

TEHRAN PAPERS

Behind the scenes of Biden's messages to Iran

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

In an analysis, Javan discussed Washington's messages to Tehran and wrote: The self-desired crisis by the Zionist regime and its Western allies in the occupied territories has forced Joe Biden to seek Iran's help to reduce the current tension in the region. Biden's move to underplay his perceptual error of the ongoing war in Gaza is presented as a warning to Iran in a superior tone and literature to try to compensate for the White House's failure in the bloody events of the Middle East. Despite America's military support for the Zionist regime, the United States attributed attacks on its military bases in Syria and Iraq to Iran and asked the authorities of the Islamic Republic to stop these attacks. The U.S. Secretary of Defense claimed Iran has a role in these attacks and said the U.S. President ordered an attack on two weapons and ammunition facilities used by military groups supported by Iran.

Hamshahri: Compulsion to vote in favor of the UN resolution

In a commentary, Hamshahri explained Iran's yes vote for the resolution on Palestine and called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and end of hostilities in Gaza. It wrote: The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the United Nations explained about the vote for the resolution proposed by the Arab countries to stop the crimes of the Zionist regime against the oppressed people of Palestine, stating that Iran surely is finding fault with some parts of the resolution. He added any Iranian vote except yes for the resolution was playing on the playground of the Zionist regime and its supporters. But on the other hand, the Zionist regime and its supporters tried to firstly consider the operation by the resistance as a terrorist act, which was thwarted by the strong efforts and cohesion of the Islamic countries and the cooperation of some other countries; and secondly, they tried to create division among the countries.

Kayhan: Iran is a powerful global threat to the U.S.

In an article, Kayhan addressed the concerns of

the RAND think tank and said: The researchers in the American RAND Corporation say as Iran is becoming stronger, this country is no longer just a threat to the United States in the Middle East, but a global threat to the United States, and the relations between Russia and Iran after the massive invasion of Russia to Ukraine has changed and it has possible consequences for America. Russia's need for Iran's armed assistance has changed the nature of bilateral relations in which previously Russia was in a higher position and Iran was in a lower position. Although many agreements had already been signed, Iran seized the opportunity to motivate Russia to fulfill its commitments. Iran's possible acquisition of new fighters will be the most important development in the Air Force of the Islamic Republic. If a key change does not occur inside Russia or Iran and American policy does not change in the face of these two countries at a global level, there is a high probability that the convergence of Moscow and Tehran will continue to grow more steadily.

Arman-e-Melli: Economic prosperity with development of North-South corridor

Arman-e-Melli investigated the necessity of developing transit corridors in the North-South pass and wrote: One of the advantages of Iran is its strategic and geopolitical position, which is referred to as a transit intersection in the region. Therefore, the development of transit roads in Iran is considered the first link of economic development and domestic and international trade. In this regard, rail development in the North-South and East-West corridors is an inevitable necessity that the authorities are trying to improve. The importance of the North-South rail corridor is evident with the realization of the fact that, according to experts, the time for commercial ships from India to reach Central Asia will be reduced from 40 days to 14 days and transportation costs will be significantly reduced. The importance of this international transit passage is so great that the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow considers its completion essential.

Iranian Jews decry Israeli atrocities against Palestinians

"Do not kill in our name"

TEHRAN- Members of the Iranian Jewish community in various provinces including Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, Yazd, Kermanshah, and Kurdistan held gatherings on Monday to voice their strong opposition to the criminal acts of the Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip.

In a significant show of unity and solidarity, the Jewish community joined the chorus of voices denouncing the Israeli atrocities.

They strongly condemned the brutal killing of Palestinians, especially women and children, decrying the loss of innocent lives in the ongoing conflict.

The Jewish community conveyed a clear message while expressing their grievances: "Do not kill in our name."

The Isfahan Secretariat of Monotheistic Religions published a statement in which Isfahan's Jewish community emphasized their devotion to real Judaism, emphasizing brotherhood and compassion in contrast to the inauthenticity and oppression inherent in Zionist ideology.

An international law professor says Western states have provided cover for Israel's lawless extremism and possible end goal of massive dispossession and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

"By failing to advocate for a ceasefire, Western states have given a green light to Israel's agenda of 'collective punishment', which might itself be grotesque cover for the regime's end goal of massive dispossession and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people," Richard Falk, an international law scholar who taught at Princeton University for forty years, wrote in an article published by Middle East Eye on October 2.

In another move on Monday, academics from several universities in Tehran assembled before the UN representative office to show solidarity with the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to denounce the genocide committed by the Israeli regime against civilians.

Iranian academics brandished banners and



chanted slogans against Israel and the U.S., which is endorsing the Tel Aviv regime to carry out crimes against Gazans.

On October 25, thousands of students in Tehran also protested Israel's brutal airstrikes on Gazans. On October 22, students gathered at the University of Tehran to show sympathy for the Palestinian people.

Students throughout Iran also protested against the Israeli regime.

On October 19, a large crowd, including university students, assembled in front of the Swiss embassy in Tehran, which represents Washington's interest section in Iran, to protest the U.S. government's complete backing for the atrocities being committed by the Israeli regime.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the regime has only let the barest minimum of relief supplies to enter via the Rafah border crossing, which serves as Gaza's only land connection with Egypt.

However, according to UN authorities, the assistance supplies scarcely match the enormous requirements by 2.3 million residents in the besieged coastal enclave.

The Israeli regime has been conducting a brutal battle against the Gaza Strip since October 7, when Hamas launched the largest offensive against the occupying regime.

The surprise Palestinian operation, dubbed Al-Aqsa Storm, came in response to the regime's intensified and continuous crimes against the Palestinian people.

Iran cautions of new war fronts if U.S. keeps backing Israel

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's Foreign Minister, has warned that if the United States continues to back Israel in its "war crimes" and "genocide" against the Palestinian people in Gaza, the opening of new battlefronts will be "unavoidable".

Amir Abdollahian said in an interview with Bloomberg Television on Saturday that the United States' unwavering backing for Israel has exacerbated the regime's assault against the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas and the slaughter of civilians, particularly women and children.

"If the Israelis do not stop the war and continue with the killing and crimes against the Palestinians, the opening of new fronts will be unavoidable, and that will put Israel in a new situation that will make it regret its actions," he added.

"The U.S. is advising others to show self-restraint, but it has sided completely with Israel," he said, drawing attention to the U.S.'s blatant double standards.

Over 8,000 people have died in Gaza since the Israeli attack took place, with women and children accounting for 70% of the casualties.

The senior Iranian diplomat underscored that Washington's continuous unconditional backing for Israel would destabilize the region, and warned that it would be harmful to Washington as well.

Additionally, Amir Abdollahi-



an called Hamas's Al-Aqsa Storm a "completely Palestinian decision".

"Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah are groups that act in line with their own countries' interests. They neither take orders from us nor do we give them orders," he said.

In answer to a question regarding how to de-escalate tensions, the minister asked the United States to act fairly.

He said, "Iran has always played a constructive role in the region and believes that political approaches would reduce tensions."

Amir Abdollahian also emphasized that Iran has never supported and would never condone the slaughter of people anywhere, and that Israel's occupation is the primary cause of the current situation in the region.

He refuted a Wall Street Journal article that said hundreds of Pales-

tinian resistance members trained in Iran for specialized combat situations in the weeks before the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation.

"They themselves have forces to train. They produce the weapons and equipment they need. We have strong political bond with Hezbollah and resistance groups," he responded.

The minister stressed that Tehran will not be a bystander to regional developments, but he also denied allegations that more Iranian troops had been sent to Syria, Iraq, and other countries in the region since the outbreak of the current conflict in Gaza.

He said that Iran decides based on its interests, national security, and the state of the region.

Iran's chief diplomat added Israel is classified as an "occupying power" under international law.

Israel has cut off water, food, medicine, electricity and fuel to the be-

sieged Gaza Strip.

Richard Falk, an international law professor who taught at Princeton University, says, "Article 55 of Geneva IV sets forth the duty of Israel as occupying power to ensure that the people living in the territory it 'occupies' have adequate food, water and medicines."

Beginning on October 7, the Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement launched the largest offensive against Israel. The occupying regime has not seen such an attack in its 75-year history. The attack seriously shattered the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli regime.

The surprise Palestinian operation came in response to the regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

Iran, and Qatar urge immediate halt to Israel's onslaught against Gazans

On Sunday, the Iranian and Qatari foreign ministers also demanded an immediate halt to Israel's aggressive bombing raids on the beleaguered Gaza Strip.

Iran's Amir Abdollahian and Qatar's Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani emphasized that Israel's indiscriminate attacks against the enclave must end immediately.

They also demanded an uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

No place for ethics in US and certain European statesmen's discourse: Iran



TEHRAN- Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been severely condemned by the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who asserts that moral and humanitarian norms are completely absent from the political discourse of U.S. politicians and their European allies.

The remarks were made by Nasser Kanaani on Monday during a weekly news briefing in Tehran.

