

Even One Millimeter

Kuwait-Saudi Arabia agreement to develop Arash gas field 'illegal' ▶ Page 4

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Tehran urges U.S. to avoid 'provocative' acts in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN- Iran's Foreign Ministry has encouraged the U.S. to avoid any "provocative" actions in the region, especially near its borders, and emphasized that it has the right to use "deterrent measures" as permitted by international law.

The U.S. government has never played a peaceful and helpful role in the matter of regional security, according to Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who was speaking at a weekly news conference on Monday.

"Iran monitors with sensitivity and accuracy any illegal and unconstructive act that affects the security of the region, and it will pay special attention to any provocative and illegal moves, especially near its borders," he added.

Kanaani also issued a warning that the Islamic Republic will retaliate against the U.S. actions by using its "inalienable rights."

Given the capabilities of the Armed Forces to safeguard the security of borders, as well as that of shipping and aviation ▶ Page 2

Report



How did Iran's Islamic revolution inspire Nelson Mandela?

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN- There are very few people in the modern world that are venerated by almost everyone. July 18th is named after one of those figures; a man who devoted his entire life to establishing justice in society and eventually managed to change the course of the 20th century. A man who no matter what he went through always made sure to put humanity before his own interests.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela started life as a tribal village boy in South Africa on July 18, 1918. As an innocent young boy all he wanted was to explore the world and enjoy nature while playing with his peers. His days of joy did not last long as soon he was met with the harrowing realities of the country he was living in. As a black boy that belonged to the lowest social class in South Africa, Mandela's first personal experience with an apartheid system happened on the first day of elementary school. The young boy was not allowed to receive education under his own identity. He was instead given a white name so he would not have to be called by his "uncivilized" African one.

Mandela might have not fully grasped he was living under an unapologetically apartheid system when he was 7, but he could very evidently tell that he was being discriminated against. The first chapter of Mandela's fight against oppression began during his college years. He started a law degree at the University of Fort Hare which was the only place in South Africa where black people could pursue higher education. ▶ Page 3

Report



As Americans suffer, U.S. approves record military budget

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- A health system on the verge of collapse, record level of homelessness and crippling infrastructure untouched for many decades, yet the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill setting policy for the Pentagon to the tune of \$886 billion.

The bill will head to the Senate where Democrats have a majority before being signed into law by President Joe Biden later this year.

The fiscal 2024 National Defense Authorization Act will be the largest amount the Pentagon has ever received in history. The bigger question is whether the U.S. needs to spend so much on its military at a time Americans are facing multiple domestic crises? ▶ Page 5

President inaugurates most home-made petchem complex

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated the most domestically-manufactured petrochemical complex of the country in Gachsaran county in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh Boyer-Ahmad province on Monday.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the president said that the Gachsaran petrochemical complex, which was mostly constructed by Iranian specialists, manifests resistance in the face of [U.S.-imposed] sanctions.

Oil Minister Javad Oji, for his part, said that over 83 percent of the project has been constructed by the local workforce, adding that the project helps save over 269 million euros.

This national plan annually re-



ceives 1.25 million tons of ethane feed through a 90-km long pipeline from Bid Boland Gas Refinery in the southwestern Khuzestan province, the minister stated.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical ex-

port is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Manag-

ing Director Morteza Shahmirzaei, the petrochemical industry is a value and job-creating industry, which has no risk.

The official said that 69 production units (including three service units that provide services such as water, electricity, and steam for production units) are now active in the petrochemical industry of Iran, which plays a significant role in bringing foreign currency to the country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shahmirzaei stressed that domestic production should be realized in all sectors of the petrochemical industry.

A small part is still remaining so that this target will be achieved, he added.

Report



Tasht-Gozari: a solemn commemoration of sacrifice

TEHRAN - Every year during the lunar month of Muharram, the Iranian people and millions of other Shia Muslims across the globe gather at shrines and mosques to express their grief and reverence for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions.

Tasht-Gozari, which is largely practiced by the people of Ardabil and its surrounding villages and towns, is one of many native mourning rituals held to mark the enduring legacy of the Imam and his message of justice, equality, and sacrifice.

The centuries-old ritual reminds timeless lessons of courage, and sacrifice while serving as a heartfelt homage to the third Shia Imam, a grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was martyred in the tragic Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. ▶ Page 6



Iran champions of 2023 FIVB U21 World

TEHRAN - Iran defeated titleholders Italy 3-2 (25-20, 23-25, 23-25, 25-16, 15-9) at the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship final match Sunday night.

Amirmohammad Golzadeh collected 20 points for Iran and Italy's Alberto Bovolenta scored 21 points.

Golzadeh, was also named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship in Bahrain.

The 2.05m-tall striker claimed the tournament's highest individual recognition, after also being singled out as MVP at last year's AVC U-20 Asian Championship. ▶ Page 3

Dialogue is best way to solve territorial disputes between Japan and Russia: Kharrazi

TEHRAN- Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has described the U.S. renege on the Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as imposition of secondary sanctions as the main obstacles to the development of relations between Iran and Japan.

"However, the existence of some issues caused by the secondary sanctions, there are clear opportunities for the development of cooperation between two countries," Kharrazi said in a meeting with Japan's ambassador to Tehran Aikawa Kazutoshi on Monday. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Iran's achievements irritate Zionists and Westerners

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

Kayhan addressed Israel's concerns and the reaction of the pro-Western countrymen regarding President Ebrahim Raisi's trip to Africa. It said: In response to this trip, statements were made by political officials and Western and international analysts that indicate the importance of this strategic trip and the concern and anger of the countries hostile to Iran. For example, the former national security advisor of the Zionist regime, Meir Ben Shabbat, in an article on the Israel Hayom website, while acknowledging Iran's diplomatic achievements and the country's efforts to strengthen its position in Africa, wrote: Iran is trying to add more countries to the anti-American camp, and it is the key to the formation of this bloc. In fact, the real goal of these efforts is to offset the effect of Western sanctions and to open new opportunities to improve the country's economy. Along with the foreign enemies, those who one day encouraged America and Europe to intensify sanctions against Iran and the next day adopted the "begging diplomacy", chanted the slogan of lifting sanctions, are angry with this strategic trip and any other action that will lead to the neutralization of anti-Iran sanctions.

Iran: Strategy of turning 'security' borders to 'safe and economic' borders

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper analyzed the visit of General Seyed Asim Munir, the commander of the Pakistani army, to Tehran. It wrote: In the meeting that Asim Munir had with high-ranking officials of the country, especially Raisi, a good opportunity was provided to pursue the strategy of solving security challenges in order to implement the economic goals of Iran and Pakistan. The idea of cross-border cooperation by the president is to turn the common borders with Pakistan (which is sometimes used by hooligans to commits acts of terror) into economic opportunities. It seems that cooperation among the high-ranking military officials of the two countries and implementation of joint economic projects, such as establishing border markets and transferring electricity from Iran to Pakistan, have pushed Tehran and Islamabad toward a new stage of strategic partnership.

Iranian embassy in Denmark slams Quran desecration

TEHRAN- Iran's embassy in Denmark, condemning the insult to the Holy Quran, has called on all governments to ensure that extremists are not given the opportunity to harm the feelings of the followers of any religion under the slogan of freedom of expression.

In a statement on Monday, the embassy strongly condemned the insult to the holy books of religions, including the Quran, the Bible and the Torah.

The statement also noted that the desecration and burning the holy books of different religions is not only a clear example of religious hatred, but also an insult to its followers and a clear violation of their human rights.

"Offensive acts such as insulting religious books are not freedom of speech, but rather a blatant expression of hatred," it added.

On Saturday, an activist outside the Israeli embassy in Sweden protested against the sacrilegious acts of burning holy books but stopped short of his stated aim of burning the Jewish holy book, the Torah.

Ahmad Alloush was accompanied by dozens of Swedish police officers, who appeared willing for the blasphemous act of burning the Torah to go ahead by standing back and watching on.

The 32-year-old took out the book, holy to Jews around the world, along with a lighter from a bag.

But he stopped short of setting the Torah ablaze, saying, "This is a response to the people who burn the Quran. I want to show that freedom of expression has limits that must be taken into account."

In his permit request to police, Alloush said

Arman-e-Melli: Americans' attitude toward the strategy of security

Arman-e-Melli wrote in an analysis: America, as the most important Western power, has a special strategy for issues in different parts of the world. It is based on this strategy that it has somehow controlled the events in every part of the world or has tried to influence them. Two of the most recent developments, and perhaps the most important ones, are the JCPOA and the Ukraine war. In the JCPOA issue, after decades of efforts, Americans concluded that Iran cannot be sidelined or controlled and monitored. Therefore, they decided to get along with Iran in the form of an international agreement with the aim of containing Iran. Moreover, when America and its regional ally Israel repeatedly talk about a military approach to counter Iran's nuclear program, it shows that their strategy against Iran is a military one. Therefore, if this policy is adopted by the U.S. and Israel, all aspects of Iran's power, including the nuclear issue, should be a power-oriented and defense-oriented.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran is Israel's nightmare

In a note, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the Zionists' reaction to Iran's foreign policy. The paper wrote: Considering the expansion of Iran's relations in the region, the Eastern world, Latin America and Africa, as well as the positive developments in the resumption of relations between Egypt and Iran, the sensitivity of the Israelis has increased about Iran. Israelis' assessment of the positive atmosphere between Iran and Egypt is that their negotiations are not due to economic need, but to open a new page in their relations. Also, the influence of Iran in Africa is that Tehran is seeking to reduce the impact of American sanctions against itself and wants to have new options to improve its economic situation. Iran is trying to help a broader strategic goal, which is to influence the foundation of the new world order and make a multipolar system that can create balance and reduce the influence of America and the West. So this issue will have many security and strategic challenges for Israel.

that he wanted to burn the Torah and Bible in response to two recent incidents in which the Quran was set on fire in Sweden.

Recently, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced that Tehran has decided to put off sending its newly-appointed ambassador to Sweden over the Scandinavian country's controversial move of allowing sacrilege to the holy Quran.

"We talked in detail with my colleague Mr. Hojjatullah Faghani, the new ambassador of our country to Sweden, and he also presented a report on the latest status of his mission," the foreign minister said on Twitter.

"Despite the completion of the administrative procedures, the process of sending the ambassador to Sweden has been stopped due to the action of the government of this country in issuing permits for the desecration of the holy Quran," he added.

Iran has protested the Swedish inaction. The chargé d'affaires of the Swedish embassy in Tehran was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Director General of the Western Europe Department, in the absence of the country's ambassador.

