United States and Taiwan, then the current situation in the Taiwan Strait can still be maintained for a period of time," he hastened to add.

Two days prior to Blinken's trip to Beijing, in a phone call Qin had called on the US to "stop undermining China's sovereignty, security, and development interests in the name of competition."

On whether the US is feeling rattled by China's rise amid the change in the world order, the Global Times commentator said the US and its allies are "uncomfortable with the rise of China", and "lack confidence in maintaining their own development and maintaining their original status in international affairs".

"So they adopt geopolitical methods to conduct rogue-like discussions on development issues," he said, referring to the US and some of its Western allies, adding that they "need to change themselves and rebuild their real competitiveness."

Blinken also met top Chinese diplomat Wang Li late on Sunday. During the meeting, Wang denounced Washington's "wrong perception" of China as the "root cause" of the deterioration of relations between the two countries and urged the US to stop "suppressing" China's technological development and hyping the "China threat," according to a readout from Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Blinken is also likely to meet Chinese President X Jinping on Monday, according to media reports.

(Source: Press TV)

HOW MUCH MONEY DOES ISRAEL GET FROM THE US TAXPAYERS?

HOW MUCH MONEY DOES ISRAEL GET FROM THE US TAXPAYERS?

TOTAL MOUNT OF MILITARY AID PLEDGED

From- to	\$ in billions
1999-2008	22
2009-2018	31
2019-2028	40

Missile defense funds not included. The figure is not adjusted for inflation.

Harireh ancient city one step closer to being World Heritage



TEHRAN – Iran is completing an all-inclusive dossier for the ancient city of Harireh on the Persian Gulf island of Kish, to have it registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The historical town of Harireh has already made it onto UNESCO's tentative list, and efforts are underway to secure its possible position on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list through various essential measures, the report added.

Located in the central, northern part of the island, the 8th-century Harireh offers a glimpse of ancient architecture, and though not much of it remains intact today, the ruins suggest a once-thriving region. Excavation of this site estimates it having been established around 1000 and abandoned 600 years later.

UNESCO has it that Siraf, Kong, Laft, Harireh, and Mokran as an architecture and urban planning of the historical ports of Iran in the Persian Gulf, in terms of urban planning, usage of materials, and adaptation to special setting, have had a decisive role and influence on the evolution and promotion of seashore architecture, technology, and urban planning within the northern margin of

Cherry festival to promote agritourism in Tehran

TEHRAN – A cherry festival is planned to be held in Shemiranat county, Tehran province, in a bid to promote agritourism in the region, a local tourism official has said.

The harvest of cherries and sour cherries from the county's gardens plays a pivotal role in strengthening the growth of agritourism within the area, Morteza Nikru explained on Tuesday.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with locals 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.

Agritourism and nature-the travel industry ventures could incorporate outside diversion (fishing, hunting, untamed life review, horseback riding), instructive encounters (cannery visits, cooking classes, or tea or espresso tasting), amusement (gather celebrations or animal dwelling place moves), friendliness administrations (ranch stays, directed visits, or supplier administrations), and on-ranch direct deals (u-pick activities or side of the road stands).

Agritourism is a subset of a larger industry called rural tourism that includes resorts, off-site farmers' markets, non-profit agricultural tours, and other leisure and hospitality businesses that

the Persian Gulf coast region.

They represent the interaction of human values over time in the cultural context of the world's historical stages. They have witnessed the development of architecture, technology, and urban design, and landscape in the northern margin of the Persian Gulf coast region.

Throughout history, great trips have been made to and from these ports by the great boats and ships. The connections lead to the junction of the lifestyle of people and made the combine features of the Indian and African arts besides the Islamic art in the formation of architectural and urban and cultural and artistic components in these ports and then the combined and consolidated patterns extend and have been exported to the other parts of the region.

Amongst the Persian Gulf islands, Kish is the more luxurious and developed. Except for its unique nature such as waters and shallow beaches, the tourist attractions of this charming island are due to its rich historical background as well as kind and hospitable people.