"I also offer my condolences to the international community and freedom-loving nations of the world for the death of ethics and humanitarian values in the lexicon of the U.S. administration and certain European countries," Kanaani said.

The top Iranian diplomat described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as more than catastrophic, emphasizing that Israeli aggression against the Palestinian nation has been ongoing for the past 75 years, and the heinous crimes committed by Israeli military forces against Gazans exposed the Tel Aviv regime's racist and apartheid nature.

Iran urges intl. legal committee to investigate Israeli war crimes

Kanaani further demanded the establishment of an international legal commission to look into Israel's war crimes in the Gaza Strip, stating that all four instances of international crimes - namely

crimes of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide - have been committed by the Tel Aviv regime against Palestinians.

"Sometimes all four crimes have been committed simultaneously," he said, adding that the legal pursuit and legal and international prosecution of war crimes is an international responsibility that must be especially shouldered by the UN.

"Israel has gone beyond all boundaries"

He also stressed that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has been legally following up on the Israeli atrocities, and that Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian noted during his recent speech at the United Nations headquarters in New York that Israel has waged over 20 wars in the West Bank region and is still occupying swathes of land from neighboring countries.

Iran, resistance common traits: fight against autocracy for independence

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN- To desperately link the Palestinian resistance groups' achievements to Iran, the New York Times titled its October 27 analysis as "The proxy forces Iran has assembled across the Middle East".

The October 7 uprising of Hamas against the Israeli tyranny, which was backed by various resistance groups, has raised significant concerns in the minds of Western think tanks which are hopelessly seeking answers for the causes of the uprising and reasons behind Tel Aviv's irreparable defeat.

Neil MacFarquhar, the writer of the analysis, accused Iran of expanding extremism, saying it has been the "pillars of Iran's foreign and security policy."

Resistance emulation from Iran

What the U.S. calls "militias under the support of Iran" are in fact the groups that stem from the body of society. Resistance fighters do not tolerate autocracy. They take the side of civilians and do not bend their knees in face of totalitarianism.

The propaganda run by the Western think tanks over Iran's armed support for resistance groups is nothing but a myth to deviate the public opinion.

The Islamic Revolution has shared its anti-tyranny discourse overseas.

The most important feature of the discourse of the Islamic Revolution is the necessity of a Tawhidic perspective among people, which refers to a worldview based on the Islamic concept of Tawhid, or the oneness of God.

People stand as another characteristic of the discourse. They should be regarded as the guardians and the main supporters of resistance. Resistance has survived and prospered since it has been backed by people.

The third major factor of the discourse is independence as dependence weakens the essence of any movement and deviates the movement from its main ideals.

The "neither East nor West" slogan has always been the guideline for Iran's foreign policy.

Meanwhile, resistance groups seem to have inherited the Islamic Revolution discourse.

Armed resistance, a response to the escalation of Israeli autocracy

The escalation of Israeli violence and its negligence over Palestinian rights left resistance fighters with no choice except to choose the path of "armed" resistance against the fake regime.

The armed resistance in Lebanon was also the result of the Israeli regime's attacks on Lebanon in 1948, 1978, 1982, 1993, and 1996.

The sharper language of Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant on October 9 further proved the regime's spotism.

Two days after the retaliatory operation by Hamas, Gallant addressed the Palestinian fighters and said: "We are fighting against human animals".

This is while Chinese officials took the opposite point. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Saudi Arabia counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in a call on October 15 that



"Israel's actions have gone beyond self-defense and it should heed the call of the international community and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to stop its collective punishment of the people in Gaza".

"The exercise of the right of self-defense should abide by international humanitarian law and should not be at the expense of innocent civilian casualties," Wang said in a call with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan later in October.

The rejection of Palestinian rights exacerbated the tensions in the Gaza Strip, Foreign Minister Wang said in talks with his Malaysian counterpart on October 21. "The Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in essence, stems from the constant occupation of Palestinian land and the long-term neglect of the Palestinian people's demands for statehood," Wang said.

Resistance, autonomous in action and thought

Some Western officials have kept claiming that the resistance groups take orders from Iran, but these movements are independent both

in their actions and decisions.

The design and implementation of the Storm operation proved that resistance groups are totally independent. While in complete blockade, resistance fighters carried out the operation on morning of October 7.

Despite the official statements of Matthew Miller, State Department spokesperson in his October 10 media briefing, and the U.S. intelligence community's statement over Iran's lack of involvement in the Hamas operation, some Western think tanks still insist on baseless speculations to link the Hamas operation to Iran.

Islamic teachings, commonality between resistance and Iran

The Islamic resistance means the persistence of Muslim countries, organizations, and individuals against the domination system and its allies.

Islamic teachings have made close boundaries between Iran and resistance groups, where the freedom-seekers do not let apartheid spread tyranny.

Air bombardment indicative of Israel failure: general

TEHRAN – A top Iranian general has said that Israel's continued airstrikes against the besieged Gaza Strip have no military value and are indicative of Israel's failure.

General Mohammad Bagheri, chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, said Monday Israel has failed no matter how long it continues bombarding the Gaza Strip.

"The crimes of the Zionists in Palestine are a big incident that once again showed that Palestine is the most important issue in the Islamic world and the importance of this issue should never be diminished," General Bagheri said, adding, "The Palestinian nation lost its land after a big crime 75 years ago and has been fighting to be freed from this prison for more than seven decades."

Referring to Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, he said, "This operation is the result of the accumulation of oppression and pressure by the Zionists and the criminal America against the Palestinians. Attributing this operation outside Palestine is aimed at covering up this big failure."

Bagheri continued, "An oppressed nation under siege was able to carry out such an operation with its indigenous design and weapons with a unique and flawless operation and destroy many Zionist concepts such as strong army and unparalleled security."

The top Iranian general pointed out that the usurped land of Palestine is not a place for Zionist



investment. He said, "The fake Israeli regime will not be a prop-up for unpopular governments in our region. This fake regime cannot maintain itself, let alone be a prop-up for other countries."

Underlining that the Zionist regime responded to this great and irreparable failure by committing crimes, General Bagheri noted, "The air operation is a sign of their defeat, an operation without military value compared to the operation of Palestinian fighters, which is full of value and trust."

He added, "Bombing innocent people and killing women and children shows their failure. The one who can't confront the fighter turns to killing the defenseless people, this is not a sign of the victory of the Zionist regime. If they continue the bombing for a year and destroys the people of Gaza,

they are the losers of this war."

Bagheri further said, "Shutting off the water, cutting off the electricity and bombing hospitals is not a sign of victory, it is a sign of failure."

The Israelis say they will enter Gaza by land but the Palestinians are waiting for them in Gaza, according to Bagheri.

Stating that Palestinian fighters are ready to respond to the Zionist attack, Bagheri said, "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm showed the failure of the Zionists in front of the world, and in the meantime, the increase in bombings does not affect the will of the Palestinian people."

The Iranian general also pointed to increasing global awareness of the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people. "People in different parts of the world have become aware of the sinister

goals of the Zionist regime, and these popular awakening movements have no historical precedent, and such a crowd has never come to the streets in defense of Palestine."

He said, "The Palestinians started their struggle with fists and stones, and today they continue with rockets and anti-tank weapons. What is decisive in wars is the presence of strong-willed people, and the Zionists do not have such people. Palestine has decided to rise up and take its right instead of gradual death."

General Bagheri stated, "One of the reasons for Palestine's victory is the attention to passive defense, and they created more than 400 kilometers of tunnels in this area, and this led to their victory."

He stressed that a dark future awaits the Zionist aggressors.

Israel's mythical image shattered by Al-Aqsa Storm: intel minister

TEHRAN – Iran's Intelligence Minister on Monday hailed the Hamas resistance movement's recent offensive against Israel, saying the move helped reveal the true colors of the Israeli regime.

"This surprising and irreparable attack has shattered the entire security apparatus of the Zionist regime, a regime that created a mythical image and a Hollywood-like portrayal for itself and emphasized it for years," explained Esmail Khatib.

The official added that Israel liked to call its military the 4th most powerful in the world. That premise was completely rejected after the regime's colossal security and military defeat against Palestinians, according to the intelligence minister.

Khatib stressed that the October 7 successful Palestinian operation wasted every effort the Israeli regime and U.S. had made in the past decades.

"This regime was shattered by a powerful, committed, motivated, and jihadi-oriented force with an operation that did not have the equipment, facilities, information, and organization comparable to the fully armed and trained military, a military which was backed by powerful entities of the world and the self-proclaimed superpower, the United States," the minister said, noting that according to confessions by Israel and the U.S., the regime can never go back to how things were before the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation.

The official also stressed that the U.S. has decided to take over and mastermind the current attacks by the Israeli regime against the people of Gaza. "The Zionist regime, in order to demonstrate and consolidate its power position, engaged in direct management and command by America and the official presence of American officers..., launched a confrontation that aims strengthen its power and influence by committing crimes, killing civilians, and continuous bombings," he said, adding that Israel's relentless crimes against civilians has turned the public opinion against it.