The official said the Swedish government's silence and passive behavior embolden violators of one of the basic and obvious principles of human rights, namely the principle of respect for religious and divine values, according to the ministry.

He added that such an ill-considered move was nothing new on Swedish soil, and that the Iranian side had previously relayed its dissatisfaction to Sweden.

Dialogue is best way to solve territorial disputes between Japan and Russia: Kharrazi

TEHRAN- Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has described the U.S. renege on the Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as imposition of secondary sanctions as the main obstacles to the development of relations between Iran and Japan.

"However, the existence of some issues caused by the secondary sanctions, there are clear opportunities for the development of cooperation between two countries," Kharrazi said in a meeting with Japan's ambassador to Tehran Aikawa Kazutoshi on Monday.

Kharrazi also outlined the importance of developments in the Far East region and the ramifications of the war in Ukraine on the West Asia region, saying that the Strategic Council of Foreign Relations has considered the increase in military and defensive movements of regional and extra-regional countries in Japan's periphery and the possibility of military conflicts in the future.

In response to Kharrazi's remarks, the Japanese ambassador explained his country's position on the Ukraine war and the possible consequences of the crisis for Japan and its surrounding environment.



Pointing to the territorial dispute between his country and Russia, he said that with the instigation of the Ukraine war, Russia has halted the bilateral negotiations with Japan regarding the occupation of the Kuril Islands.

Kharrazi stressed that as a matter of principle, Tehran is against any military intervention and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries.

Additionally, he said that the best way to resolve the territorial disputes between Japan and Russia over the four islands is through negotiation.

After World War II, Russia annexed the Kuril Islands to its territory, but Japan calls these islands the Northern Territory and considers them "occupied by Russia."

Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov was summoned to the Iranian Foreign

Ministry on Wednesday over a joint Russian-Arab statement that called into question Iranian sovereignty over its islands in the Persian Gulf.

Russia and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries issued the statement after a round of strategic dialogue in which they reiterated the UAE position on the three Iranian islands of Abu Mousa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, which Iran considers an unnegotiable part of its territory.

Iran insists readiness to back regional effort to address Afghanistan issue



TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has stated that the Islamic Republic is willing to help regional efforts on Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments on Monday while speaking with Feridun Hadi Sinirlioglu, the UN Special Coordinator for the Independent Assessment Process on Afghanistan.

In order to address the issues in the war-torn nation, he stressed the need to battle terrorism and establish an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

He also emphasized the importance of supporting regional efforts, notably the framework of neighbors.

"Afghanistan needs urgent solutions and if the international community does not pay serious attention to the security challenges of this country caused by the movements of terrorist groups, its negative consequences will affect the region and the world," the top Iranian diplomat noted.

Amir Abdollahian further described Sinirlioglu's mission as "difficult," expressing hope that due to his experience, the UN will have a more accurate assessment of the realities on the ground and accomplish his mission successfully.

For his part, Sinirlioglu gave his opinion on the events in Afghanistan and the state of the nation in many areas.

He also restated the UN's commitment to

supporting regional efforts in the efforts to help establish an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Back in June, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's presidential envoy for Afghanistan who simultaneously serves as Tehran's ambassador to Kabul, met with the UN secretary-general's envoy for Afghanistan.

Qomi discussed with Markus Potzel, chief of 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.

The issue of Afghan refugees, humanitarian aid to the people in the current tough and difficult situation, as well as helping to establish stability are among the common areas for cooperation between Iran and the United Nations to help the Afghan people.

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.

Tehran urges U.S. to avoid 'provocative' acts in Persian Gulf

From page 1 ► in the Persian Gulf region, Iran "reserves the right to take due deterrent measures in accordance with international law, rules and regulations," he explained.

A senior American defense official announced on Friday that the U.S. will dispatch F-16 fighter planes to the Persian Gulf this weekend in an effort to "protect ships" against what it called "Iranian seizures."

An unnamed official said that the F-16s will provide air support for ships traveling through the vital Strait of Hormuz and boost U.S. military visibility in the region.

"Iran's Persian Gulf islands non-negotiable"

Kanaani also stressed during his media briefing that Iran has never regarded the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and the Lesser Tunbs to be subject to negotiation.

Iran, he added, "views the interference of any party, including the Emirates and Russia,

as unacceptable and rejects it," emphasizing that the nation will respond strongly to such statements.

In a joint statement released last week, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Russia disputed Iran's sovereignty over the three islands.

In their statement, the ministers said the issue should be settled through bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice.

According to a top Iranian diplomat, Tehran has officially protested to the Russian authorities on this matter.

"Political, inaccurate, and unconstructive positions will not throw a wrench in Iran's indisputable and non-negotiable sovereignty over the three Iranian islands," he noted.

Iran demands an end to Russia-Ukraine conflict

The spokesperson also made a reference to Russia's military operations in Ukraine, stating that any action that inflames hostilities is "unconstructive" since it serves no one but rather under-



mines global peace and security.

"Iran believes that returning to the political process is the way out of the war. Influential actors should help strengthen the political path against the military solution," he pointed out.

In February 2022, Russia initiated a military attack on Ukraine, with President Vladimir Putin stating that the move was intended to "demilitarize and de-Nazify" the East European country.

"European inmates tried under Iranian law"

Kanaani also spoke about discussions between Iran and Europe about the exchange of Iranian detainees.

"We believe that the people who are imprisoned in Iran have committed crimes and violated Iran's national laws, and there-

fore they were interrogated and tried based on Iran's laws," he said.

While it is not a responsibility to pardon a prisoner who has committed a crime, Iran has taken action in such cases for humanitarian reasons, he stressed.

Hosting MKO example of supporting terrorism

Kanaani also said Iran has taken formal, serious, and urgent actions in response to Italy's recent move in favor of the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group.

He stated that harboring MKO members and leaders is a clear example of aiding terrorism and contradicts governments' international responsibilities to combat terrorism and European nations' human rights claims.

Iran has responded seriously to the issue by summoning the Italian ambassador and publicly expressing its viewpoint, he added.

The spokesman emphasized that the legal prosecution of MKO members and leaders will go on.

How did Iran’s Islamic revolution inspire Nelson Mandela?

Frome Page 1 ► Mandela became an activist there and at one point he even got expelled from college for organizing a student boycott.

As a young lawyer Mandela joined the African National Congress, an organization formed to fight for the rights of black South Africans, and a year later in 1945 he helped found its Youth League which was dedicated to mass action based on strikes, boycotts, and civil disobedience. Despite Mandela's disdain towards violence, he eventually had to embrace armed struggle to stop the apartheid regime of South Africa. The decision came after the government killed 69 unarmed protesters in what's now known as the Sharpeville massacre. The African activist addressed his people in a newspaper, asking them to get ready for a new era of fighting: "Only through hardship, sacrifice and militant action can freedom be won. The struggle is my life. I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days".

Mandela got jailed by the Apartheid regime several times. He spent a total of 27 years in prison and despite the harsh and inhumane conditions he had to endure, he always stood pat on his beliefs and values. By the late 1970s the unshakable activist had become a symbol of South African oppression causing several campaigns to be set up around the world asking for his freedom.

The South African government was eventually forced to release Mandela in 1991. Three years later, South Africa's first non-racial elections were held and Mandela was elected president. He served his country for five years during which he stayed true to his motto of human rights and justice.



Mandela and his encounters with Iran

Though regarded by many as the greatest leader of all time, Mandela had people he would look up to himself. During his meeting with Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, in 1992, Mandela addressed Ayatollah Khamenei as "my leader". According to his own words, the African president decided to visit Iran to "praise the Iranian government and nation for their support of the black people's struggle against apartheid". During the meeting Mandela also praised the late Imam Khomeini and talked about how the Islamic revolution was an impeccable example for a successful and valuable fight against oppression. Mandela claimed that he considered the Islamic republic a pioneer in the fight against oppression in West Asia. He was aware his endeavors towards a more just and peaceful world were vastly celebrated in Iran.

Mandela's official visit to Iran in 1992 wasn't his first trip to the

country. We know from a speech by Ayatollah Khamenei that Mandela visited Tehran before he had become president. He got to meet with Iran's Leader during the trip and ask about the victory of the Islamic revolution. "By the time Mandela got here, he and his peers in the ANC (African National Congress) had been fighting with apartheid for 30, 40 years. He told me that he had heard about Iran's revolution while in custody and asked about how we managed to overthrow the despotic regime. I told him that 'in my and late Imam Khomeini's experience, the key to success is becoming one with the hearts and minds of people. People need to enter the stage with their emotions and beliefs.' A short while after that we saw mass protests happening in the streets of South Africa and then the apartheid regime was toppled," Ayatollah Khamenei said during the speech.

Legacy unceasing

Mandela was laid to rest on December 5, 2013. According to various surveys, the South African

icon is still considered the most popular and loved person in his home country even a decade after his death. Many believe the legacy of Mandela is unceasing as his works and endeavors will forever resonate with people that have been subject to oppression.

Today, one group of citizens who are living under conditions similar to black people in the apartheid South Africa are Palestinians. Palestinians have been stripped of their lands, history and identity just like Mandela and his people had been. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called Mandela a "symbol of liberation from colonialism and occupation for all people". Khaled Meshaal, the former leader of Hamas resistance movement, believes Mandela was "an inspiration for nations suffering injustice and resisting occupiers". Palestinian people take Mandela and his struggle as a role model while hoping that they can end up in a similar destination. For these oppressed people, freedom seems possible because another person was able to reach it.

Israeli FM openly expresses his angst over Raisi Africa tour

TEHRAN - The Zionist regime's foreign minister Eli Cohen met on Sunday with a number of African officials in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Cohen's visit to East African country came immediately after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took a three-nation tour of Africa, among them Kenya. The visit was aimed at forging new alliances in the rapidly changing events in the world.

His office said the visit was intended to boost ties with Africa amid "the Iranian attempt to expand its activities on the continent".

Hebrew-language media reported on Monday morning that Cohen met with the leader of an unnamed African country that does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The meeting took place on the condition that the official and the country would not be named, Ynet reported.

The Foreign Ministry told Ynet that Israel was engaged in "normalization contacts with several African countries including Niger, Mali and Mauritania."

Cohen also said his diplomatic visit to Nairobi



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (L) attends a press conference alongside Kenyan President William Ruto (R) at the State House in Nairobi on July 12, 2023. (AFP)

was "of regional and strategic importance against the background of Iran's attempts to expand its influence on the continent"

Meir Ben Shabbat, who was Israel's security advisor from 2017 to 2021, also wrote an article in the Israel Hayom newspaper saying, "While the U.S. sleeps, Iran is making inroads in Africa." Ben Shabbat also claimed that the Iranian president's trip must be seen as part of a larger

push to "influence the new world order, and create a multilateral system that will serve as a counterweight."