The pristine and beautiful nature, the meeting of land and sea, the clear sky, the pleasant air, and the pleasurable reverberation of the waves create such a sense of calm that one cannot even distinguish between imagination and reality.

Nowadays, about one million foreign and domestic tourists travel to the island every year and it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Iran as it has magnificent attractions such as Kariz Underground City, Harireh Ancient City, Marjan Beach, Bird Garden, Ocean theme park, and Grand Recreational Pier.



attract visitors to the countryside.

Rural tourism is said to differ from agritourism in some ways. For instance, rural tourism enterprises do not necessarily occur on a farm or ranch, or at an agricultural plant. They do not generate supplemental income for the agricultural enterprise.

To cite an example, we could refer to saffron farms in northeast Iran that are going to fame as a new destination for agritourism. Iranian Saffron is known as the "red gold." Saffron is a magical ingredient in Persian culture, from aromatic foods and colorful desserts to physical and spiritual medicine.

Experts believe that agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying "For this reason, 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 and services."

Lake Shurabil in Ardabil made national heritage



TEHRAN – Lake Shurabil in the northwestern Ardabil province, has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list of Iran, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Lake Shurabil is an essential aspect of the province's tourism and has significant value in terms of natural heritage due to being the only lake of its kind situated within a city in the entire country, Hassan Mohammadi Adib explained on Tuesday.

Including the lake on the prestigious list could

contribute to the preservation of this lake, the official added.

Moreover, it can attract public attention and raise awareness about the importance of protecting this exceptional site, he noted.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Saffi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Six surprising and overlooked travel destinations in Iran



From Page 1 ▶ Situated on Hormuz Island in the Persian Gulf, Rainbow Valley is sometimes referred to as a geologist's paradise.

A source of inspiration for artists and outdoor enthusiasts, the valley is full of geometric patterns created by color patches that extend on all sides.

The best time to visit this incredibly photogenic natural location is in the late afternoon.

Toghrol Tower

The Seljuk-era Toghrol Tower, which is located in a southern suburb of Tehran, is frequently disregarded by tourists who prefer to stay in Tehran's wealthier northern and central districts.

Rey was a significant administra-

tion hub of the Seljuk Dynasty until it was destroyed by Mongol invaders in the early 13th century, and the tower is thought to be the mausoleum for Seljuk king Toghrol Beg.

The Mongols nearly destroyed Rey in 1220 and massacred its citizens. The majority of survivors relocated to the nearby city of Tehran, and the abandoned ruins of Rey quickly fell into complete disrepair.

Qaleh Rudkhan

Qaleh Rudkhan, a medieval military fortress whose beginnings predate the rise of Islam in Iran, is nestled in the lush green forests of Gilan province.

Many locals refer to Rudkhan as the "fort of a thousand steps" because it requires more than an hour



to climb to the stronghold, which is perched along two peaks of a lush mountain.

Construction of the fort began between 224 CE and 651, in the Sassanid era. However, the site is thought to have been renovated and finished by adherents of the Ismaili sect (also known as "Assassins") in the late 11th and early 12th centuries.

The rocky hotel of Kandovan

Kandovan Laleh International Rocky Hotel is a cozy place hand-carved into the rocky terrain! It is situated in the heart of an 800-year-old troglodyte village.

The village of Kandovan can be reached some 50 kilometers from Tabriz, northwest Iran. It is great to

visit people here who live in conical caves of volcanic rocks at the base of Mount Sahand, a dormant volcano.

Filband

The village of Filband is celebrated for its pristine landscape and the feeling of being lost in the clouds.

Situated in the northern Mazandaran province, it is a peaceful village full of hillside meadows punctuated with grazing sheep and cottages peeking out from behind the trees.

Here, visitors can enjoy every moment in this idyllic rural setting where hens and chickens roam free and carefree locals attend to their daily tasks while shrouded in puffy white clouds.