Khatib also called for the U.S. to be held accountable for facilitating the brutal killing of Palestinians at the hands of Israel.

Azeri president allocates funds for construction of road connecting Azerbaijan to Iran

TEHRAN – Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has signed a decree allowing the Azerbaijani government press ahead with the construction of a new road connecting the Republic of Azerbaijan to Iran.

The new road links the Horadiz-Jabrayil-Zangilan-Aghband highway to Iran, according to Azerbaijani outlet Azer News.

The decree also included the construction of a bridge over the Aras River on the border with Iran.

A total of 14 million manat (\$8.2 million) will be allocated from the reserve fund of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan provided for in the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2023 to the State

Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads in order to continue work on the construction of the new road and the bridge.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Finance was instructed to provide financing in the amount specified in part 1 of this decree, according to Azer News.

In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan was instructed to resolve issues arising from this decree.

Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have intensified their efforts to boost their ties, especially by fostering connectivity between the two sides. To this end, Iranian Transport Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash paid a visit to Baku, where he discussed joint projects to increase trade and connectivity.

Iran to send ship carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) said on Monday that it will soon send a ship carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza via Egypt.

Pir Hossein Kulivand, the head of the IRCS, said the ship will carry aid provided by the Iranian people to Egypt and then will be delivered to Gaza via Egypt.

"So far, a lot of aid from the people has been delivered to the Red Crescent Society," Kulivand said, according to Fars News.

The Iranian official also criticized the pace at with aid is getting into Gaza. He said aid is being delivered to Gaza very slowly and in a very limited amount.



"So far, perhaps no more than 90 aid trucks from the people have been delivered to Gaza," Kulivand said.

The IRCS has launched an aid collection campaign since the start of the Israeli aggression against Gaza. The Iranian people have donated a considerable amount of money in humanitarian aid to the IRCS to be ultimately delivered to the besieged Gaza Strip.

19 terrorists linked to MKO arrested in southeast Iran

TEHRAN – In a joint statement on Monday, the General Directorate of Intelligence of Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, along with the Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), announced the arrest of 19 members of the Mujahedine-e-Khalq terrorist organization.

"Upon receiving the initial information, the Iranian intelligence forces took a series of joint intelligence and operational actions, and while closely monitoring and spotting the movements of the MKO members, they identified the affiliated group in a coordinated action and arrested 19 of its members in the province," said the statement.

The joint announcement also emphasized that in recent months, the MKO had been involved in



identifying, recruiting, and training individuals through online platforms. These individuals were later utilized to carry out activities such as assassinations of prominent ethnic and religious figures, instigating riots, causing damage to public property, attacking military

and law enforcement centers, and disseminating destructive messages during Friday prayer ceremonies in the province.

The MKO has long been attempting to spread discord in the southeastern region based on ethnic and religious diversity.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, various attempts have been made by the United States, the Israeli regime, as well as their regional allies to subvert and confront the Islamic Republic of Iran. After the failure of the so-called maximum pressure campaign against Tehran, the U.S., Britain, and Israel have poured their efforts into targeting Iran's security. Supporting the MKO terror organization has been on their agenda.

Iran blind and visually impaired athletes better than expectations

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iran's blind and visually impaired athletes won 43 medals in the 2022 Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games.

Iran's federations for disabled sports, blind and partially impaired sports, rowing, taekwondo, and triathlon were all part of the fourth edition of the 2022 Asian Para Games.

In this edition of the Para Asian competition, Iranian blind and visually impaired athletes secured 14 gold, 16 silver, and 13 bronze medals in six sports, contributing to 32 percent of the Iranian delegation's total medal count.

The performance of Iranian blind and visually impaired athletes at the 2022 Asian Para Games was exceptional, as nearly everyone in the delegation won medals, except for Khadijah Abdi in athletics and the women's goalball team who finished fourth.

The Iran Blind and Visually Impaired Sports Federation fielded a team of 63 athletes in athletics, chess, judo, goalball, and 5-a-side football at Hangzhou. Their outstanding efforts resulted in a remarkable achievement of eight gold medals in athletics, four in chess, and two in judo.

Sprinter Mehrdad Moradi and chess player Maliheh Safaei were the standout performers for the Iranian delegation at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, winning two and four gold medals respectively.

The Iran Blind and Visually Impaired Sports Federation was a prime example of successful "qualitative delegation" as they sent athletes with a high probability of winning medals to the 2022 Asian Para Games, in accordance with Iran's sports authorities' primary goal.

Iran super heavyweight powerlifter aims to win gold in Paris

HANGZHOU, China – Ahmad Aminzadeh, who won a gold medal in the 2022 Asian Para Games, is going to snatch a gold in the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.

Aminzadeh and Mahdi Sayadi of Iran claimed a gold and silver medal respectively in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

Aminzadeh lifted 266kg and came first in the +107kg. His countryman Sayadi won the silver with 244kg. The bronze medal went to Jordan's Jamil Saleh Elshebli with 235kg.

"From now on, I will do my best to win a gold medal in Paris. I know that it will be a very hard task but I am determined to reach my goal," Aminzadeh said.

"I think the level of the competition was high. I am glad to help my country to finish in the second place," he add.

Sayadi also is so happy to win a medal in his first official tournament.

"For me, the silver medal is very special because this is my first official tournament. I hope to continue my achievements in the future," Sayadi said.

A total of 128 male athletes represented Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes competed in 11 events. Iran had finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games was "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation was "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 took place from Oct. 22 to 28. About 3,000 athletes competed across 22 sports.

Iran defender Pouraliganji undergoes surgery

TEHRAN – Iran and Persepolis football teams defender Morteza Pouraliganji underwent successful surgery on Sunday.

The defender suffered an ACL injury in the match against Qatar in the Jordan's football tournament in mid-October.

Pouraliganji will definitely miss the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, where Iran are drawn along with the UAE, Hong Kong and Palestine.

Pouraliganji's absence in Persepolis will be a blow for the Reds since they are going to defend their title in the Iran Professional League.

Persepolis also are a candidates to win the group in the 2023/24 AFC Champions League but his absence can endanger their position.

FIVB President receives warm welcome during Beach Volleyball Worlds

TEHRAN – Media, fans and beach volleyball enthusiasts warmly welcomed FIVB President Dr Ary S. Graça F during his stay in Mexico for the magnificent FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships, showcasing the nations enthusiasm and passion for sport.

While media were interested in getting the FIVB President's impressions on Mexico's first ever Beach Volleyball World Championships and the upcoming Olympic Games Paris 2024, local fans and beach volleyball enthusiasts were keen to discuss their favourite teams, take photos and collect autographs as lasting memories.

Reflecting on his experience, the FIVB President said: "I was extremely pleased to see such a huge interest from both media and fans at the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships in Mexico. I would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and dedication to making this tournament really special and for joining the celebration of our sport.

"It was a great pleasure for me not only to speak to many media outlets and share my experience of this event, but also discuss the future of beach volleyball and next year's Olympic Games Paris 2024.

"And of course, I was very touched to meet so many passionate volleyball fans here in Mexico who were cheering for the teams at the venues and talking to us on the streets of Tlaxcala. The whole region celebrated our sport during the World Championships, this was truly amazing and will contribute to the event's legacy!"

Parents of Liverpool's Diaz kidnapped in Colombia

TEHRAN – Colombian President Gustavo Petro said on Saturday that the mother of Colombia and Liverpool player Luis Diaz had been rescued after being kidnapped in northern Colombia but that officials were still searching for his missing father.

The Colombian attorney general's office earlier said it assembled a team of investigators to search for the couple in Barrancas, a municipality in Colombia's northern La Guajira province.

The National Police confirmed the rescue of Diaz's mother, Cilenis Marulanda, and said she spoke with Director William Rene Salamanca. In a video, Salamanca said he is using every agent to find Diaz's father.

The parents of the 26-year-old Diaz were reportedly kidnapped as they drove to their home. Gunmen on motorbikes stopped them and drove them away in the vehicle, authorities said.

Liverpool released a statement on Sunday confirming that they were aware of the situation.

"It is our fervent hope that the matter is resolved safely and at the earliest possible opportunity," the statement read. "In the meantime, the player's welfare will continue to be our immediate priority."

The forward was not named in Liverpool's Premier League game at Anfield against Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

"We had to obviously make a late change because of the private situation involving Luis Diaz," Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said ahead of the game.

"It's a worrying situation for all of us and it was a pretty tough night. I have never had that before, it's a new experience I never needed."

Colombia's soccer federation said in a statement the kidnapping was regrettable and urged authorities to rescue the father.

Diaz, who has played 43 times for Colombia, has not commented on the incident.

Annual ceramic, tiles production stands at 720m cubic meters

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Ceramic Producers Association (IRCPS) has said over 140 ceramic and tile production units are currently active across the country which produce 720 million cubic meters of products every year.

“Today, all kinds of ceramic tiles in different sizes and designs are produced in the country, and fortunately, the production technology of the ceramic tile industry has been localized in Iran, while until a few years ago, all the equipment used in this industry was imported from Italy, Spain and China,” Morteza Saftarizadeh told IRIB on Monday.