Iran has stepped up its diplomacy in recent months to reduce the effects of sanctions reimposed since the 2018 withdrawal of the United States from a painstakingly negotiated nuclear deal.

The three-day trip, which included Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe, was the first by an Iranian president to Africa in 11 years. Raisi led a delegation that included Iran's foreign minister, other government officials, as well as senior businesspeople.

Africa is a "continent of opportunities" and a great platform for Iranian products, Raisi told journalists in a briefing on July 12.

Iran's president specifically mentioned Africa's mineral resources and Iran's petrochemical experience.

Kenyan President William Ruto called Iran a "critical strategic partner" and "global innovation powerhouse."

‘Scholars in Iraq must help shine light on U.S. assassination of Gen. Soleimani and Al-Muhandis’

TEHRAN - During a meeting on Monday with a number of university professors from Iraq, Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei, director of the special committee tasked to investigate the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, asked the scholars to help clarify the truth of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis's assassination by Washington.

Kadkhodaei, a law expert, said professors and students can also help raise awareness and aid legal proceedings in the International Criminal Court by assembling books, articles and reports about the incident. He pointed to the great endeavors of General Soleimani and Al-Muhandis in the region, saying the two figures spearheaded the difficult and almost rigid fight against terrorist groups like Daesh which have been founded by the U.S. and its allies.

He underscored the fact that Washington is still doing its best to create chaos in West Asia so it can

reach its evil and imperialistic goals.

Despite this, he said, Muslim countries can stand against the "global arrogance" and emerge victorious if they become united.

Lastly, Kadkhodaei assured the group of professors that both Iran and the Iraqi government are looking to bring those responsible for the martyrdom of General Soleimani and his dear companion Al-Muhandis to justice and have so far taken important steps in this regard.

General Soleimani, a top Iranian anti-terror icon, led the fight against Daesh in Syria and Iraq in the 2010s and was eventually able to vanquish the terror group. In January of 2020, Soleimani was assassinated during a U.S. drone strike when he was exiting the Baghdad international airport.

‘Iraq responsible to punish assassigators of Gen. Soleimani’

The secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights has also said Iraq is liable for prosecuting those

responsible for the assassination the famed anti-terror.

Kazem Gharibabadi, who was also talking to Iraqi professors on Sunday, also said General Soleimani and Al-Muhandis supported the people of Iraq and Syria in their struggle to crush Daesh and other terrorist groups, despite the fact that those groups received Western assistance.

He added the assassination of the two commanders constituted a "crime against humanity," for which the U.S. government must be held legally liable.

According to Iran's top human rights official, Soleimani "was the official guest of the Iraqi government and the crime was committed on Iraqi soil."

"The responsibility of pursuing the case rests with the Iraqi government to prosecute the perpetrators," he underlined.

Gharibabadi added, "Three and a half years have passed since the

assassination and we expect that Iraq arrange the trial as soon as possible."

The top human rights official lauded the efforts and sacrifices made in the war against terrorism by General Soleimani and his Iraqi comrade, saying, "The distinguished heroes of the fight against terror did a grand service."

The two prominent anti-terror leaders were widely revered throughout the region for their pivotal role in combating and decimating Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

The human rights chief also discussed instrumentalization and politicization of human rights by the West.

Gharibabadi also called Iran and Iraq victims of terrorism and sanctions. "Iran and Iraq are victims of sanctions and terror. In Iraq, 500,000 innocent children lost their lives as a result of U.S. and Western sanctions; there was even an embargo placed on students' blackboard chalks."

SPORTS

Iran champions of 2023 FIVB U21 World

Frome Page 1 ► It was Iran's second gold in the history of the competition. They also had a bronze medal in 2007.

Earlier in the day, Bulgaria won the bronze medal after defeating Argentina 3-0.

Iran defeated Thailand (two times), Tunisia, Bahrain, Poland, Argentina and Italy in the competition. The competition was held in Manama, Bahrain from July 7 to 16.

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei congratulated the volleyball team on their success.

In a message issued on Monday, Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the Iranian team for winning the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship in Manama, Bahrain, a day earlier.

"Dear young heroes of Iran's volleyball team. You made the Iranian people happy with your games. I thank you all," read the message.

Furthermore, President Ebrahim Raisi congratulated the country's volleyball players on claiming the title.

In a message on Sunday night, Raisi extended his congratulations to all Iranians and expressed appreciation to the Iranian men's national U21 volleyball team for winning the championship in Manama.

Esteghlal in chaotic situation

TEHRAN - These days, Esteghlal club, one of the giants of Iranian football, experience critical conditions and strange problems.

During the 2023/24 pre-season training camps for the Iranian teams and the ongoing summer transfer window, Esteghlal are grappling with managerial and financial problems, as well as a lack of iconic players.

Javad Nekounam, newly appointed head coach of Esteghlal, has complained about the team's present state in his recent interviews after taking over from Portuguese coach Ricardo Sa Pinto.

According to the published reports, Esteghlal are facing financial difficulties with a debt of over 15 million dollars, making it hard to pay current players' wage and sign new ones.

The new CEO of Esteghlal, Ali Khatir, is facing high expectations from the fans, technical staff, and players, but is also receiving criticism for the loss of top players while rivals like Persepolis and Sepahan have made big signings so far.

Esteghlal have added winger Mehrdad Mohammadi and defender Armin Sohrabian to their team so far in the summer transfers, but the fans and the head coach believe that it's not enough.

Nekounam made it clear in a recent interview that he is committed to fighting for the title and building a strong team. He also expressed his disappointment over the recent events in the club, which he considers to be "some of the worst in Iranian football history!"

Nekounam asked the club to hire Manuel Benavente Gonzalez as assistant coach, but the Spaniard hasn't responded to the club's offer yet, and it's uncertain if he'll accept the position in chaotic situation.

Iranian athletes win two more medals at Paris 23 Worlds

TEHRAN - Elham Salehi and Hadi Kaeidi won two medals at the Paris 2023 Para Athletics World Championships on Monday.

Salehi claimed a silver at the Women's Javelin Throw F54 with a throw of 17.08 meters.

Nurkhon Kurbanova of Uzbekistan (20.15) and Indian thrower Pooja (14.70) meters won a gold and bronze medal respectively.

Kaeidi also won a bronze medal with a throw of 11.35 meters in the Men's Shot Put F34.

Jordan's Ahmad Hindi collected the gold with 11.69 meters and Colombian Mauricio Valencia won a silver with 11.68 meters.

Javelin thrower Saeid Afroozat and Shot putters Mehdi Olad, Rashid Masjedi and Yasin Khosravi have previously claimed four gold medals in the event.

Long jumper Amir Khosravani, Mehdi Olad in discus throw and Ali Pirouj have won three silvers and Hashemieh Motaghian claimed a bronze at the javelin throw.

Over 1,300 athletes from 107 nations compete across 168 medal events. Many of them will be returning to Paris next year for the Paralympics, making it the first World Championships to be held in the Paralympic host city one year before the Games.

Iran Greco-Roman win U20 Asian Wrestling title

TEHRAN - Iran's Greco-Roman team claimed the title of the U20 Asian Wrestling Championships on Sunday.

The Iranian wrestlers won five gold, one silver and four bronze medals in the competition in Amman, Jordan.

Iran finished in first place with 205 points, followed by Uzbekistan with 180 points and Kazakhstan with 170 points.

Mohammad Ashiri in 60kg, Ahoura Bouveiri in 67kg, Abolfazl Choubani in 87kg, Amir Reza Akbari in 97kg and Fardin Hedayati in 130kg won five gold medals for Iran.

Mohammad Mehdi Miri snatched a silver in 72kg. And Ali Ahmadi Vafa in 55kg, Reza Gheitasi in 63kg, Alireza Abdevali in 77kg and Yasin Yazdi in 82kg won four bronze medals.

Iran runners-up at FIBA U16 Women’s Asian Championship

TEHRAN - Iran lost to the Philippines 83-60 in the Final of the FIBA U16 Women's Asian Championship 2023-Division B Sunday night at the Prince Hamzah Sport Hall in Amman, Jordan.

Smith led the way with a game-high 21 points on 5 triples. Ava Fajardo made 12 points and 9 assists while Ariel De La O added 10 markers and 10 boards as the trio helped out in taking control of the match in the second period, which they opened up with a 9-0 run for their first double-digit lead.

Meanwhile, Helya Houdneh and Fatemeh Jafari finished with 14 points apiece to lead Iran.

Now, the Philippines can set their sights to Division A of the competitions in 2025, with the program, of course, hope to remain in that level for the next editions to come.

Malaysia also stormed back to beat Hong Kong, 52-46, to finish third in Division B.

Greco-Roman team third at 2023 Polyak Imre Memorial

TEHRAN - Iran's Greco-Roman team finished in third place at the 2023 Polyak Imre & Varga Janos Memorial in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday.

The Iranian wrestlers won two gold medals, one silver and two bronzes and finished third with 98 points. Azerbaijan won the final Greco-Roman team race with 140 points. They were followed by Hungary (113 points).

Danial Sohrabi at 72kg and Amir Ghasemi Monjazi at 130kg won two gold medals.

Omid Arami at 60kg claimed a silver and Mohammad Naghousi at 77kg and Aliakbar Yousefi at 130kg won two bronze medals.

The ranking points play a significant role in setting the wrestlers' seeding at major tournaments, such as the World Championships.

The World Wrestling Championships 2023, which will take place 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia from Sept. 16 to 24, will serve as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024.

Hungarian Greco-Roman wrestler Imre Polyak won medals at four consecutive Olympic Games (1952-64), making him only the second wrestler after Finland's Eino Leino to achieve the success.

Iran, China to start executing joint projects next month

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi has said Iran and China are going to begin execution of some joint projects agreed upon in February by the presidents of the two countries, as of the next month, Mehr News Agency reported.

According to Khandouzi, the necessary follow-ups regarding the mentioned projects have been made over the last five months and the final decisions for the start of their implementations were made during a joint business event on Thursday.

“President Raisi had an important trip to Beijing last winter and good agreements were made with the president of China; in this regard, the necessary follow-ups were made by various ministries during the last five months, and on Thursday the first joint committee between Iran and China was held after 4.5 years,” Khandouzi said.