135 forgotten handicrafts fields to be revived nationwide

TEHRAN – A number of handicrafts fields, which had been fallen into oblivion, is planned to be revived across the country, the deputy tourism minister has said.

A total of 135 neglected handicrafts fields are scheduled to be brought back to life by the end of the current Iranian year (ends in March 2024), Maryam Jalali Dehkordai explained on Tuesday.

Reviving these handicrafts fields aims to bridge the gap between traditional and modern crafts markets, while boosting production, the official added.

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 Qasemabad, 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.

Restoration of Kabudarahang bazaar needs more budget



nian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamadan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

About 1220 Hamadan was destroyed by the Mongols. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently

changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy.

Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

Bazaars in Persian towns

A bazaar is, originally, a public market district of a Persian town. The bazaar of the ancient Islamic world was vividly described in the folktales of "The Thousand and One Nights". Located in a distinct quarter of a town, it was bustling and noisy by day in contrast to the quiet residential quarters. Access was forbidden after sundown.

Distinctive architecture characterized some bazaars—such as those

built at Kashan and Isfahan in Iran in the 17th century. They were usually roofed for protection against the hot desert sun, either with a single roof, with individual vaulted cupolas or domes, or with awnings.

From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms for foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye. Teahouses help punctuate the walk and a traditional restaurant is a perfect place for lunch.

Browsing through a traditional bazaar may provide new experiences and fresh points of view on the ancient land. Such excursions can be made either in person or by "off-the-beaten-track" tours. Not only it's an opportunity to discover dozens of unique local ingredients, but it's also a chance to taste street foods and delicacies, in some traditional bakeries known only by locals and shopkeepers.

Rey to offer tours for youth

TEHRAN – The tourism directorate of the ancient city of Rey plans to provide guided tours for young people to spend their leisure time during summer, Rey's tourism chief has said.

During summer season, visitors can enjoy free tours that cover all the must-see attractions of the city, Noruz Naqipur explained on Tuesday.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE). According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the

city was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century.

In 1220 the city was almost destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

Seljuk, also spelled, Seljuq, was a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Pales-



tine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in the Middle East.

Great achievements made in technology and innovation: deputy science minister

From page 1 ► Increasing the number of foreign students is one of the ministry's priorities in line with the goal of science diplomacy. How many foreign students are currently studying in the country's universities and what is the mechanism for granting permission to universities to attract more foreign students?

The country's capacities in the fields of science, technology, and innovation have greatly increased thanks to the infrastructures that have been formed in recent years. This issue has caused Iran's position to be very reliable in the world rankings.

Traditionally, universities that played a role in this field were from countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and some other certain countries.

But in the last decade, developments have happened in the world in the field of science that caused non-English speaking countries also make great achievements in this field.

Germany, Italy, Turkey, Russia, and China are among the top 10 countries in the world in attracting international students. When we compare the capacities of these countries with Iran, we see that there is no significant difference.

The difference is because we have just started to grow in this field and it is natural that it will take time to stabilize and improve the capacities that have been formed.

Very good capacities have been formed in the country, but we have not been able to accelerate the admission of international students in comparison with capacities.

Therefore, the problem here is that even though Iran is among the most



prestigious countries in the world in the field of science and technology, this capacity has not been used to attract international students.

According to unofficial statistics, about 108,000 international students are studying at the country's universities.

When we compare the country's capacities with the capacities that some countries in the world have created, we find out that we still have a long way to go to be among the top 10 countries in the world.

One of the programs of the Ministry of Science, which is referred to as science diplomacy, aims to attract around 250,000 international students in a period of 3 to 4 years.

The country's universities are currently preparing themselves to accomplish the task, but when it comes to the diversity of foreign students in the country, the figure is low.

For the time being, most international students are from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan, India, Turkey, and some other countries such as Nigeria, and this num-

ber is not very significant in terms of the diversity of nationality.

International students from 93 countries are studying in Iran, and of course, Iraq and Afghanistan have the most students in Iran.