He pointed to the investment of more than \$5.0 billion in the tile and ceramic industry's production units and supply chain, saying: “Fortunately, the private sector's efforts to have a serious presence in this industry has resulted in the increase of production by domestic manufacturers, and now there are 120,000 people working directly in this industry.”

The official mentioned cheap energy, the existence of rich mines and the development of related industries in the supply chain as the advantages of this industry, noting that such advantages have made the production more



cost efficient.

According to Saftarizadeh, currently, Iran is the fifth largest producer of ceramic tiles in the world, and more than 46 percent of the country's total production is exported.

“The products of Iran's tile and ceramic industry have customers in 52 countries, of which we have exported to 28 countries constantly in the past several years. Also, the quality and variety of Iranian products have attracted the interest of extra-regional countries as well,” he said.

Regarding the imports of ceramic and tile, the official said the country currently does not have any imports in this industry and all the country's needs are met by domestic producers.

Commodities worth nearly \$650m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 2,792,668 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$649 million on its physical market.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,217,411 tons of commodities valued at more than \$390 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,284,994 tons of cement, 397,000 tons of iron ore, 365,147 tons of steel, 171,000 tons of sponge iron, 9,400 tons of zinc, 6,775 tons of copper, 6,545 tons of aluminum, 500 tons of coke, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 125 tons of lead.

Based on this report, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 406,916 tons of commodities worth more than \$206 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 160,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 95,276 tons of polymeric products, 95,503 tons of bitumen, 36,536 tons of chemicals, 14,000 tons of lube cut, 6,028 tons of oil, 850 tons of sulfur, 802 tons of petroleum products, 350 tons of waterproofing materials and 270 tons of feedstocks.

The IME also traded within the same week 74,341 tons of goods on its side market.

As previously reported, IME witnessed trade of 13,344,275 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$3 billion on its physical market during the past Iranian calendar month (ended on October 22), logging growths

of 11.6 percent in volume and 8.4 percent in value of trades compared with the month before that.

The exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor, trade of 11,306,756 tons of commodities valued at nearly \$2 billion.

On this floor the IME sold 6,074,037 tons of cement, 2,552,000 tons of iron ore, 1,817,919 tons of steel, 825,000 tons of sponge iron, 36,635 tons of copper, 27,620 tons of aluminum, 3,475 tons of zinc, 2,975 tons of cast iron, 1,000 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke and 45 tons of precious metals concentrate.

It's worth noting that the IME also traded 1,150 kg of saffron on its agricultural trading floor.

Moreover, the exchange saw trade of 1,916,459 tons of commodities worth more than \$991 million on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 632,689 tons of bitumen, 519,200 tons of vacuum bottom, 401,991 tons of polymeric products, 163,080 tons of lube cut, 158,650 tons of chemicals, 27,870 tons of sulfur, 23,399 tons of oil, 10,618 tons of petroleum products, 2,140 tons of waterproofing materials, 1,380 tons of feedstocks and 1,000 tons of slop wax.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 121,158 tons of goods.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

TEDPIX rises 20,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 20,262 points (1.03 percent) to 1,981,572 on Monday.

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).

In a message on the occasion of the New Year, Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Majid Eshqi mentioned the measures taken by this organization in the past year, and explained the priorities and key plans of SEO in 1402.

In his message, the official wrote:

The Securities and Exchange Organization has always tried to lay the ground for the continuation of sustainable growth and increase the efficiency of the capital market by carrying out structural reforms, and in this regard, five key programs are prioritized:

1- Indirect investment development: In the past year, a good amount of diversity was created in indirect investment instruments, especially investment funds, and we continue to focus on deepening these new and efficient instruments and promoting them for investors.

2- Creating a platform for transparent and diverse financing: By defining technical and legal infrastructures to facilitate micro and macro financing by the private and non-governmental sectors, a new chapter of financing projects and businesses was established, and the government was able to implement its plan to transfer the shares of companies along with the transfer of operational management without harming the capital market. The initial offering of shares of businesses based on new technologies was also a big step towards the financing of knowledge-based companies, which will be followed seriously in the current year in a higher volume and of course according to the market capacities.

Iran rises 10 places in terms of economy among 191 countries: IMF

TEHRAN – The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Economic Outlook Report dubbed “Navigating Global Divergences”, has positively revised its forecast for Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2023, expecting the country's economy to grow 3.0 percent this year.

Based on the report, Iranian economy has improved 10 places among the world's 191 countries to stand at the 90th place above the UK, the Netherland and Hungary.

The Islamic Republic stood at the 100th place among the world's economies in 2022, according to the IMF's previous reports.

The fund had estimated the Islamic Republic's GDP growth at 2.5 percent for 2023, in its previous report published in July.

The entity also revised its estimation for the Islamic Republic's economic growth in 2022, putting the country's GDP growth for the mentioned year at 3.8 percent. In the July report, Iran's economic growth for 2022 was estimated to be 3.5 percent.

The 3.8 percent growth of



Iran's economy in 2022 was higher than the average growth of the world economy this year and more than the economic growth of many countries, including Canada, China, Germany, South Korea, and the United States.

The report has said inflation in Iran which was reported to be 45.8 percent in 2022 is expected to increase to 47 percent in 2023 and then fall to 32.5 percent in 2024.

Iran's GDP including oil grew 6.2 percent in the first quarter of

the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), compared to the first quarter of last year, according to the Central Bank of Iran (CB).

Based on the CBI data, the figure excluding oil increased by 5.2 percent, IRNA reported.

As announced previously by the central bank, Iran's GDP grew four percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

The CBI put the GDP growth at 3.5 percent excluding oil.

According to CBI data, the GDP

growth was positive in all four quarters of the previous year so that from the first quarter to the end of the fourth quarter of the said year, the economic growth rate of the country was 1.9 percent, 3.9 percent, 4.9 percent, and 5.3 percent, respectively.

As reported, based on the fixed prices in the Iranian year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017), the country's GDP stood at 15.15 quadrillion rials (about \$30.7 billion) including the oil sector, and at 13.8 quadrillion rials (about \$28.13 billion) excluding the oil sector in the past year.

Inflation rate falls 0.6%



TEHRAN – The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on October 22, which marks the end of the seventh Iranian

calendar month Mehr, at 45.5 percent, falling 0.6 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the sixth month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 39.2 percent in the seventh month, which means families have paid an average of 39.2 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The point-to-point inflation rate dropped 0.3 percent in the seventh month from the previous month.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the

average inflation rate in the twelve-month period that ended on March 20, 2023, which marks the end of the past Iranian calendar year 1401, at 45.8 percent.

The center had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period that ended on March 20, 2022 (the end of the Iranian calendar year 1400) at 40.2 percent and that of the Iranian calendar year 1399 at 36.4 percent.

In mid-July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an economic outlook report said inflation in Iran which was reported to be 49 percent in 2022 is expected to fall to 42 percent in 2023 and then to 30 percent in 2024.

NPC, Energy Ministry collaborating to ensure sustained power supply to petchem plants

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has said the company is collaborating with the Energy Ministry to ensure sustained power supply to the petrochemical plants across the country, NIPNA reported.

“In the path of developing the petrochemical industry and implementing new projects, we are looking for sustainable energy supply with the cooperation of the Ministry of Energy,” Morteza Shahmirzaei said.

Speaking in a meeting with the representatives of the Energy Ministry's Niroo Research Institute (NRI) and the Oil Ministry's Institute of International Energy Studies, Shahmirzaei referred to energy



resources as the vital artery of industry and economy, saying: “The parliament's recent resolution regarding the formation of the “Consumption Optimization Organization” is an effective and desirable measure for managing optimal energy consumption in the country.”

He noted that interactions

between related organizations and ministries increase the country's productivity, adding that “due to the positive approach of the government in the field of energy and considering the existing energy-related commonalities between the Oil Ministry and the Ministry of Energy, we pay special attention to the continuation of cooperation and greater interaction with these ministries.”

Referring to the implementation of new petrochemical projects across the country, Shahmirzaei emphasized: “I advise the operators of petrochemical projects to support the Ministry of Energy by providing part of the electricity needs of the

adjacent villages and towns in addition to their own needs.”

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

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

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

Loading, unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port hits 21.4m tons in H1

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, 21.4 million tons of commodities have been loaded and unloaded in Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

Aboutaleb Geraylou, the head of Khuzestan's Ports and Maritime Department, said that of the mentioned figure, 11,766 million tons were the non-oil goods, and 9,633 million tons were the oil products.

Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has announced that the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by three percent in the first six months of the present year.

The PMO reported that 111,806,313 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the first half of this year.

Of the mentioned figure, 74,415,327 tons were related to loading, and 37,392,654 tons

were related to unloading.