“China is Iran’s largest trading partner and the most important destination for the export of Iranian goods and an important part of our imports are also from China. Last year, China’s share in Iran’s (non-oil) trade was 24 percent,” the minister added.

Iran and China inked twenty cooperation documents and MOUs during President Raeisi’s visit to Beijing in February.

The documents of cooperation and MOUs were in various fields including crisis management, tourism, communication and information technology, environment, international trade, intellectual property, agriculture, export, healthcare, media, sports, and cultural heritage.

An Iran-China Business and Investment Forum was held in Beijing on Thursday, during which officials and businesspeople from both countries reviewed the enhancement of bilateral exchanges.

NLHO signs 24 MOUs to accelerate National Housing Movement



TEHRAN – National Land and Housing Organization (NLHO) of Iran has signed 24 memorandums of understanding (MOU) with government and private sector institutions and organizations in order to speed up land supply for the National Housing Movement, IRNA reported.

According to the Iranian Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini’s Order, Khatam-al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, Mostazafan Foundation, Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Security, Armed Forces, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Astan Quds Razavi, Central Insurance, Tehran Municipality, Iran Fisheries Organization, and National Retirement Fund are among the organizations and institutions with which the NLHO has signed MOUs for facilitating the progress of the National Housing Movement.

As reported, NLHO has been following new strategies for the acceleration of the construction of National Housing Movement units across the country.

One of the mentioned strategies has been to allocate unused government-owned lands for the construction of housing units under the

framework of the mentioned movement. In this regard, so far, 50,000 hectares of land from the Transport Ministry have been provided for the National Housing Movement.

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

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

Back in June, Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash announced that 1.25 million units of the National Housing Movement plan are under construction in the country.

The minister also said that 3,000 hectares of land have been allocated to this plan so far.

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

steel, 142,100 tons of sponge iron, 15,631 tons of copper, 6,615 tons of aluminum, 1,210 tons of zinc, 210 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 75 tons of precious metals concentrate.

Based on this report, the exchange saw trade of 400 kg of saffron on its agricultural trading floor.

Moreover, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 508,488 tons of commodities worth nearly \$236 million.

TEDPIX falls 64,600 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 64,633 points to 1.956 million on Monday.

As reported, over 9.783 billion securities worth 58.233 trillion rials (about \$119 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).

Even one millimeter

Kuwait-Saudi Arabia agreement to develop Arash gas field ‘illegal’

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Arash gas field, located in the north of the Persian Gulf, in the neutral zone between Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, holds an estimated 20 trillion cubic meters of in-situ gas and 310 million barrels of in-situ oil.

The field, which is called Al-Durra by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, was discovered in 1967, and has become a subject of dispute between the three countries in order to determine their shares.

Of course, this conflict has started several decades ago, but the issue has been making headlines over the last few days, with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia saying Iran has no share in the Al-Durra gas field, which is known as Arash in Iran.

On July 2, Kuwait presented its request to Iran to resume negotiations on demarcating maritime boundaries, claiming that it has exclusive maritime rights with Saudi Arabia, and the two countries agreed to jointly develop the field in 2022.

“The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone have exclusive rights to the natural wealth in the Al-Durra field,” a Kuwaiti foreign ministry statement said.

“The State of Kuwait renews its invitation to the Iranian side to start negotiations on the demarcation of the maritime borders,” it added.

A day after the Kuwaiti statement, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry said that the Arab kingdom has full rights along with Kuwait to the gas field.

Riyadh claimed that only Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have the right to exploit the natural resources of the disputed field.

The Saudi official emphasized that Saudi Arabia once again wants Iran to start negotiations regarding the drawing of the eastern borders of the blue zone that is divided between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

This Saudi claim was made after Tehran announced its readiness to start exploration in the field rich in natural resources of the Persian Gulf.

Iran calls Kuwait-Saudi Arabia agreement to develop Arash “illegal”

Last year, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to develop the field, despite objections from Tehran which branded the deal as “illegal”.

At the time, Tehran said that the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to develop the gas field was illegal, adding that Iran also has a share in the field and must be party to any such development.

Iran has claimed it owns rights to part of the field, and said to proceed with the development of what it considers its own sector.

On June 27, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), said: “There is full preparation to start drilling in the joint Arash oil field.

“Considerable resources have been allocated to the implementation of the development plan for this field”, the official announced.



Many unsuccessful talks

The row over the field stretches back to the 1960s, when Iran and Kuwait each awarded an offshore concession, one to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, the forerunner to BP, and one to Royal Dutch Shell.

The two concessions overlapped in the northern part of the field, whose recoverable reserves are estimated at seven trillion cubic feet.

Iran and Kuwait have held unsuccessful talks for many years over their disputed maritime border area, which is rich in natural gas.

Saudi Arabia is also a part of the dispute since it shares with Kuwait maritime gas and oil resources in the area.

Over the years, Iranian officials have held a series of talks with the two countries over the dispute and repeatedly emphasized the importance of resolving it.

Kuwaiti and Iranian officials held joint negotiations in Tehran in March regarding the demarcation of their maritime borders. Both sides stressed the need to settle the matter in accordance with international laws.

On July 5, Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Salem Abdullah al-Jaber al-Sabah in Baku on the sidelines of the meeting of the top diplomats of the Non-Aligned Movement member-states.

The two officials affirmed the importance of boosting cooperation to maintain the region’s security, safety, and stability, stressing the need for preserving dialogue, Arabic media reported.

Similarly, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji met his Saudi counterpart, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, on the sidelines of an OPEC conference in Vienna to discuss bilateral issues.

Iran adheres to good neighborliness and mutual interests

Reacting to the latest claims by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait over their exclusive rights to Arash gas field, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on July 11 that Iran adheres to the principles of good neighborliness and mutual interests

in exploiting shared hydrocarbon reservoirs.

Also last week, Iranian lawmaker Hadi Beiginejad said that Iran has a 40 percent share in the field.

“Iran’s 40 percent share in the Arash joint field cannot be ignored and this right of Iran cannot be hidden,” Beiginejad told Fars News Agency.

He was responding to the statements by Kuwaiti and Saudi officials saying that Iran has no share in the field and it should start talks over demarcating the border between Iran and Kuwait.

The lawmaker rejected the allegation, underlining that the Arash joint gas field is located next to Esfandiar, Forozan and Soroush fields on a border line and Iran has a share in all these fields.

Beiginejad called on the Saudis to respect the rights of their neighbors.

“Instead of these comments, the Saudi authorities should observe the principle of good neighborliness in their relations with their neighbors and respect the rights of their neighbors,” he suggested.

Iran will not back down from its rights

While adhering to the principles of good neighborliness and mutual interests, the Islamic Republic will not back down from its rights in Arash gas field.

On July 7, Mustafa Nakhaei, the spokesman of the Energy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, said the Islamic Republic will not back down from its rights in Arash gas field, and criticized the Iranian authorities for not taking measures to exploit the gas field.

“We have many joint fields with neighboring countries, and in all development programs, attention and focus on joint fields have been emphasized. Our lack of planning and focus on the joint Arash gas field in all past years have caused competing countries to take action to develop it, but unfortunately, we have not done anything special about it,” he told parliamentary news agency ICANA.

He added: “About 60 years have passed since the discovery of this joint field and there are very valuable

gas resources, to some extent gas condensates and a little oil in it.”

Nakhaei pointed out: “In the past years, we should have resolved the disputes with competing countries in the joint Arash gas field and planned for its development, but unfortunately, we have not taken any action for this.”

“Despite all the mentioned conditions, it is clear that Iran will not neglect its interests in Arash field in any way, and no official of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the right to turn a blind eye on or neglect the country’s interests in this gas field and its development,” Nakhaei stressed.

He also called for the diplomatic resolution of the disputes over the Arash gas field.

A fact-finding committee should be formed

According to Hassan Moradi, an energy expert, the right of ownership of Arash gas field requires the formation of a fact-finding committee.

Arash gas field is jointly located in the borders of three countries: Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but who is the main owner is a matter that needs to be ascertained, the expert stated.

He said that an attempt should be made to entrust this matter to a fair arbitration commission to determine the real ownership rights over this gas field between the three countries of Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia through negotiations and presenting documents in a peaceful manner.

Although the parties have shown interest in negotiations, the talks between them have not yet come to a result, and Iran should take it into account that any delay can make Kuwait and Saudi Arabia more serious in developing the field without Iran’s participation.

For this reason, especially in the current situation, when Iran’s relations with Saudi Arabia have improved, the need to adopt stronger diplomacy to assert Iran’s rights in the Arash gas field is felt more than ever.

Another important point here is that the Arash case can be a benchmark for the slogans of friendship and good neighborliness of the southern neighbors.

TCCIMA hosts business meeting with Pakistani officials



TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted a meeting with a delegation of

senior Pakistani state officials on Monday, during which the two sides discussed ways of expanding economic exchanges between the

two countries’ private sectors.

As reported by the TCCIMA portal, the meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the TCCIMA Bahman Eshghi and TCCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Hessamedin Hallaj.

At the beginning of this meeting, Eshghi introduced TCCIMA as the largest chamber of commerce in the country, noting that the business enterprises based in the capital Tehran account for about 50 percent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP).

He pointed to the historic relations between Iran and Pakistan and said: “After the independence of Pakistan in 1947, Iran-Pakistan relations have been very friendly both in the period

before Iran’s Islamic revolution and after the revolution.”

Eshghi described the extent of the economic cooperation between Iran and Pakistan as broad and said: “The continuation and development of this cooperation requires the exchange of knowledge and experiences of the parties, and the chambers of commerce can become the center of such exchanges and communications.”

Referring to the pressures of Western sanctions on both countries, he called this situation a common point for reviewing bilateral relations and considered it the duty of the private sectors of the two countries to resolve problems and improve trade relations despite the sanctions.

As Americans suffer, U.S. approves record military budget

U.S. House passes \$886 billion on defense.

From page 1 ► Whilst there is no military threat to the U.S. mainland, the funds will include initiatives to counter China and more support for Ukraine, as well as other malicious military activities way beyond U.S. borders.

According to recently released figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the U.S. spends more on its military than the next ten countries combined. Research by the institute shows U.S. expenditure on its military accounted for almost 40 percent of defense spending by countries around the world in 2022.

So, with the U.S. facing massive national debt, is this money being used effectively or should it be diverted to other domestic priorities?

Whilst the Pentagon continues its military adventurism abroad, there are major issues back at home that need to be urgently addressed.

HEALTH

Research by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute shows U.S. military expenditure accounted for almost 40 percent of defense spending by countries around the world in 2022.