We expect that, firstly, we will approach the admission of 250,000 foreign students, and secondly, we will be able to increase the capacity for admitting students from more countries.

In this regard, we have prepared a document under the title "Science Diplomacy Document for Students". This document is supposed to solve a series of infrastructural and legal barriers through which we can help facilitate the admission of international students.

Of course, inter-organizational coordination is very important there because it is not only the student affairs organization that is involved in attracting international students, although we are considered the main core of the work.

But in the field of obtaining visas, other organizations are actually involved. Coordination and synergy

with these organizations will help us achieve this important goal.

What policies are going to be adopted to attract more foreign students?

The Student Affairs Organization is a regulatory or policy-making organization that does its best to define and create a role for itself in the field of regulation.

For example, last year we organized the international student admission festival for the first time, where we highlighted at least 3 areas. That is, as a regulator, we held the "Soraya National Award" for the country's top universities in this field.

We organized another festival for those who are somehow active in the field of university student admission. We have also defined an award to support universities that increase the number of international students year after year.

We defined various indicators and said that a university that admits more students than last year increases its diversity of nationality compared to last year and increases the percentage of international students compared to its total students, will be under our support.

We are planning to hold a large international exhibition in Tehran from November 14-17 with the aim of introducing the attractions of studying in Iran.

On the other hand, we had almost no institutions admitting foreign students in the country until last year. We had institutions for sending students abroad, but we had no institutions for admission. We have so far given permission to about 75 institutions for admitting foreign students.

UNDP supports Iran's plan to deal with SDSs

TEHRAN - Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, has said the United Nations supports Iran's plan to deal with sand and dust storms.

She expressed hope that UNDP could play a useful and effective role in the issue of water and the environmental problems that exist between neighboring countries, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday with Department of Environment chief Ali Salajeqeh.

Referring to the long-term cooperation of the UN office with Iran, she said: "Our relationship has always been strong and no external factor can prevent the continuation of this cooperation."



"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.

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.

International Day of Combating SDSs

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.

International conference

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 affecting Iran.

UNDP is cooperating with Iran in three areas of water, waste, and wetlands.

Wignaraja went on to say that the policy of UNDP is to support the prosperity and development of countries along with the protection of natural resources and the environment.

"In this line, we are cooperating with Iran in three areas of water, waste, and wetlands."

Wetlands are one of the sources of creating many job opportunities, while they are one of the biggest carbon absorbers and can be managed by relying on knowledge and innovation, the UN official highlighted.

The UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific touched on the termination of the European Union's financial support for the Hamoun wetland's project, saying: "If the world sees that, despite the international sanctions, UNDP continues its cooperation with Iran, maybe new financial partners can be found to support the project."

Salajeqeh, for his part, emphasized that environmental cooperation should not be affected by political issues.

"We expect the United Nations to work in line with its responsibility to bring countries together and solve global challenges without interfering with political issues."

The Islamic Republic of Iran has put the issue of environmental diplomacy as a priority in its programs and believes that it is possible to create conditions for political issues to be discussed within the framework of environmental discourse.

In May, Stefan Priesner, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Iran, said the issue of environmental protection is a priority for cooperation with Iran.

According to the program under the agreement between Iran and the United Nations, the environment is one of the priorities for cooperation and efforts are being made to establish good cooperation in this field, he added.

Following up on environmental issues, including climate change, protecting biodiversity, and dealing with air pollution, is given serious attention by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Priesner stressed.

In February, Salajeqeh said that based on the successful experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of combating sand and dust storms, the United Nations introduced Iran as the host of the international conference on combating sand and dust storms, which is scheduled to be held on September 9-10, IRIB reported.

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

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

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

On April 26, Salajeqeh said the Department of Environment will hold five international meetings in the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21.

Iran among top 4 countries in water technology



TEHRAN - In 2022, Iran was ranked the fourth top country in the world in water technology, Mohammad Hemmat, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, has said.

Through targeted planning, the Vice Presidency intends to advance the country's position to the third top country in this field, IRNA quoted Hemmat as saying.