The loading of goods in the mentioned period also increased by nine percent as compared to the figure for the previous year's same six months.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,432,672 TEUs, which was five percent more than the 1,284,604 TEUs in the first six months of the past year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic



commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in the course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

Angels of Gaza

By Mona Hojat Ansari

Children in Gaza face an increasingly dire reality that has transformed everyday life into a nightmarish existence. The pervasive lack of access to essential resources, including food, water, fuel, and adequate sanitation, coupled with relentless bombings, has turned their lives into an ongoing battlefield within the besieged territory.

Tragically, the number of casualties has surpassed 8,300, with an alarming proportion consisting of innocent children. Israel has launched an extensive media campaign, attempting to dehumanize and justify the brutal killings of Gaza's civilian population. Deliberate targeting of hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, and other places of shelter persists as the world bears witness with eyes wide open.

Heartrending measures have become necessary as parents resort to writing their children's names on their bodies, preparing for the grim task of identifying their young, mutilated corpses in the event of a white phosphorus bomb strike—a weapon that inflicts severe damage and eats away at human flesh. Arab states appear unresponsive to the plight, while the West, with an alarming determination, continues to support the appalling crimes committed by the Israeli regime.

Trapped in Gaza, the children find themselves in a race against time for survival. Apart from having



their anguishing images shared on social media, their imminent plight seems to be getting disregarded by everyone else, in particular the mainstream media in the West. Even prominent American media outlets, self-proclaimed champions of human rights, prefer airing the antics of Israeli pets rather than the immense suffering that's been endured by Palestinian children in the past 24 days.

According to a nongovernmental organization called Save the Children, more Palestinian children have been killed in Gaza in the last three weeks than the total killed around the world in each of the last four years. "The number of children reported killed in just three weeks in Gaza is more than the number killed in armed conflict globally—across more than 20 countries—over the course of a whole year, for the last

three years," noted the NGO's report published on Sunday, warning that a potential ground offensive by Israel into Gaza would bring even more distress to Palestinian children.

The U.S. of course has resorted to its usual tactic of engaging in the blame game. Last week, U.S. President Joe Biden expressed doubt regarding the figures released by Palestinians. "I have no confidence in the number that Palestinians are using," he said, adding that he has no notion "Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed". The White House later cited Hamas' alleged control over Gaza's Health Ministry to put the figures to question. It has however failed to elaborate on its strategy for ascertaining the "true" number of Palestinian casualties or outline any concrete steps to address the ongoing loss of life.

In response to Biden's remarks, the Palestinians Health Ministry in Gaza released the list of the Palestinians killed since October 7, while pairing each name with a government identification number. The list contained more than 150 pages and showed that more than 7000 Palestinians had been killed as of October 26. Nearly 3,000 of the dead were children.

"The number of children reported killed in just three weeks in Gaza is more than the number killed in armed conflict globally over the course of a whole year, for the last three years."

While the U.S. pushes to marginalize the Palestinians and their struggle, the Tehran Times has decided to honor the memory of 1,000 of the Palestinian children who have been massacred by the Israeli regime over the past three weeks. We hope that such heart-wrenching tragedies come to an end and that the Palestinian children's right to live is respected by the Israeli regime and the West.

Hezbollah surprises Israeli regime again

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- Lebanon's Hezbollah targets Israeli military installations, troops and destroys a sophisticated spying network.

Since the Palestinian resistance launched the al-Aqsa Storm Operation, hostilities have gradually flared up between Hezbollah and Israeli forces on the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine.

Hezbollah has taken an iron fist approach to defend Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Lebanese organization, which forced the Israeli occupation out of Lebanon in the year 2000 and defeated the regime again when it launched a war on Lebanon in July 2006, is now engaging the regime again militarily.

Experts believe events on the border are not exactly tit-for-tat exchanges, but far from a full-blown-out war either.

The exchange of fire has inflicted losses and casualties on both sides.

On Monday, Israeli media reported that another regime's soldier has been killed, and three others have been injured after their tank was overturned in the north, on the border with Lebanon.

This is while Hezbollah announced the martyrdom of Mohammad Najib Halawi from the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Kila.

It's been this way for some two weeks now.

Hezbollah is a formidable force in Lebanon, and its impressive military capabilities have been on show once again.

On Friday, the organization published a video detailing the functions of Israel's technical and spying equipment in 42 locations on the border, how they operate and the security threat they pose to all Lebanese people, across all of Lebanon and its borders with other Arab countries.

The Israeli equipment includes day and night thermal monitoring and surveillance cameras, different types of radar towers, embedded systems,

and naval monitoring systems.

The Israeli intelligence systems that contact traitors in Lebanon are also shown in the video as well as sophisticated spying network technology, all of which are controlled by Israeli military operators far away from the border.

The four-minute clip, which begins with a narration stating "these are not defensive positions that the Zionist entity portrays them to be", concludes with Hezbollah missiles, rockets and gunfire either destroying the Israeli equipment or damaging them to the extent they are out of service.

At one point, a precision guided missile is shown being fired toward a radar tower with a direct hit.

Hezbollah says the damage it inflicted in destroying the equipment is a huge blow to the Israeli spying and monitoring network in Lebanon.

By the same token, Hezbollah says the calculated attacks go a long way to serving Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its people.

The organization has also been targeting Israeli military vehicles, tanks, and troops in response to Israeli attacks on Southern Lebanon.

The men it has lost are being labeled as the "martyrs on the path to al-Quds", in reference to the Israeli occupied Palestinian city that hosts the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, also known as Jerusalem.

Israeli occupation forces continue to target forests in various areas of the Lebanese border with incendiary shells, which has led to the outbreak of a number of fires.

On Monday, the occupation regime acknowledged the death of a first sergeant in the Israeli army on the northern front, announcing that he was killed as a result of another tank being hit in the area.

On Sunday, Hezbollah announced that it had targeted points of the Israeli army on the Lebanon-occupied Palestine border.

Hezbollah confirmed in a statement that "after careful follow-up and monitoring" its forces located



an Israeli infantry force in the al-Malikiyah area and its surroundings (in southern Lebanon), which was immediately targeted "with appropriate weapons, inflicting confirmed casualties".

In a separate statement, the group said that it had targeted the al-Samaqa area in the occupied Lebanese Sheba'a farms with "appropriate weapons" that led to "direct hits" on Israeli forces.

The group also announced that its forces targeted an Israeli drone with a surface-to-air missile, hitting it directly, and it was spotted within eyesight as it fell into the occupied Palestinian territories.

Military bases belonging to the illegal American presence in Iraq and Syria have come under attack dozens of times by local forces already.

Experts have said the silence of the Hezbollah leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, since Hamas staged the October 7 Storm operation, has frightened the Israeli regime, as it remains clueless whether another front will open on the north.

The occupation regime may not have to wait too much longer.

The Hezbollah secretary-general will deliver a speech on Friday, November 3, 2023, at 15:00 local time, during a ceremony honoring the "martyrs on the path to al-Quds".

It is a widely anticipated speech in which the Hezbollah chief will no doubt address his party's position on the war on Gaza as well as the devastating Israeli bombardment on the completely blockaded coastal enclave.

WORLD HEADLINES

Germans must be ready for war – defense chief

A new war in Europe is no longer unthinkable and German society must adapt to this reality, Defense Minister Boris Pistorius has claimed as he called for increased military spending.

In an interview with Germany's ZDF broadcaster on Sunday, Pistorius insisted that Germans "must again get used to the thought that the danger of a war in Europe could pose a threat." Discussing Berlin's defense capabilities, the minister called on his compatriots to "become war-capable."

The official cited the Ukraine conflict as well as hostilities between Israel and Hamas as proof that fighting could also erupt elsewhere.

Pistorius brushed off criticism that Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government has been too slow to build up the German armed forces, claiming that they are working as rapidly as possible to make up for 30 years of neglect and underfunding. The minister promised that the Bundeswehr would be unrecognizable in three- or four-years' time, and suggested that the German military is already among the strongest in NATO and Europe.

Commenting on the situation in the Middle East, Pistorius argued that the current conflict was about "Israel's right to self-defense and right to exist," with which Germany "unconditionally" agrees. According to the minister, it is Berlin's "duty to stand on the side of Israel" while trying to prevent further escalation.

Germany wants gas from Nigeria – Scholz

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz landed in Nigeria on Sunday as part of a two-nation tour of West Africa, which Greens legislator Anton Hofreiter believes is motivated by the realization that Germany and Europe need Africa more than they previously thought.

"People realized we needed allies against Russia's invasion of Ukraine... And suddenly we noticed they weren't necessarily on our side... That was a rude awakening," Reuters quoted Hofreiter as saying ahead of Scholz's trip.

The chancellor's trip to Africa, his third since taking office in 2021 and his second this year, comes as Berlin seeks new energy sources as it transitions away from relying on Moscow for gas supplies amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Nigeria has the largest gas reserves in Africa. German companies have an interest in gas supplies from Nigeria and look forward to working with Nigerian gas companies," Scholz told local newspaper the Punch.

He said Germany recognizes Africa's largest economy as a key partner on the continent, both politically and economically, and is interested in strengthening those ties.