The health of a country's population would be on the top of the agenda of priorities for a government. In the case of consecutive U.S. administrations, this doesn't appear to be the case.

According to Georgia State University, nearly 30 million Americans still lack health insurance. Getting access to medical care often means "navigating a maddeningly circuitous and opaque bureaucracy", the university's research magazine states. And even for the insured, medical treatments can be wildly expensive, leading people to take on debt or even declare bankruptcy.

Earlier this year, an article by the New York-based Time Magazine was titled: "The Coming Collapse of the U.S. HealthCare System".

The article highlights how "hospitals throughout the country are losing millions if not billions of dollars per year. Hospitals are closing urgent care centers,



obstetric, pediatric and other services to try to survive."

The massive shortfall of staff and dependency on temporary staff has created a critical issue in the realm of patient care, it pointed out. And further notes that "critically ill patients boarded in the emergency department have also spent long hours or days waiting for inpatient beds due to lack of trained staff even when beds become available."

There are many other news reports that underscore a crippling health system on the verge of collapsing, that needs swift government action to survive as well as urgent funds among other problems including staff training so patients can receive an adequate level of treatment.

Perhaps more alarmingly is that America is strongly struggling to gain pace, in terms of healthcare per capita, with most of the other developed countries around the world.

Drug addiction is another major issue that is on a record rise and receiving little to no funds to help people recover and get back to life.

HOMELESSNESS

This year, the largest study in decades by the University of California shed light on the number of homeless people in the United States and the results should be of a major concern to the U.S. administration.

As it turns out, the state of California, which is among the richest in the U.S., is home to more than 171,000 people experiencing homelessness. This comprises 30% of the homeless U.S. population and half of all Americans who do not have a shelter and are living on the street.

Over the years, it has been documented that the homeless crisis in America has become a public health catastrophe with an ageing population being forced to live in tents, cars and other makeshift shelters. As a result, thousands are dying on the streets each year.

The Pentagon is not only busy

making people homeless in the countless wars and proxy conflicts around the world that the U.S. has waged or triggered, but also receiving record funds that are preventing Americans themselves from leaving the streets and moving into affordable housing.

INFRASTRUCTURE

One of the most unreported facts is the state of infrastructure.

Yet all Americans seem to agree on one thing. The U.S. needs to renovate its vital infrastructure. Once the best in the world, it's now in bad shape and falling apart.

The road to repairing the bridges and tunnels however looks like it will be a bumpy one. Over the years, the most basic infrastructure got a D-plus from the American Society of Civil Engineers or ASCE. That's a near-failing grade. It got the same grade back in 2013.

Perhaps the wakeup call came in August 2007 when the interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River collapsed. It claimed the lives of 13 people and injured 145 others.

The shocking incident reverberates to this day but more importantly are the calls to invest big in replacing the nation's crumbling infrastructure. The ASCE cites over a dozen problematic issues, one of these is the water system, a very serious matter for one community too many.

California, the richest state in the U.S., is home to more than 171,000 people experiencing homelessness.

While some other nations have improved roads, bridges and transport systems, the U.S. is lagging behind. How does a country that claims to be an economic powerhouse allow its infrastructure to slide on so many potholes?

Experts and engineers say trillions of dollars are needed to fix aging bridges, tunnels and roads.

Take a step back and look at China, which already has the world's longest bullet-train system. Yet, Beijing plans to spend more than half a trillion dollars in two years to expand the country's railway system to 150-thousand kilometers. 10 years ago, China had virtually no bullet trains.

Some underground systems in the U.S. have been left untouched for 100 years.

Leaders across the globe tend to love infrastructure spending. It brings down unemployment levels and helps businesses while big projects leave a nice legacy on their resume when they leave office. Former U.S. President Trump, being aware of this, tried but failed. Surprisingly, there is no appetite to address this issue among the Biden administration.

GUN VIOLENCE

The first six months of 2023 has seen the highest number of mass shooting incidents in modern U.S. history. The grim new record of 380 killing incidents means this year will be the deadliest so far. However, Congress cannot and never will agree to regulate gun control laws.

A fraction of the \$886 billion could be given to the powerful gun lobby groups in Congress to end the endless cycle of firearm deaths. Instead, the U.S. is killing abroad and at home.

RACISM

Another major issue that doesn't leave the headlines is institutionalized discrimination and the police killing of Black Americans. Police stations argue they lack the funds to address the issue and train officers to stop killing Black Americans in broad daylight.

Health, homelessness, infrastructure, gun violence, racism, national U.S. debt are just part of a vast list of pressing issues that require urgent funds to address.

U.S. policy makers, however, are choosing to inflict these issues abroad instead of addressing them at home.

WORLD HEADLINES

Israel injures 2 Palestinians, detains 25 in West Bank raids

Two Palestinians were injured and 25 others detained in Israeli military raids in the occupied West Bank on Monday, according to a local NGO.

One Palestinian was injured by live fire when Israeli forces raided the Fawwar refugee camp, south of Hebron, spokesman for the Palestinian Prisoner Society Amjad al-Najjar told Anadolu.

Another Palestinian was wounded in an Israeli raid in the Aqabat Jaber camp in Jericho city, the state news agency Wafa reported.

Israeli forces also detained 25 Palestinians, including 16 in Hebron, while the other arrests took place in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jericho, Jerusalem, and Jenin, the Palestinian Prisoner Society said in a statement.

Tensions have been running high across the occupied West Bank in recent months amid repeated Israeli raids into Palestinian towns.

Nearly 195 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of this year, according to the Health Ministry. At least 27 Israelis have also been killed in separate attacks during the same period.

Erdogan sets a condition for meeting with Assad!

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he is open to talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad but would not meet him if a withdrawal of Turkish troops from Syrian territory were set as a condition.

Speaking to reporters in Istanbul on Monday ahead of his departure for a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Erdogan said Turkey has never "shut the door" to discussions with the Syrian government.

"We can hold a four-party summit [with Syria, Russia and Iran], and I am also open to a meeting with Assad. What matters here is their approach towards us," Erdogan told journalists.

No mercy to terrorists – Medvedev

Terrorist attacks cannot be prevented with the help of negotiations, and only tough and decisive measures can guarantee success, former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday.

Childhood in rubble: The humanitarian consequences of urban warfare for children

Landmines, airstrikes, snipers – in cities across the world, children's lives and future are irrevocably changed by urban warfare, the ICRC said in a report.

Urban warfare causes a staggering number of death and injury among civilians. It disrupts families, destroys homes, and displaces whole communities. It cuts off access to health care, education, electricity, water, and sanitation. The immediate and long-term effects of urban warfare on children's health, safety, and development, cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, such consequences have rarely been thoroughly assessed for children as a distinct group within the population.

This ICRC study is the first of its kind, specifically dedicated to children's experience of urban warfare. It highlights the distinct risks that children face during war in cities, and emphasizes the unique experience of every child, which depends on factors such as age, maturity, gender, or disability.

Significantly, the report provides concrete recommendations for parties to the conflict, relevant authorities and those providing a humanitarian response for preventing and mitigating harm to children and for responding to the impact of urban warfare on them.

Recommendations include that States should put in place strong legal frameworks for protecting

His comments came after Moscow accused Ukraine of staging a drone attack on the Crimean Bridge, killing two people, and injuring a child.

Writing on Telegram, Medvedev, who now serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said that experience had shown that it is impossible to fight terrorists with "international sanctions, intimidation, and lecturing."

Against this backdrop, the ex-president suggested targeting the perpetrators in their own homes, and "searching and liquidating their accomplices" without much regard for legal proceedings.

"The main thing is to destroy the top leadership of terrorist groups, no matter in what cracks these insects hide," he said, adding that such policies are difficult but still possible to implement.

Medvedev's fiery post was an apparent response to a Ukrainian maritime drone attack on Monday targeting the strategic Crimean Bridge, which damaged one of the roadways and claimed the lives of a married couple from Belgorod and injured their daughter, according to Russian officials.

Brazil says opposes supply of weapons to Ukraine

Brazil is against weapons deliveries to either party in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira has said. The diplomat also predicted that peace would eventually be achieved with the help of nations which have not taken sides, such as Brazil and African countries.

In an interview with Russia's RIA Novosti published on Monday, Vieira stressed that Brasilia has consistently voiced its opposition to arms shipments to Kiev and Moscow.

According to the diplomat, "several countries are ready to join" Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's peace efforts. The minister cited the initiatives recently put forward by a group of African nations.

"This will take time, but it's precisely this that will lead to peace which we are striving for," Vieira insisted.

While on an official visit to Rome last month, President Lula argued that Russia and Ukraine both need to compromise to end the conflict.

"The two parties both need to get something. Only the Russians and the Ukrainians know what they need to reach peace," he said at the time.

The Brazilian head of state also called into question the EU's capacity for mediation, arguing that the bloc is effectively involved in the conflict. Lula went on to name India, Mexico, and African nations as potential neutral peace brokers.



children in armed conflict. Armed actors should incorporate the protection of children during urban warfare in their doctrine, planning, training and conduct of operations. And humanitarian actors should develop a fuller understanding of the risks that children face during urban warfare, thus increasing the effectiveness of their response.

In addition, the report puts forward recommendations for all actors regarding data, funding, and media portrayals of children affected by urban warfare. The ICRC will present the report as part of the War in Cities panel discussion at the Protecting Children in Armed Conflict conference in Oslo, Norway on 5th -6th June 2023.

We hope that, by focusing on children specifically, the recommendations in this report will contribute to preventing, reducing, and responding to the harm that children experience during and in the aftermath of urban warfare.

Inside the Occupied Palestine: Direct out of Hospital



not fulfilled, they will reduce the security level".

Notable in this meeting was also the fact the Netanyahu didn't say a single word about the trip of Zionist Regime's president to the United States. A few hours after the cabinet meeting, Israel's union of health and medical services announced its preparations for a total shut down in Israel's health system during the coming week.

The union declared hours-long strikes

in response to the government's refusal to cease the judicial reforms, with the exception of emergency cases. Amongst the tense mass of news about the controversial judicial reforms and consequently the demonstrations crushing the establishment, an Israeli media reported today about a police volunteer officer who was fired from his job after signing a petition against the judicial reforms. The news triggered anger inside the opposite movement and provoked reactions.

Trains Stopped Working in Parts of the Occupied Palestine

As the repeating malfunctions especially in the electrical systems of the Israeli railways continue to surge, the company in charge of the railway transportation announced today that due to the same problem, the transportation will be halted in multiple directions, including some intercity lines. Delayed schedules confused the passengers and created hundred-meter-long lines in many stations. The problem was temporarily solved after seven hours.