In 2021, the country was ranked sixth in the world by the prestigious ranking site SCImago, he added.

"Currently, according to the announced ranking, only three countries, namely China, the United States, and India are ranked higher than Iran, and all European countries are ranked lower than Iran in this scientific field."

Over the past 25 years, Iran has surpassed countries such as England, Germany, Canada, France, Russia, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, and many other countries, he concluded.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has allocated one billion euros for implementing 26 large propelling projects over the course of three years.

The projects are to be implemented in the fields of health, transportation, water, and food security, Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, the vice president for science and technology, said in March.

The projects are of high-level technology that will have a great impact on people's lives, he added.

He also said that the projects will be implemented with the support of the Iranian elites living abroad.

"We have defined 18 propelling projects for the current year and eight more for the next year," Dehqani-Firouzabadi noted.

More than 300 knowledge-based companies are active in the country to resolve the problem of water shortage by presenting over 3,500 products, IRNA reported.

The intensification of climate change has spread the phenomenon of drought not only in countries with arid and semi-arid climates such as Iran but also in regions such as Europe and America.

World Meteorological Organization experts have announced that some regions and countries like Iran are at the center of the water shortage problem.

Studies show that Iran will face a very large

drought in the next eight years.

In big cities like Tehran, the phenomenon of water shortage is caused by excessive population growth, migration, and increasing demand for water.

Human-caused water losses are caused by the excessive withdrawal of surface and underground water sources over a long period of time and the excessive consumption of water in homes, farms, and industries.

Precipitations in the country have decreased by 16 percent in the current water year that started September 23 compared to last year, according to the data released by the Meteorological Organization.

The average rainfall since the beginning of the water year has reached an average of 120 millimeters, while the normal rainfall for this time period is 143 mm, so it shows a decrease of 23 mm or 16% compared to the long-term.

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

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

5,000 clunker garbage trucks move in Tehran at night

Some 5,000 clunker trucks, aged over 40 years, move across the city of Tehran during the night to collect wastes, Tehran Governor Isa Farhadi has announced.

The renovation of the fleet requires high amount of budget. However, the Municipality of Tehran cannot afford the cost and the issue needs urgent measures, he stated.

The vehicles are extremely old resulting in huge amount of emission and contributing to air pollution.

Clunker garbage trucks aged 40 years or above which travel through the capital at night amounts to 5,000, he concluded.

۵۰۰۰ کامیون زباله‌کش قدیمی شب‌ها در تهران تردد دارند

فرماندار تهران از وجود ۵۰۰۰ کامیون زباله‌کش که شب‌ها در تهران تردد دارند و عمرشان بیش از ۴۰ سال است، خبر داد.

به گزارش خبرنگار اجتماعی خبرگزاری فارس، عیسی فرهادی گفت: نوسازی این ناوگان هزینه بسیاری دارد که از توان ما و سازمان شهرداری خارج است و باید فکری برای آن اندیشیده شود. اکنون میانگین سن این خودروها بالا رفته است و به تبع آن آلودگی‌های ایجادشده نیز افزایش خواهد یافت.

فرماندار تهران افزود: ۵ هزار کامیون زباله‌کش شب‌ها در تهران تردد دارند که سن آنان بالای ۴۰ تا ۴۵ سال است.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

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

JUNE 21, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:06 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:49 (tomorrow)

Iranian studies in France: overview

Part 2

On his return to Paris, he enriched the Bibliothèque du Roi with the manuscripts he had brought back with him.

He also published his translation of the Avesta, accompanied by several essays on the religion of the Parsees.

His refusal to find anything anti-Christian in the Avesta disappointed the Encyclopedists, including Voltaire and Diderot who, having been eager to exploit his work as a polemical weapon against Christianity, gave it a poor reception.

The last years of the eighteenth century were marked by the establishment by the Convention, on 10 Germinal of year III (30 March 1795), of the École spéciale des langues orientales, based on an idea of the Orientalist Louis Langlès (1763-1824) and with the support of Joseph Lakanal.