"Germany has a significant need for

natural gas and, in the future, hydrogen for its economy and its energy transition," the German leader said, calling for joint initiatives with Nigeria "to establish a corresponding market."

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu said he had a "very deep discussion" with Scholz about gas investments and urged German companies to invest in pipelines in Nigeria.

"I know Germany has advanced a lot in protecting the environment and modernizing energy to meet the 21st century needs of both the world and Europe in particular. Nigeria is still crawling, but we are determined to change the narrative and bring about a transformative government in the country," Tinubu said.

China and Russia take aim at US at Chinese military forum

The Chinese and Russian military chiefs targeted the United States for criticism at a security forum in Beijing on Monday, even as China's second most senior military commander vowed to boost defense ties with Washington.

The lack of regular communications between the U.S. and Chinese militaries has been a worry for Washington as tensions rise over various issues and given the risks of an accidental clash in the South China Sea or near Taiwan.

The Xiangshan Forum, China's biggest annual show of military diplomacy, began on Sunday without a Chinese Defence Minister, who typically hosts the event, but including a U.S. delegation.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu warned the West that its involvement in the Ukraine war created grave danger.

"The Western line of steady escalation of the conflict with Russia carries the threat of a direct military clash between nuclear powers, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences," Russia's TASS state news agency cited Shoigu as saying at the forum.

Shoigu said the West intended to inflict "strategic defeat" on Russia in what he called a "hybrid war", and praised Russia-China relations as "exemplary", Russian state media reported.

Zhang Youxia, vice chairman, under President Xi Jinping, of China's Central Military Commission, delivered veiled criticism of the United States and its allies, accusing "some countries" of trying to undermine China's government.

But Zhang also stressed the need for improving military ties with the United States.

"We will deepen strategic cooperation and coordination with Russia and are willing to, on the basis of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, develop military ties with the U.S.," Zhang said in an address closely watched by military attaches and diplomats.

Zhang held talks with Shoigu on the sidelines of the forum, China's Xinhua state media reported.

People worldwide stage pro-Palestinian rally

TEHRAN- The pro-Palestinian demonstrations drew large crowds worldwide on October 30.

People in Spain protested against Israeli war crimes once again on Monday.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in Spanish cities to support Palestinians and call for an end to Israeli attacks on civilians.

In Madrid, the government estimated that around 35,000 protesters attended the protests, including various government ministers.

At the same march in the Spanish capital, Spain's Social Rights Minister Ione Belarra called for an end to the "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians.

Head of the far-left party Podemos, Belarra also criticized European governments, including Spain's, for being "complicit" in "this planned genocide" and not doing enough to stop it. She is urging countries to break

diplomatic ties with Israel and impose sanctions.

In Valencia, around 12,000 people flooded the street with the same goals, chanting slogans like "They are hospitals, not military bases."

In Granada, around 1,000 people took to the streets, presenting a manifesto that began: "The criminal actions of Hamas deserve our energetic condemnation, but they cannot serve to justify the genocide that Israel is carrying out on the Palestinian people."

This is the third week that people around Spain have taken to the streets to voice their support for the besieged and bombarded civilians in Gaza, Anadolu news agency reported.

Meanwhile, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters poured onto the streets of Brooklyn, New York's largest district to voice their anger at Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

Home to between 1.6 and two million Jews and hundreds of thousands of Muslims, New York has for the past three weeks been rocked by demonstrations and rallies in support of the Palestinians.



A march in support of Palestine also passed through the streets of Warsaw.

Several hundred people participated in the pro-Palestine march, reports the Gazeta Wyborcza daily. Some carried banners saying "Opposition to genocide is not antisemitism" and "Solidarity with the Palestinian resistance".

Among those who spoke was Maciej Konieczny, an MP from The Left (Lewica), a group that is part of the opposition coalition preparing to form a new government following parliamentary elections earlier this month.

"The ongoing massacre [in Gaza] is an unjustifiable crime," he said, quoted by Gazeta Wyborcza. "No one has the right to do what Israel is doing now."

Since the intensified operation began on Friday night, Israeli airstrikes have hit more than 600 Hamas targets, including weapons depots and anti-tank missile launch sites, Israel said. Israeli forces massacred many Gaza civilians.

About a thousand Palestinians have been martyred in Gaza since Friday, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health, bringing the overall death toll there to more than 8,000.

After two nights and a day of internet and phone service outages, Palestinian communications came back on Sunday. Across Gaza and beyond, Palestinians expressed relief as families were able to reach loved ones.

Exhibition of Chinese artworks opens in Tehran



TEHRAN – A collection of Chinese objects, dating from the 17th to the 20th centuries, has been put on show at the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex, northern Tehran.

Iranian Deputy Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian, his Chinese counterpart Lu Ying Chuang, and some other officials and experts from the two nations attended the opening ceremony held on Sunday.

The exhibit features a selection of 80 most refined works of art (from the treasure trove of the former royal complex), the report said.

The works are made of porcelain, wood, semi-precious stones, ivory, satin fabrics, and silk thread, and they date back to the 17th to 20th centuries.

Among the highlights are objects decorated with "sgraffito" skill that first applies two or more layers of contrasting slip or glaze to a piece of pottery, then scratches the surface with a sgraffito tool to reveal the layers of color underneath.

According to organizers, the exhibition seeks to put the spotlight on the general culture of the Chinese people and the Far East from the distant past to the present day, the report said.

Earlier this year, Shalbfafian called for closer tourism ties with China. Having cultural and historical commonalities, Iran and China have the potential to

deepen tourism relations. They can even lay the ground for further progress in the tourism scene of the Eurasia region, the official stated.

He made the remarks at a tourism forum held in China, adding: "The people of Iran and China have many cultural commonalities with each other, and, for example, the Chinese Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) has many harmonies with the Iranian Nowruz."

In 2019, the Islamic Republic waived the visa requirement for Chinese nationals willing to visit the country. The decision was made to attract more foreign tourists to the country; however, it was a unilateral measure, because Iranian tourists visiting China still need visas.

Covering 110 hectares of a mountainside parkland in northern Tehran, the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex used to be a royal summer residence during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras. The complex was initially established and inhabited by some Qajar monarchs in the 19th century. It has undergone further expansions from the 1920s until the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The site embraces a variety of buildings, some of which turned out to be house museums showcasing a wide range of royal families' memorabilia, including lavishly made furniture, dishware, automobiles, carpets, and miniature paintings.

Japan's adrenaline-fueled adventure

The Kitayama River is the only place in Japan where highly skilled helmsmen are keeping the ancient tradition of log rafting, or "ikada-kudari", alive.

Slender cedar trees towered over us as we drove along a winding mountain road straddling the borders of the Japanese prefectures of Wakayama, Nara and Mie. On one side, the forest rose abruptly on the steep hillside; on the other, at the bottom of a vertiginous drop, the Kitayama River was visible between the gaps in the trees.

The valley widened when we reached a small village, also called Kitayama, in Wakayama. To the right, there was a tourism center, a souvenir shop and a hot spring-fitted guesthouse and, to the left, a collection of houses on a gentle slope that eventually gave way to the ever-present forest.

Kitayama was quiet and peaceful when we arrived in February, but every year, from 3 May to the end of September, up to 7,000 visitors descend on this village of just 400 inhabitants for an experience that can't be enjoyed anywhere else in Japan: a thrilling 70-minute ride on rafts made from whole tree trunks.

"It's so much fun, and it isn't scary at all," said my travel companion Kanae Watari, who had tried ikada-kudari, or log rafting, on a previous trip (an ikada is a raft, and kudari means descent). She described it as "an immersive experience" – literally, as passengers are submerged up to their waists in the rapids – and a perfect way of soaking in the view of lush forests perched on the edge of steep cliffs meeting the bright blue waters of the Kitayama River.

Promising myself that I would return in the warmer months to partake in the fun, I was nonetheless excited to witness something few visitors ever do, namely the 30m-long rafts being built.

We met Miho Ota, marketing coordinator of the Kitayama Village Tourism Association,

at the tourism center. She drove us deep into the forest until we reached a clearing where around 200 tree trunks lay on top of low metal beams. The trunks were meticulously organized into four columns, each making up one raft of seven sections, each formed, in turn, by seven or eight logs attached with metal wires and wooden planks.

It seemed implausible that something so long could navigate the narrow and meandering Kitayama River.

"The ikada seem long here, but they look a lot shorter in the river," commented Makoto Banya, who was constructing the rafts with fellow raft builder, Kazuhiro Tokoro. Banya explained that every section weighs a ton, with a total of seven ton per raft.

Each year, between October and March, four new rafts are built from local cedar and cypress, then left to dry for a year to ensure the trunks' buoyancy. Usually, the rafts can no longer be ridden after three years because the impact on the river's rocks causes too many dents resulting in water seeping in, so then "they're reused as wood chips", Banya explained.

Banya is in charge of building the ikada, and Tokoro helps out when he isn't busy with other jobs. Effectively, this means that Banya spends the coldest months of the year working in the middle of the forest, often alone.