Arbaeen trek: Iranian craftspeople to set up stalls



TEHRAN – Craftspeople in Kermanshah province, which borders with Iraq, have scheduled to set up handicraft stalls along the pilgrimage routes that go to the neighboring country.

“To promote handicrafts of Kermanshah, over 150 stalls will be set up in the province during the Arbaeen pilgrimage days,” the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

The long treks will be destined for Karbala, where Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is laid to rest. Arbaeen marks an end to the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala on Muharram 10, 680 CE.

Based on available data, the value of Iran's handicraft exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (Mar. 21, 2022 – Jan. 20, 2023). Compared with the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth, deputy tourism Maryam Jalali Dehkordi said.

Iranian handicrafts have a high capacity for export, which can be realized through the creation of special holding companies, she said. Iran exported

some \$320 million worth of handicrafts during the year 1400, the official added.

According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Iran has the most cities and towns registered with the World Crafts Council (WCC), followed by China with seven, Chile with four, and India with three designated ones.

The WCC-Asia-Pacific Region designated Shiraz, Malayer, Zanjan, and the village of Qasemabad in January 2020, bringing the total number of craft cities and towns in Iran from 10 to 14. 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.

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

‘Stunning’ cache of gold coins found in Kentucky cornfield

A trove of more than 700 gold coins dating back to the U.S. Civil War found buried in a cornfield in the state of Kentucky is being put up for sale and is expected to reap millions.

The “Great Kentucky Hoard” was discovered on a farm in the Bluegrass State earlier this year, according to the firm which graded the coins and the company selling them.

The exact location of the find and the identity of the man who found the coins have not been revealed.

In a video posted on GovMint.com, which is selling the hoard, the man is seen digging up

the coins in the dirt and heard saying “this is the most insane thing ever.”

GovMint.com said the coins were dated between 1840 and 1863 and include \$1 Gold Indians, \$10 Gold Libertys and \$20 Gold Libertys.

Among them are 18 extremely rare \$20 Gold Libertys minted in 1863 in Philadelphia which GovMint.com said fetch six-figure sums from collectors.

“The importance of this discovery cannot be overstated,” said Jeff Garrett, a rare coin dealer who was contacted by the anonymous finder several months ago.

(Source: Phys.org)

Europe heatwave: how long will it last and is it safe to travel to Italy, Spain and Greece?

Europeans do enjoy a little heat, but it's getting bloody hot. The Cerberus heatwave is scorching its way across parts of Europe, with potentially record-breaking temperatures in the next few days. With temperatures going well beyond 40C, there have been multiple reports of tourists collapsing at travel hotspots across the continent and a man dying in northern Italy.

As tourists flock to the Mediterranean for another busy summer holiday, the sweltering heat has caused widespread disruption to travel plans and raised health-related concerns across Europe. And the bad news is that it is projected to get even hotter over the next week.

To prevent your holiday plans from being derailed by the heatwaves, it's best to stay hydrated and informed about where and when will it be the hottest – and whether you need to stay indoors for the day. Here is the latest rundown on the

hottest spots in Europe right now (literally!) and whether it's safe to travel in the heat.

Where in Europe is currently experiencing a heatwave?

The worst-hit parts of Europe are Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Croatia and Turkey – with temperatures predicted to approach 50C in some parts of the continent.

In Spain, daily temperatures have been recorded in the high thirties, with higher than 40C expected in southern Spain on Monday. On Friday the ground temperature in some areas hit more than 60C, according to satellite recordings.

In Italy, ten cities including Florence, Bologna and Rome are on red warning alert because of the extreme weather. The islands of Sicily and Sardinia are expected to be hit with temperatures rising to as high as 48C – potentially the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Europe.

In Greece, temperatures were forecast to reach as high as 45C throughout the weekend. Health concerns are bubbling among locals and tourists as popular destinations shut and working hours are adjusted. Athens authorities have shut down the Acropolis temporarily to protect tourists from the heatwave enveloping the historic city.

(Source: Time Out)

Tasht-Gozari: a solemn commemoration of sacrifice

From Page 1 ▶ Tasht-Gozari, which literally means “laying a wash-tub” highlights the importance of potable water which was banned for Imam Hussein (AS) and his followers. In fact, the water blockade continued up to the end of the battle on Muharram 10.

The ritual begins three days before the start of Muharram on Dhu al-Hijjah 27, performed in over 200 mosques in six main neighborhoods of the city. In all the mosques, some platforms are designed for keeping copper and brazen wash tubs during the year.

Probably the origin of the Tasht-Gozari dates back to the Safavid era. The most ancient existing wash tub of Ardabil is kept in the mosque of Chaqusazan bazaar, which dates back to the era of Shah Abbas I (1571 – 1629) and on its edge engraved: “Donated to Hazrat Abbas (AS) 1038.”

Before the beginning of Muharram, tens of volunteer women clean the mosques and wash tubs preparing them for Tasht-Gozari.

Traditionally, there will be six wash tubs representing six



neighborhoods of Ardabil at the Jame' Mosque. After attending the mourning ceremony, the representatives from each neighborhood hold wash tubs on their heads while entering the mosque.

They go around the mosque and people touch wash tubs to express their allegiance to Imam Hussein (AS). Then they put wash

tubs on the specified platforms in the mosque and after putting all six wash tubs in place, mourners bring jars full of water and pour them into wash tubs.

During the ten days, the mourners drink the water in wash tubs, believing it is a healer and takes it for patients as well.

Imam Hussain embodied the

sacrifice of self, money, family, and social status in the face of terror and cruelty.

Tasht-Gozari holds a significant religious sign for the Shia Muslims as an integral part of Iran's cultural tapestry aimed to keep alive the memory of Imam Hussein (AS) and the principles he stood for.

Deputy tourism minister inaugurates massive water park

TEHRAN – On Monday, Ali-Shalbafian, the deputy tourism minister, inaugurated a massive water park during his visit to Yasuj, the capital of Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, southwest Iran.

In this immense investment project, direct employment has been created for about 150 people, Shalbafian said.

Covering 6,200 square meters, the water park is the biggest of its kind in southwest Iran, CHTN reported.

Despite its arid climate, Iran's tourism sector has tried to boost hydro tourism or water tourism in recent years.

Situated between the Caspian Sea from the north, and the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman in the south, Iran is a top destination for water tourism. It is home to numerous spas, waterfalls, rivers, islands, and natural springs.

As its name implies, water tourism involves

traveling to places specifically to take part in water-based activities. This branch of tourism often includes active chases, some water tourists visit islands and shore regions to join more relaxed pursuits such as diving or swimming.

Travel businesses organize tours of coral reefs and arrange for local tour guides to preside over excursions on which travelers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on swimming and tanning rather than interacting with aquatic life.

Water trips occasionally involve inland destinations, such as lakes and rivers. Holidaymakers can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ideally suited to whitewater rafting. Additionally, some leisure businesses operate water parks that contain swimming pools, water slides, and areas for kayaking or canoeing.

Besides, those who do not wish to directly

partake in water-related activities may only visit sites close to bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, dams, etc.

Over the past couple of years, western Iranian provinces have held several meetings to discuss ways to expand tourism, bringing together local officials, hoteliers, travel agents, and tour operators from provinces of Lorestan, Ilam, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Hamedan, Zanjan and East Azarbaijan, amongst others.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Gigantic theme park, named Mini World, to open to public this year: Malayer's mayor says



TEHRAN – Malayer's mayor has said construction work at the city's massive theme park, which features perfect replicas of 138 world-renowned historical sites and monuments, is almost complete.

Construction of this huge theme park, which covers an area of 48 hectares, started 10 years ago and it will definitely reach the operational stage this [Iranian calendar] year, the mayor said.

Moreover, busts and statues of many luminaries are being constructed at the theme park, the mayor said.

“Considered as a stimulus for the tourism sector, the launch of the Mini World is currently our first priority in the municipality and the Malayer's city council.”

Last year, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami ad-

mired the Mini World for “skilled craftsmanship” during a visit to the theme park.

“It is an exemplar theme park on a world scale... and it can undoubtedly be a very good model for other countries,” Zarghami said.

During his visit, Zarghami inspected miniature replicas of the Eiffel Tower, Taj Mahal, and Egyptian pyramids, among several others.

A fanciful journey

Situated in Hamedan province, the enchanting theme park offers a unique experience that allows visitors to embark on a captivating journey through the country's rich cultural heritage.

By meticulously recreating miniature versions of Iran's most iconic landmarks and historical sites, Mini World captures the essence of the nation's vibrant

past, making it the perfect destination for both locals and tourists seeking to explore Iran's fascinating history.

At Mini World, visitors will be transported into a magically downsized Iran, where they can witness the exquisitely detailed replicas of the country's architectural gems. Gazing at the minuscule version of Persepolis, the monumental UNESCO World Heritage Site, visitors can feel the grandeur of the Achaemenid Empire that once ruled Persia.

Next, the miniature rendition of Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan reveals the splendor of Safavid-era architecture. Marvel at the intricate tilework, soaring minarets, and bustling bazaars that breathe life into this miniature urban wonderland.

Moreover, Mini World's charm lies in its interactive experiences and engaging activities. Visitors can participate in pottery and carpet-weaving workshops, providing a fascinating glimpse into Iran's traditional arts and crafts. It may be a fantastic getaway for families, with attractions specifically designed for younger visitors.

Hub of woodcarving

Malayer may be top on the list for those who are interested in visiting a woodcarving hub. The west-central Iranian town is named a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture by the World Crafts Council – Asia-Pacific Region (WCC-APR).

Located in Hamedan province,

the ancient city is home to over 4,000 furniture workshops in which more than 8,000 wood masters and some 25,000 craftsmen are engaged.

Although the art had been practiced in Malayer for a long time ago, it is about a half-century that it has gained prosperity in the region. In some cases, the whole family is occupied with traditional furniture making and although they didn't make much money this way, their love for handicrafts and the increasing perseverance of woodcarving artists of Malayer shows today a new face of this art-craft to the world.

Artists and crafters of this region use the wood of beech, walnut, and plane trees to make different products such as traditional, classic, steel, and sofa furniture. Their other products are dining tables, desks, all kinds of chairs, beds, and decorative pieces.

Currently, some 60 percent of the furniture and woodcarving products in Iran are reportedly produced in Malayer, and they are sent to various Iranian cities or exported to Central Asian countries, Persian Gulf littoral states, Turkey and Iraq amongst others. Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations, and there's a scattering of historical curiosities.