Known later as "Langues O," this academic institution, housed at the Bibliothèque nationale until 1873, is still the main pillar of Oriental studies in France.

The three great languages of the Muslim East (alsana-ye salasa: Arabic, Persian (associated at first with Malay), and Ottoman Turkish) were taught by several figures of great erudition.

These included two eminent scholars who contributed greatly to the study of Persian literature: Antoine Isaac Sylvestre de Sacy (1758-1838) and Jules Mohl (1801-52).

Sylvestre de Sacy, translator of Attar and Jami, who also deciphered some Sassanid inscriptions, can be considered as the first master of modern Orientalism and Persian studies in France.

He held his courses at the École des langues orientales in Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian from 1794 to 1796, before becoming its director (1824-38).

He chaired the first session of the Société asiatique founded in 1821 (the Journal asiatique, began publication in 1823), and was, in 1806, the first holder of the chair of Persian language at Collège de France (est. 1529), thereby giving Persian studies a prominent position in French humanities.

Many famous Orientalists were taught by him including Antoine-Léonard de Chézy (1774-1832), Pierre-Amédée Jaubert (1779-1847), Etienne Quatremère (1782-1832), and Joseph Garcin de Tassy (1794-1878).

Born in Stuttgart, Jules Mohl left for Paris in 1823, and later became a French citizen.

In 1826 he undertook, by royal commission, his monumental edition and translation of the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi which was read and discussed by Victor Hugo, Jules Michelet, Charles-Augustin Sainte-Beuve and other literary figures who attended the famous literary salon of his wife Mary Clarke.

In 1847, he became professor of Persian at Collège de France and succeeded Eugène Burnouf (1801-52), the famous scholar of the Avesta, as president of the Société Asiatique in 1852.

From 1870 to World War II: ancient history and philology

With the establishment of the Third Republic in France in 1871, Iranian studies entered a phase of detailed and wide-ranging research within a professional and institutional framework.

The École des langues orientales ("nationale" as of 1914) finally acquired a comprehensive library thanks to the efforts of Charles Scheffer (1820-98), who became its director in 1869 and reshaped its organization.

Scheffer was the holder of the chair of Persian at the École from 1857, and published numerous editions and translations of Persian classics and encouraged the Ministry of Public Instruction to support expeditions to the Orient to collect data and materials.

Following the travels of Flandin and Coste and the excavations in Susa (1884-85) by Marcel-Auguste Dieulafoy (1844-1920), Jacques de Morgan (1857-1924) was appointed in 1890 as head of the first comprehensive scientific study on Persia.

Meanwhile, the French government acquired the monopoly of archaeological excavations in Persia from Nasser ad-Din Shah in 1894 and de Morgan established the French Archaeological Mission in Persia (1897).

Later, in 1923, France obtained the monopoly of archaeological excavations in Afghanistan for a period of thirty years. In Central Asia, the expedition of Paul Pelliot (1878-1945) to Xinjiang (1906-9) brought a rich collection of Sogdian texts back to Paris.

The results of these collections and excavations were soon made available and left a strong imprint on the course of French Iranian studies, which became focused on ancient Iran, archaeology, linguistics, and classical literature.

The contributions made by the outstanding scholars in this field, many of whom enjoyed an international academic reputation thanks to the range and depth of their contributions to linguistics, comparative philology and anthropology are described under their own entries and in a different section.

They include James Darmesteter (1849-94), Antoine Meillet (1866-1936), Robert Gauthiot (1876-1916), Émile Benveniste (1902-76; qq.v.), and Georges Dumézil (1898-1986).

In the field of classical Persian literature, Henri Massé (1886-1969), professor of Persian at the École nationale des langues orientales from 1927 to 1958, wrote on both Ferdowsi and Sadi.

But his most significant contribution was his pioneering work on folklore: Croyances et coutumes persanes, suivies de contes et chansons populaires.

Since World War II: new institutions and diversification

During the second half of the 20th century, studies in linguistics, ancient Iranian culture and religion, and classical Persian literature continued as before.