Then, on 3 May, his life transforms, as does that of Tokoro and 14 other helmsmen, or ikadashi. In the peak season between July and September, they work four morning and four afternoon rides, each carrying up to 20 people, six days a week. On every ride, four ikadashi stand in the front, middle and back of the raft holding only onto long wooden paddles, working as a team to ensure the ikada travels down the snaking river as straight as possible by continuously bringing each section into line.

(Source: BBC)

Chinese visits to Iran on the rise, government official says

TEHRAN – Chinese arrivals in Iran have been soaring at a faster pace even when compared to pre-pandemic levels, the deputy tourism minister said.

"The demand for visiting Iran has been soaring among Chinese nationals," Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian said on Sunday.

He made the remarks in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Lu Ying Chuang held in Tehran's Sa'dabad historical complex.

Shalbfafian said some 50,000 travelers from China visited the Islamic Republic during the first seven months of the year (started on March 21).

"Iran hosted many Chinese tourists in the past few months, and in particular, after the end of the Coronavirus," Shalbfafian added.

In a comparison with the same period in the year 1398 (started in Mar. 2019), the official said: "Chinese arrivals in the current year have been higher than that in 98, though the number of flights is almost halved."

One of the reasons behind the rise is the Chinese government's initiative to put Iran on its list of top travel destinations, Shalbfafian said.

"Certainly, the inclusion of Iran as



a top tourist destination by the Chinese government in the country's tourism programs has been effective in increasing these demands, therefore I would like to thank China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism and its Embassy in Tehran."

The Chinese deputy tourism minister, for his part, said Iran and China, as heirs of two ancient civilizations, have rich capacities and can cooperate in wider fields.

Currently, tourism is developing between Iran and China to pre-pandemic levels, he noted.

"Iran's joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the

BRICS summit has provided many opportunities for bilateral cooperation between Iran and China," Lu Ying stated.

Over the past couple of years, Iran has made efforts to become a main destination for Chinese nationals. "We should pay attention to the Chinese market in a more pragmatic approach," Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian said earlier this year.

"So far, steps have been taken to examine the Chinese tourism market, but today the (essential) need is to implement executive measures based on [our] fault detection and macro planning," the official

explained.

For instance, the Islamic Republic in 2019 waived the visa requirement for Chinese nationals willing to visit the country. The decision was made to attract more foreign tourists to the country; however, it was a unilateral measure, because Iranian tourists visiting China still need visas.

Tehran's ex-ambassador to Beijing said Iran was seeking to become a tourist destination for millions of potential travelers from China as the two countries are working on a 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan that includes boosting relations in the field of tourism. Speaking in the TV program, Mehdi Safari reminded some 200 million Chinese tourists to visit different countries annually, adding "According to this agreement Iran will become one of the tourist destinations for Chinese travelers so that Iran can attract one to two million Chinese tourists to the country."

Insignificant numbers of Chinese restaurants, Chinese-language guides, or even unfitting lodging facilities have been among the main reasons cited by experts why Chinese arrivals in Iran fall short of expectations.

Collector donates silver coins to Mashhad museum

TEHRAN – An Iranian collector has donated over 500 ancient silver coins to the Astan Quds Razavi Museum located in Mashhad, northeast Iran.

Donated by Mahammad-Hossein Yazdinejad, the coins were minted dating in the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and the succeeding Islamic epoch, ILNA reported.

Around 220 CE, the mighty Sasanian Empire introduced the concept of thin flan coins, issues that were struck in relief on both sides. In order not to produce intolerable stresses in the dies, since the thinner the material the more force necessary to make it flow into the recesses of the die's design, the depth of relief on such

coins was of necessity much shallower than with earlier currency. Such techniques spread by way of Byzantium to northern Europe, where the emperor Charlemagne struck thin flan deniers (small silver coins), or pennies, which became characteristic of both his own and neighboring kingdoms.

About 651 CE, the Muslim conquest of Persia, also known as the Arab conquest of Iran, led to the fall of the Sasanian Empire that encompassed all of present-day Iran and Iraq and stretched from the eastern Mediterranean to Pakistan, and from parts of southern Arabia to the Caucasus and Central Asia at its greatest extent. The rise of Muslims coincided with an

unprecedented political, social, economic, and military weakness in Persia. The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities. In the eastern provinces, the Arab governors issued silver dirhams that were copies of late Sasanian coins (mainly those related to Khosrow II; with the addition of short Arabic inscriptions on the margin and often the name of the Arab governor in Pahlavi; even the crude representation of the fire altar was retained.

Konar-Sandal: project to map treasured Bronze Age site



TEHRAN – Iran's cultural heritage ministry seeks to map legal boundaries for Konar-Sandal, which is a treasured Bronze Age site situated near a rural village of the same name in southern Iran.

"Proximity of the ancient site to the Kanaar Sandal village has caused restrictions for its residents and developmental programs in the region," a ministerial director said on Sunday.

"We have plans to [determine and] legalize boundaries for Konar Sandal to reduce people's problems to an extent that the site will remain safe," Alireza Izadi said.

He said the Ministry of Cultural

Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft has no plan to relocate the residents, adding: "Those problems can be solved by determining legal boundaries for the ancient site."

According to local experts, such a demarcation is preliminary to preparing for a possible UNESCO label.

Konar Sandal was once one of the most important Bronze Age cities in Southwest Asia, said Fereidoun Fa'ali, the provincial tourism chief.

The first archaeological excavation on the site was conducted some two decades ago by a team of international experts under the leadership of Iranian archaeologist Yousef Majidzadeh, he said.

Situated in the archaeologically rich Jiroft plain of Kerman province, the site comprises two mounds, called Konar Sandal A and B with a height of 13 and 21 meters, respectively. The mounds have yielded arrays of ruins and relics, such as tablets with scripts of unknown nature, and a two-story, windowed citadel with a base of close to 13.5 hectares.

Jiroft remained forgotten until the very early 21st century when rounds of heavy flood along the Halil River swept the topsoil off thousands of previously unknown tombs and led to the discovery of many artifacts believed by archeologists to belong to the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC). The earliest rumors exposed: "An old object was seen floating on the surface of the water." Realizing it was precious, the following day, villagers, impoverished by two years of drought, swarmed the river banks in search of 5,000-year-old antiquities.

Most probably, geological factors made it overlooked for years by tourists and archeologists, who have generally been more interest-

ed in Mesopotamia some 1,000 km away.

Madjidzadeh and his team of experts uncovered more than two square kilometers of remains from a city dating back to at least the late 3rd millennium B.C. The data demonstrates that Jiroft's heyday was from 2500 BC to 2200 BC. Astonishingly the chlorite vases found in Jiroft were not an unfamiliar object for the archeologists. Chlorite vessels similar to the stunning examples unearthed at Jiroft had been found from the Euphrates to the Indus, as far north as the Amu Darya and as far south as Tarut Island, on the Persian Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia.

The archaeologist trusts that Jiroft artifacts are a "missing link" in understanding the Bronze Age because they help explain why so many incised chlorite vessels, all with remarkably similar imagery, have turned up at widely separated ancient sites, from Mari in Syria to Nippur and Ur in Mesopotamia, Soch in Uzbekistan and the Saudi Arabian island of Tarut, north of Bahrain.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Historic Centre of Kraków

The Historic Centre of Kraków, the former capital of Poland, has Europe's largest market square and numerous historical houses, palaces, and churches with their magnificent interiors.

The 13th-century merchants' town, located on the River Vistula in southern Poland, is formed by three urban ensembles: the medieval chartered City of Kraków, the Wawel Hill complex, and the town of Kazimierz (including the suburb of Stradom).

The Historic Centre of Kraków, which is UNESCO listed, is one of the most outstanding examples of European urban planning, characterized by the harmonious development and accumulation of features representing all architectural

styles from the early Romanesque to the Modernist periods.

According to the UN cultural body, the importance of the city, which was chartered in 1257 and was once the capital of Poland, is evidenced by its urban layout, its numerous churches and monasteries, its imposing public buildings, the remains of its medieval city walls, and its palaces and townhouses, many designed and built by prominent architects and craftsmen.

The value of this urban complex is determined by the extraordinary density of monuments from various periods, preserved in their original forms and with their authentic fittings. Wawel Hill, the dominant feature of the Historic Centre of Kraków, is a former royal residence and necropolis attesting to the dynastic and politi-

cal links of medieval and early modern Europe. The medieval town of Kazimierz, which includes the suburb of Stradom (chartered in 1335), was shaped by the Catholic and Jewish faiths and their respective cultures and customs.

One of the largest administrative and commercial centers in central Europe, Kraków was a city where arts and crafts flourished, and the culture of East and West intermingled. The importance of Kraków as a cultural center of European significance is reinforced by its being home to one of the oldest universities of international renown – the Jagiellonian University. Together, these three built-up areas create a cohesive urban complex in which significant tangible and intangible heritage have survived and are cultivated to this day.