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‘Connect’ streamlines linking with overseas experts

TEHRAN- An online platform dubbed “Connect” has been launched aiming to facilitate the cooperation of overseas Iranian experts and researchers with domestic universities.

Some 6,500 Iranian elites from the world’s top universities are now cooperating with the country and around 450 are back to their homeland and recruited as faculty members using the platform, Mehr reported.

Launched by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, “Connect” provides the opportunity for implementing post-doctoral projects, conducting research, inviting professors, delivering specialized lectures, holding workshops, establishing start-ups, and working in technological companies instead of military service.

Researchers, experts, and international entrepreneurs registered on the platform can benefit from a 3–10-year residence permit in the country.

More than 8,700 Iranian experts and researchers living abroad have so far applied to join the platform and over 6,500 successful scientific collaborations have taken place.

Many of the applicants are graduates of the world’s top universities such as MIT, Stanford, Cambridge, Harvard, Berkeley, Illinois, Sydney, Melbourne, Princeton, Michigan, National University of Singapore, and EPFL Switzerland.

Moreover, 3,752 specialized workshops have been held and lectures have been delivered. More than 240 technological companies



have been established in various fields and over 450 researchers have returned to the country and recruited as faculty members in top domestic universities.

“Connect” provides the opportunity for conducting research, holding workshops, and establishing start-ups.

With the support of the National Elites Foundation, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled ‘Cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elite’ in 2015.

The plan forms a suitable infrastructure for using the scientific and technological capacity and

power of Iranian experts in various specialized fields.

As part of the program, more than 10,000 Iranian experts and researchers residing abroad have been recruited, and more than 2,600 researchers and experts from the world’s top universities (mostly from America, Canada, and European countries) have returned to the country.

According to the latest statistics, some 8,410 requests for cooperation, 693 requests for the establishment of a knowledge-based company, 3,567 requests for lectures and workshops, 2,500 postdoctoral requests, and 400 requests for visiting professors are registered in the system.

“Employment in knowledge-based companies”, “Housing loan”, “Housing deposit”, “Recruitment of academic staff”, “Educational workshops and lectures”, “Educational and research activities”, and “Technological

activities”, are among the most important support services defined under this program for Iranian experts residing abroad who wish to cooperate with educational and industrial centers of the country.

Solving problems

The platform aims to solve the basic challenges mentioned by Iranian elites interested in cooperation with the country.

The challenges include a “lack of a specific mechanism to establish relationships with selected scientific and technological institutions and centers”, and “unfamiliarity with the country’s scientific and technological situation in the specialized field”.

Over the past six years, it has been able to be a bridge between Iranian experts and scientists abroad with more than 150 scientific and technological centers, including top universities, research institutes, technology parks, and domestically selected knowledge-based companies in the shortest possible time, and has provided them with the capacities available to introduce different fields of science and technology.

Another achievement of this program is the creation of 280 knowledge-based companies and startups in various fields of “Artificial Intelligence”, “Biotechnology”, “Nano”, “Energy”, “Information and Communication Technology” and so on.

These companies have provided the ground for the direct employment of the best domestic specialists and graduates.

Tajikistan needs to import Iranian medicine, medical equipment

TEHRAN - Jamoliddin Abdullo Abdullozoda, the Minister of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan, has said importing medicine and medical equipment from Iran is a necessity.

“Holding retraining courses for our specialists by Iranian professors and importing medicine and medical equipment from Iran are among our needs,” he said on Monday in a meeting with Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi in the city of Dushanbe.

Currently, the medicine required by Tajikistan is supplied by 11 Iranian pharmaceutical companies, Abdullozoda said, adding that the capacity of herbal and medicinal plants of Tajikistan can also be provided to Iranian pharmaceutical specialists, the Health Ministry’s website reported.

“My trip to Iran brought many experiences in the field of health, healthcare, and treatment, especially dental and laboratory equipment were worthy of attention in Iran.”

In October 2022, Einollahi and Abdullozoda inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand medical and health cooperation.

Einollahi stated that one of our major goals is a broad and strong relationship with the neighboring countries, especially Tajikistan, to develop practical cooperation.

“To carry out joint activities in the fields of

information and knowledge exchange, control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, health insurance, medical education, medical equipment as well as cooperation with the World Health Organization, we are fully prepared,” he noted.

In September 2022, Einollahi said that Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and that this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.

A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, ISNA quoted Younes Panahi as saying.

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

The health technology development is evaluated by the Global Innovation Index with seven indicators, including institutional structure, human capital and research, infrastructure, market and



Einollahi and Abdullozoda met in Tehran in October 2022.

Currently, the medicine required by Tajikistan is supplied by 11 Iranian companies.

business complexity, technological knowledge, and creativity, he explained.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

France allocates €1 million to support UNHCR program in Iran

TEHRAN - The Government of France recently announced a financial contribution of €1 million to support UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and its critical program for Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The funding will enable UNHCR to intensify the provision of lifesaving assistance and protection for some of the most vulnerable refugees and their local host communities.

This contribution will help strengthen ongoing efforts to provide lifesaving assistance to Afghans and host communities, including access to essential healthcare, education, and protection services.

This new funding is in addition to a similar contribution of €1 million for UNHCR Iran in 2022.

Nicolas Roche, the French Ambassador to Iran, noted that “by contributing to UNHCR’s work in Iran for the second year in a row, we are committed to supporting the Afghan people driven out of their country following the 2021 developments in Afghanistan. It is also essential for us to support the resilience of the local Iranian population through this assistance.”

This new funding is in addition to a similar contribution of €1 million for UNHCR Iran in 2022.

France has also earmarked €2 million to support refugees in Pakistan. The funding will enable UNHCR to boost primary and secondary level education, strengthen skills and vocational training, and reinforce access to public health care in host communities in 2023.

For over four decades, Iran has been hosting one of the largest and most protracted refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees, mostly from Afghanistan.

The recent fast-paced turn of events in Afghanistan has the potential to create additional population movements; internally displacing families and potentially driving them to neighboring countries to seek refuge.

Iran is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children- including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran are benefiting from Iran’s inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

Despite the sanctions and economic pressures, Iran continues its comprehensive policy of providing services to refugees, and this is appreciable, UNHCR’s Officer in Charge, Inna Gladkova, said in November 2022.

The best solution and the most stable support system for refugees is that have access to schools and education just like Iranian nationals, she stated, IRNA reported.

Iran has taken effective and continuous measures to include all refugees, and the UNHCR also declares its readiness to fulfill its obligations, she noted.

In the provision of educational services, there are different aspects, she said, adding, school construction, equipping schools, providing teachers and human resources, and providing quality educational services are the main and important work done by the Ministry of Education.

There are many needs in the field of education, but in the last 10 years, the High Commissioner for Refugees has built only 95 schools in Iran, but the need is definitely more than this, she also said.

In its January–December 2022 report on the situation of refugees in Iran, UNHCR elaborated on different sections such as “community-based protection” and “child protection”.

Community-Based Protection (CBP) seeks to ensure that refugee girls, boys, women, and men are empowered, and their capacities and resilience are strengthened, enabling them to minimize exposure to protection risks and thus improve the overall protection environment.



CBP activities aim to enhance access to services, including by identifying and addressing barriers building on meaningful participation of diverse individuals and groups, particularly of women and youth.

Since the amendment of the Nationality Bill in favor of Children Born to Iranian mothers and non-Iranian fathers, more than 80,000 applications have been filed, the majority of them for children born to Iranian mothers and Afghan fathers.

In protecting refugees and asylum seekers in Iran, since 1984 UNHCR has worked closely with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, national and international NGOs, and UN agencies providing a multitude of services.

Ivo Freijns, Representative for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Iran, has said Iran is an exemplary country that has acted very well in hosting refugees and has been hosting them for a long time.

Forty years have passed since Iran started hosting them [refugees]. As we have always said, Iran has had positive approaches toward refugees, we appreciate that, and we are honored to support Iran’s efforts, he said in an exclusive interview with Iran Newspaper published on September 4, 2022.

In fact, Iran provides wide-ranging services for refugees such as basic healthcare services, education, and vocational training.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, those who were in Iran, whether the ones that had passports or the ones that had documentation and were [registered] refugees, received the vaccination.

In June 2022, Maha Kashour, head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Mashhad, said Iran’s efforts and activities in the last 40 years have been commendable to refugees, and in the past year, after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, has reached its peak.

Iran has so far been able to provide decent services to refugees in the fields of health, livelihood, and vocational training in cooperation with UNHCR, she noted.

The Ministry of Interior has announced to the Ministry of Education a list of 200,000 Afghan children who have the conditions to study in Iranian schools.

In May, Robin Nandy, the representative of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Iran, said the country’s comprehensive program for the protection of refugee children is encouraging.

Making investments in programs and services to better care for and support children affected by migration and asylum will reduce costs in the future, he added.

Emphasizing the important role of non-governmental organizations in supporting refugee and immigrant children and teenagers, Nandy expressed hope that holding educational workshops will lead to the promotion of children’s rights and justice for children.

Over 670,000 students of Afghan nationals are studying in Iran, and the cost of educating these students is more than \$352 million, IRNA reported.

However, international organizations have paid less than 3.9 percent of the cost of education for Afghan students in Iran in the last two years.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a decree in May 2015 that allows all foreign nationals, even those who have no identification and are living in Iran illegally, to attend schools in the country.

Relying on moral and Islamic principles, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has created equal conditions in benefiting from educational opportunities for Afghan students.

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 garbage collection fleet requires high amount of budget; this is while the Municipality of Tehran cannot afford the cost and the issue needs urgent measures, he stated.

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 ۳۵ تا ۴۰ سال است.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do you know what is better than charity and fasting and prayer? It is keeping peace and good relations between people, as quarrels and bad feelings destroy mankind.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:39 Dawn: 3:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:02 (tomorrow)

Sadi: works and life

Part 10

Edward Eastwick excised them altogether, for which he was charged with bowdlerizing the work. Relatively accurate and complete versions of the work became available in the mid-19th century through the efforts of Karl Heinrich Graf (1846; revised by Bellman, 1982) and Nesslermann (1864) for German, Semelet and Defremery (1858) for French, and Rehatsek for English (1888 with the imprimatur of Richard Burton's Kama Shastra Society).

More modern versions of select chapters or stories of the Golestan have since been offered in these languages (Gelpke, Arberry). An excellent summary of the text is given in Yohannan (1987).

History of the text

Manuscript transmission: Sadi's panegyrics show him composing poetry into the 1280s, some twenty to thirty years after completing the Golestan; we may on this basis speculate that he continued to revise the text throughout his career.