New fields of research also began to be explored: in Islamic studies on Shiism, history of the Islamic period, modern literature, and the social sciences in Persia as well as in others regions of the Iranian world (Afghanistan, Central Asia, India).

The present institutional framework within which Iranian studies in France are carried out gradually came into being after the Second World War.

In 1947, Louis Massignon (1883-1962) founded the Institut des études iraniennes (IEI), for research and post-graduate studies mainly on languages and literature, at the University of Paris (now Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris III).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica.
To be continued.

Beijing hosts Iran Cultural Day

TEHRAN – The Chinese capital was hosting the Iran Cultural Day held on Saturday on the sidelines of the 29th edition of the Beijing International Book Fair.

Attended by a number of Iranian officials and Chinese cultural figures, the cultural program took place at the China National Convention Center, Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) announced on Monday.

During the program, the Chinese translations of several books by Iranian writers were launched and the Iranian ensemble Eksir Eshq gave several performances.

"I held meetings with China's deputy culture minister and the director of the Beijing book fair and I hope we could play a more active role at the fair in the future and China would involve active participation in the Tehran International Book Fair," Iran's Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs, Yaser Ahmadvand, said at the beginning of the cultural day.

"Iran and China pursue mutual interests in the region and the world and they also have a lot in common as far as cultural issues. Furthermore, raising our knowledge of China as one of the major players in the present



Iranian officials and Chinese scholars hold copies of Chinese translations of several books by Iranian writers launched at the Iran Cultural Day at the China National Convention Center in Beijing on June 18, 2023. (ICRO)

and future world is an absolute necessity in Iran. We must be accurately informed about current conditions and trends in China in precise detail," he added.

"We are eager to expand cultural relations with China and we consider it beneficial to both countries. The government, especially after the Iranian president's visit to China, has a strong tendency to boost relations with the country in all areas, including cultural fields,"

Ahmadvand noted.

During the meeting Ahmadvand held with Chinese cultural officials, they agreed that Iran would allocate a larger pavilion to Chinese publishers at the 2024 Tehran International Book Fair.

He also invited Chinese publishers, writers and cultural figures to attend the book fair.

He also announced Iran's plan to translate about 100 books by Iranian writers into Chinese and

Chinese writers' books into Persian in the near future.

Algeria was the Country of Honor at the 2023 Beijing International Book Fair, which was held from June 15 to 18.

So far, Iran has not been selected as the Country of Honor at the event.

China was the guest of honor at the 2019 Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), Iran's major event in the publishing industry.

"Bloody Gravel" named best short at Astoria Film Festival



"Bloody Gravel" by Hojjat Hosseini.

TEHRAN – Iranian movie "Bloody Gravel" has won the award for best international short at the Astoria Film Festival in New York.

Directed by Hojjat Hosseini, the film is about Roya and Bashir who are in love but due to restrictions in Afghanistan they are forced to flee. They hope to enter Iran illegally. Roya is pregnant and the child was not planned.

Winners of the festival were announced on Sunday and the Zukor Award - Best Humanitarian Film was given to "Recoba" by

Nicole Pagonis and Álvaro Guzmán Bastida and "Iron Sharpens Iron" by John Richie.

The American film follows Josué, a Honduran immigrant going through his first New York winter, who struggles to stay afloat in the U.S., where the immigration and labor systems have stacked the cards against him, while keeping the connection with his wife and son.

Ivan Medina won the best performance award for his role in "Recoba".

"Iron Sharpens Iron" chronicles Ironton's fight against the development of the Plaquemines Liquids Terminal (PLT) atop the community's ancestral burial grounds, as well as the destruction wrought by Hurricane Ida.

The Grand Jury Prize was awarded to "Handwritten", a documentary by American filmmaker Jaime Sunwoo.

In this film, after discovering old diaries and notebooks, artist Sunwoo examines her shape-shifting penmanship and wonders why she's never had a consistent style. Through playful paper puppetry and animation, she reflects on what handwriting means to her personally,

its significance throughout history, and its relevance in our computerized world.

The awards for best documentary short and best cinematography went to "Lavender" by Chloe Cobb.

The film recounts actress and model Kaitlyn Figueroa's experience with the auto-immune condition Hidradenitis Suppurativa.

"Beach Day" by Robin Johnson, about a newlywed who unwinds with a solo day at the beach full of peculiar activities, was named the best horror short, while Jenny Ward was picked as best director for "Goblin".

The best comedy short award went to "Let My Grandpa into Heaven" by Lana Bolycheva.

On the day of his grandfather's funeral, 6-year-old Lucas hears his father Patrick say in a fit of anger that the deceased grandpa should be burning in hell. Lucas decides to do everything to help his grandpa avoid hell.

In the youth competition, the Grand Jury Prize was given to "Fish" by Jeremy Hsing.

Several other films were also honored in the side sections of the festival.

Luke Purshouse's book on Plato's Republic published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Plato's Republic: A Reader's Guide" by Luke Purshouse, an expert on social and political philosophy, has been published in Persian by Ney.

Seyyed Mohammad-Ali Shamekhi has translated the book first published in 2006.

Plato's Republic is arguably the most famous and influential work of philosophy ever written.

It is certainly among the most widely read and studied, a staple of undergraduate courses that continues to inspire and inform contemporary debates in political philosophy.

As such, it is a hugely important and exciting, yet challenging, piece of philosophical writing.



Front cover of the Persian edition of Luke Purshouse's book "Plato's Republic: A Reader's Guide".

In "Plato's Republic: A Reader's Guide", Purshouse offers a clear and thorough account of this key philosophical work.

The book sets Plato's work in context, introduces the major themes and provides a detailed discussion of the key sections and passages of the text.

Purshouse goes on to explore some of the areas of thought that the Republic has impacted upon and provides useful information on further reading.

This is the ideal companion to study this most influential and challenging of texts.

Purshouse formerly lectured in philosophy at Cambridge University and is now head of politics at Eton

College, UK.

"Plato's Republic: A Reader's Guide" has won great acclaim in the world's academic circles.

"Admirably clear and concise, and extremely well written and well organized... an excellent introduction to the 'Republic,' especially for those new to Plato," wrote Giles Pearson, Fellow and Director of Studies in Philosophy, Christ's College, University of Cambridge.

"Luke Purshouse provides a compelling introduction to the central concerns of Plato's Republic... Readers will no doubt appreciate this exemplary book - an indispensable guide for students of Plato," Alexandra Kolb, University of Otago, New Zealand, commented.

John M. Thompson's study on Russian history comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – The Iranian institute Neyestan has recently published "Russia: A Historical Introduction from Kievan Rus' to the Present" by John M. Thompson in Persian.

Mikail Vahidi-Rad is the translator of the book originally published in 2017.

This lucid account of Russian and Soviet history presents major trends and events from ancient Kievan Rus' to Vladimir Putin's presidency in the twenty-first century.

In "Russia", Thompson does not shy away from controversial topics, including the impact of the Mongol conquest, the paradoxes of Peter the Great, the "inevitability" of the 1917 Revolution, the Stalinist terror and the Gorbachev reform effort.

Tackling those topics and others, the new

edition is updated to discuss the Russia-Georgia war of 2008, the 2013-2014 Euromaidan protests in Ukraine, the war in eastern Ukraine, and the Russian annexation of Crimea.

Distinguished by its brevity and amply supplemented with useful images and suggested readings, this essential text provides balanced coverage of all periods of Russian history and incorporates economic, social, and cultural developments as well as politics and foreign policy.

Thompson, a graduate of Columbia's Russian Institute, taught history at Indiana University for seventeen years and was a distinguished visiting professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Air War College.

He is currently teaching Russian and world history at Midcoast Senior College in Maine.



Front cover of the Persian edition of John M. Thompson's book "Russia: A Historical Introduction".