Mostafa Zakeri calculates from the rate of composition of Sadi's ghazals that it took many years worth of drafts to produce the Golestan.

Also, from a very early point in the transmission history of the Golestan, it is evident that copyists deliberately changed or modernized the text, to the extent that very few of the existing medieval copies agree completely with any other copy in all respects.

A manuscript purportedly copied by the calligrapher Yaqut Mostasemi, dating to 1269, has been printed in facsimile (Atabay), but as the colophon is illegible, it has been skeptically received.

The earliest relatively complete and reliably dated manuscript was copied out in 1320, though a manuscript dating to 1300 of the introduction alone survives.

The text is well attested in many other 14th century exemplars, and probably several hundred pre-modern copies survive in various locations. D. N. Marshall mentions one manuscript owned by Shah Jahan (r. 1627-57) which he presented to his son Dara Shokoh.

At least two recensions of the collected works (Kolliyat) of Sadi were prepared in 1326 and 1334 by Bisotun, and the Golestan comes at the head of an early manuscript of the Kolliyat copied out in 1326 (Javid).

A copy of the Kolliyat made for the Mughal emperor Akbar places the Bustan before the Golestan, but this order is reversed in most manuscripts of the Kolliyat.

In the traditional arrangement of the Kolliyat, the Golestan is the first major work presented, with only a few minor prose treatises preceding it.

This, along with the fact that many stand-alone Golestan manuscript shave the Bustan copied out in the margins, suggests that the Golestan was perceived as the author's most popular or important work within a generation or two of his death.

Printed editions: Though Gentius first printed the text in Amsterdam (1651), no edition of the Golestan was published in the

Islamic world until J. H. Harrington's edition of the Kolliyat (vol. I, Calcutta, 1791), prepared in large part by Mawlawi Mohammad Rashid.

Several other Europeans printed or lithographed editions in Calcutta in the early 19th century, thus effectively bringing the manuscript tradition to an end. The Golestan was one of the earliest products of Persian typography, printed in Tabriz in 1824, and again in Tehran in 1847.

Several different editions also appeared in Cairo (Bulaq) and Istanbul in the 19th century, and the text was printed over a hundred times in India. Further editions appeared in Paris (Semelet, 1828), England (Eastwick, 1850), Leipzig (ed. and trans. by Graf, following Soruri's commentary, 1846), and Berlin (Kaviani press, 1921).

Critical editions: The first critical edition was produced by Abd al-Azim Qarib in 1931, followed by Mohammad-Ali Forugh'i's Kolliyat (1937), which has for many years remained the basis for citation of the text.

Rustam M. Alieva used manuscripts in the Soviet Union to prepare his edition and translation (1959). In the 1960s a handful of new critical texts set about collating and correcting the above, including editions by Said Nafisi (1962), Mohammad-Javad Mashkur (1965), Khalil Khatib Rahbar (1966), and Bahaeddin Khorramshahi (1977).

The best critical edition of the work is that of Gholamhossein Yusofi, based upon seventeen manuscripts plus the reliable printed editions.

It includes extensive notes, indices, and bibliography. Movahhed provides a comparison of this with Forugh'i's text, both based on the same manuscript copy.

Yusofi's editorial decisions have not pleased all critics, and at least one edition has attempted to incorporate and improve upon its results.

Bustan

Bustan, in early sources referred to as Sadi-nama, a moralistic and anecdotal verse work consisting of some 4,100 masnavi couplets by Sadi, completed in 1257.

The date is given by Sadi himself in his preamble, and from some indications in two verses it may be surmised that the work was in fact completed between October 13 and December 20 and perhaps more precisely on November 21 of that year.

Bustan, though often rendered as "Garden of Fragrance" or "Pleasure Garden," really has a more concrete meaning, such as "Fragrant Herb Garden" (on the meaning of the title, cf. S. Naficy, "Bustan").

The Bustan is the best-known poem of its general kind in Persian literature and is in many ways unique.

As is indicated in the lengthy (and routinely subdivided) preamble, the work is dedicated to Sadi's patron at the time, the Salghurid atabak of Fars, Abu Bakr ibn Sad ibn Zangi (r. 1226-60), but his son Sa'd and more particularly his grandson Mohammad ibn Sa'd are also praised.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Iran's nominee for IBBY-Asahi Award unveiled

TEHRAN – The Children's Book Council of Iran has nominated the Children's Cultural Development Center for the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award 2024.

The council has nominated the center once again for its extraordinary endeavors in enhancing general knowledge, promoting and expanding children's culture and art, especially among those from rural and underprivileged areas.

For the past twenty-two years, the Children's Cultural Development Center has been dedicated to establishing, equipping, and enhancing libraries in underprivileged rural, nomadic, and suburban areas across Iran. Their primary goal is to encourage and promote a love for reading among children. Training local forces, teachers, parents, and children and teenagers is one of its primary endeavors.

The center also plays a vital role in enhancing the capabilities of local communities and empowering them in various ways. This includes utilizing the potential of native and local forces to effectively manage libraries.

Moreover, it aims to increase the level of community participation and engagement in local affairs. Additionally, the center focuses on identifying the unique facilities available in each area and introducing them to the local people. It also strives to leverage the indigenous skills of individuals to improve their

cultural and economic well-being.

One of the main projects of the Children's Cultural Development Center is the implementation of the "Book in Circulation" project in sparsely populated rural and nomadic areas where setting up a library is not feasible.

More than a hundred villages and nomadic areas in the provinces of South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, North Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchistan, and Lorestan have successfully implemented this project.

Special sacks filled with books, puzzles, drawing tools, and board

games are transported to distant villages and nomadic regions. They are then entrusted to a teacher, who lends them to children and their parents. This allows them to engage in the joy of reading, as well as fostering discussions and activities in the classroom.

Although the Children's Cultural Development Center was Iran's nominee for the 2022 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award, it was Iltiqsinniq - Pinnguaqta of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut in Canada that ultimately received the prestigious award.

The IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award is given biennially

to one group or institution whose outstanding activities are judged to be making a lasting contribution to reading promotion programs for children and young people.

The Award was established in 1986 and is sponsored by the Asahi Shimbun Newspaper Company of Japan.

Nominations are submitted by the National Sections of IBBY and may include reading promotion projects from any part of the world. The jury consists of members of the IBBY Executive Committee. The prize of \$ 10,000 and a diploma is presented to the winning project at the biennial IBBY Congress.

Commemoration of Persian poet Naser Khosrow to be held in Tehran

TEHRAN – A commemoration ceremony for the Persian poet, philosopher Naser Khosrow Qubadiani will be held on Tuesday afternoon in Tehran.

The ceremony will be held at 5 pm local time in the Martyr Motahari Hall located in the Society for the Appreciation of Cultural Works and Dignitaries.

Naser Khosrow also spelled as Nasir Khusrow (1004 – after 1070 CE) is a poet, theologian, traveler and one of the greatest writers in Persian literature.

He is considered one of the greatest

representatives of Persian literature. Safarnama (The Book of Travels) is his most famous work. He visited dozens of cities in about seven years (March 6, 1046 – October 23, 1052) and wrote comprehensively about them, including details about colleges, caravanserais, mosques, scientists, kings, the public, the population, the area of the cities, and, of course, his interesting memories. After 1000 years, his Safarnama is still readable for Persian-speaking people.

Diwan, Gushayish va Rahayish, Wajh-i din, Book on Mathematics and Jami? al hikmatayn are among his other works.

Tehran meeting to review works by Jane Austen

TEHRAN – Iranian literati will come together in a session on Tuesday at Qoqunus Book Café in Tehran to review works by English novelist Jane Austen.

The review session will be attended by translators and critics Reza Rezai, Mahrokh Hemati, Sahar Beiranvand, Narges Entekhabi and Zohair Hanifeh.

Jane Austen, the globally acclaimed English author, has only completed a total of six works throughout her career. Nevertheless, she has successfully amassed a devoted following of fans worldwide.

Her captivating stories have been transformed into numerous films, TV series, and contemporary adaptations, while also being translated into various languages to transcend cultural barriers.

Today, she continues to be as popular as ever and is held in the highest regard among all the literary figures in the history of the English

language.

Jane Austen's six novels are not only rich in comedy, romance, wit, and satire, but they also serve as insightful reflections of her social and geographical environment in and around Hampshire, Bath, and Dorset.

The daughter of a Hampshire clergyman, Austen was born on 16 December 1775. At a tender age, she began to express herself through writing, creating an array of captivating dramatic sketches, playful spoofs, and enchanting poems.

In order of their publication, her novels are "Sense & Sensibility" (1811), "Pride & Prejudice" (1813), "Mansfield Park" (1814), "Emma" (1815), "Persuasion" (1817) and "Northanger Abbey" (1817). The latter two novels were published after Jane Austen's death.

All of her novels have been translated into Persian and have been published by various publications.

Tehran to host Cinéma Vérité in December

TEHRAN – The 17th edition of the Iran International Documentary Film Festival Cinema Verite will be held in December 2023 in Tehran.

Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC) which organizes the latest edition of the Cinema Verite in December 2023 in the Iranian capital of

Tehran released the call for accepting the documentaries in the festival.

According to the call, the sections of the festival include national competition, international competition, Martyr Avini Award, national and international side sections and commemoration.

Cinema Verite tries to represent the history and culture of Iranian Islamic society and present a real picture of what human is facing today in his/her individual and social life through documentary films.

The festival will focus on two national and international challenges of the water crisis

and the population issue in the 17th edition.

Enthusiasts and filmmakers to participate in the 17th Iran International Documentary Film Festival should refer to the festival secretariat located in No. 15, Martyr Qandi Sq., Sohrevardi St., Tehran.

“Barmy Barney the Barn Owl” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN –English writer Ann Jungman's children book “Barmy Barney the Barn Owl” has recently been published in Persian.

Kgoo is the publisher of the book translated by Masoumeh Navazani.

Originally published in 2013, the book is about the barn owls, who have lived in the barn at Hoden

Farm for as long as anyone can remember. But times are changing and developers are eyeing the barn. Grandma Millicent and Aunt Em have already been made homeless. So when Barney realizes it might happen to them, he is determined to do something for his family. Barney is a clever little owl, but it remains uncertain whether he possesses the necessary skills to rescue the family

home.

Ann Jungman was born in London, of German Jewish refugees. Before becoming an author, Ann trained as a lawyer and taught at a primary school. She has published over a hundred books including the “Vlad the Drac” series, “The Most Magnificent Mosque” and “Sasha and the Wolf”.