Iran ready to co-op with UN on alternatives to poppy cultivation in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - The Iranian anti-narcotics headquarters has announced readiness to cooperate with the United Nations to offer alternatives to poppy cultivation and production in Afghanistan.

Iran's efforts to maintain peace and promote sustainable development and security in Afghanistan and in the region prove the claim, Eskandar Momeni, the secretary general of the anti-narcotics headquarters, said.

He made the remarks on Sunday while meeting Markus Potzel, the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the accompanying delegation, ISNA reported.

Representatives of UNAMA offices in Iran, Afghanistan, and some other regional countries, as well as a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present at the meeting.

He also referred to the cooperation of the country with the UN offices, and the implementation of joint plans and measures in combating narcotics.

He went on to announce the country's (particularly the anti-narcotics headquarters) will-



ingness to collaborate with the United Nations in this regard.

Potzel, for his part, while appreciating Iran's actions in various regional fields, especially the fight against drugs, asked for Iran's contribution to the United Nations and its mission to achieve a sustainable solution in combating narcotics.

The front line

Iran is known as the first station and the front line of dealing with all kinds of drugs due to its location on the European transit route of Afghan drugs.

The fight against narcotics is very expensive due to the com-

plexity of the mafia level of this business, a cost that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been paying alone for years despite the support claims of the international community.

On average, more than 90 percent of opium discoveries, 27 percent of heroin discoveries, and 59 percent of morphine discoveries in the world are made by Iran, Mohsen Naziri Asl, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations in Vienna, has said.

some 716 tons of narcotics were discovered and seized in the past Iranian calendar year (March

2022-March 2023), he added.

The flow of narcotics into Iran has decreased by about 15 percent over the past four years, Momeni has said.

The impact of dismantling the financial foundations of drug traffickers has increased by about 10 times over the past three to four years, he said, adding "This has led to a decrease of 15 percent in the entry of drugs into Iran."

"The rising trend of drug production in Afghanistan started about 20 years ago, after the occupation of Afghanistan by NATO and the United States.

Therefore, the smuggling of narcotics has increased almost 50 times, that is, from about 200 tons in 2000 to more than 9,000 tons," Momeni said, ISNA reported.

In May, Momeni said some 1,700 regional and international drug gangs were dismantled by Iran in the year 2022.

Momeni signed a memorandum of understanding with Ghada Fathi Waly, the director general of the UNODC on the sidelines of the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) that was held in Vienna from March 13-17.

Official warns low population growth may lead to school closures

TEHRAN - Iran's population growth rate is so low that the country may face the problem of closing schools in the near future, an official with the health ministry has said.

"In the past 45 years, Iran's population has grown 10 years older," ILNA quoted Sobhan Ebrahimpour as saying.

He reminded Japan's ministry of education of announcing 400 school closures in this country annually due to population decline.

"In case we do not come up with an idea for rejuvenating the population now, we may face the same problem in the near future," he added.

He went on to say that in the Iranian calendar year 1365 (March 1986-March 1987), the country's population growth rate was 3.9 percent.

The World Health Organization has assumed several scenarios for the country's population.

In the worst-case scenario, Iran's population growth rate was supposed to reach one percent in the Iranian calendar year 1420 (March 2041-March 2042). Unfortunately, the country's population growth rate is 0.6 percent now.

Ebrahimpour noted: In the year 1365 (March 1986-March 1987), each Iranian woman of reproductive age had a total fertility rate (TFR) of 6.3 percent, but now the fertility rate in the country has dropped to 1.65 percent.

This sharp decrease in population fertility has occurred in a period of ten years; while it takes 100 years to happen in countries such as England or America.

Population growth policy

President Ebrahim Raisi has urged all responsible bodies and organizations to adopt national policies in line with the goal of population growth.

All the institutions and organizations of the country are obliged to prepare their plans and programs within the framework of the population growth policy and follow up on their implementation seriously, he said, IRIB reported.

He referred to "population" as one of the important and key points in the 7th national development plan (2021-2026).



The president considered promoting the culture of marriage and reducing divorce and helping to solve the problem of infertility as some of the effective factors in increasing the population, which should be the priority of attention and action of all institutions.

In line with the "Law on Family and Youth Support", Iran has introduced several plans, including the facilitation of housing, low-interest loans, and longer maternity leave.

The Guardian Council approved the law on November 17, 2021, to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of child-bearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

Also, as per the Law, children and family allowance of all different groups of employees in the relevant institutions, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Intelligence, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, and also faculty members of universities and research institutions, judges and retirees will increase by 50 to 100 percent.

The national budget bill for the current [Iranian calendar] calendar year (March 2022-March 2023), has proposed 120 trillion rials (nearly \$300 million) to implement childbearing and family support plans in the country.

Solar panels to provide nomads with electricity

TEHRAN - The government has implemented a project to provide nomadic households with electricity via the use of solar panels.

Knowledge-based and indigenized technologies are used in carrying out this project, Fars reported.

Some 30,000 solar panel systems will be provided to the households. The number of panels is expected to double by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024).

The government pays 90 percent of the costs of each system.

Solar panels are used to easily provide electricity in far-off places. It is not only clean but also cheap and limitless.

Solar-powered photovoltaic panels convert the sun's rays into electricity by exciting electrons in silicon cells using the photons of light from the sun, which is the cleanest, most reliable form of renewable energy, and can be used in several forms to help generate electricity along with income.

Solar power plants

Some 40,000 small-scale solar power plants were to be installed for the underprivileged by the end of the past Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023), Seyed Morteza Bakhtiari, head of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, said in October 2022.

A memorandum of understanding on the construction of 550,000 solar power plants has been signed between the Basij, the Ministry of Energy, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, and the Welfare Organization, he explained.

A total of 110,000 solar panels would be allocated to the underprivileged under the coverage of the Relief Foundation and the

Welfare Organization over the next five years.

He went on to state that the share of Relief Foundation was to provide 40,000 solar power plants and the welfare organization's contribution was 30,000.

In this line, the Ministry of Energy was committed to purchasing the electricity produced by the families for 20 years, he said, adding that producing electrical energy from renewable sources and helping to increase the national GDP were other positive consequences of implementing this plan.

Rural development plan

The Majlis (the Iranian Parliament) has approved a total of 31 trillion rials (nearly \$103 million) for rural development in the budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022-March 2023), IRIB reported on Sunday.

By allocating this amount of budget, the whole credit of comprehensive development plans will reach 42 trillion rials (about \$84 million), Akbar Nikzad, head of the Housing Foundation, said.

The comprehensive development plans aim to develop rural areas in line with cultural, economic, and social conditions, as well as housing provision for the rural residents and improving environmental services.

"There are around 40,000 villages in the country with more than 20 households, for all of which comprehensive development plans have been approved every 10 years, and after this period, the village comprehensive development plans need to be reviewed.

The plans have so far been reviewed and re-implemented for 4,000 villages with more than 20 households in the country," he stated.

73 Iranian universities in Times Higher Education 2024 rankings by subject



TEHRAN- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 has placed 73 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas.

These ten subject rankings include arts and humanities; business and economics; clinical and health; computer science; education; engineering; life sciences; physical sciences; psychology; and social sciences. The eleventh subject is Law.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 include 1,904 universities across 108 countries and regions

The Ranking is based on the new WUR 3.0 methodology, which includes 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook.

This year's ranking analyzed more than 134 million citations across 16.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 68,402 scholars globally. Overall, 411,789 data points

were collected from more than 2,673 institutions that submitted data.

In this ranking by subject, 73 Iranian universities were included, and 44 out of 185 majors were ranked below 500, ISNA reported.

"By the end of the seventh development program, the number of universities ranked below 500 in international ranking systems should reach 20," ISNA quoted Ahmad Fazelzadeh, head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Database, as saying.

He added that the Times Higher Education World Ranking by subject is an important ranking that evaluates and assesses universities' performance in different subject areas annually.

He added: The conditions for participation in the Times ranking by subject are an acceptable number of scientific publications and faculty members, which are different for each subject.

Other rankings

The second edition of the Webometrics ranking 2023 of the World Universities ranked 440 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities worldwide.

Webometrics is an internationally recognized university ranking system that employs a combination of indicators to evaluate universities.

These indicators include Visibility (or Impact), which measures the influence of web content; Transparency (or Openness), which considers the researchers cited the most; and Excellence, determined by the most cited scientific publication.

The Webometrics ranking system is pub-

lished by Cybermetrics Lab, a research group affiliated with the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) based in Madrid, Spain. This ranking undergoes biannual updates in January and July each year, ensuring that the evaluations remain current and relevant for universities worldwide.

The first edition of the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2023, in June, ranked 457 Iranian institutions among around 32,000 top universities across the world.

The Academic Ranking of the World Universities (ARWU), also known as Shanghai Ranking, has placed ten universities from Iran among the top 1000 universities in the world in the Shanghai Ranking 2023, according to the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Database.

In the 2023 edition of the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings which includes 605 universities, Iran became the third most represented nation with 39 institutions

The latest edition of the QS World University Rankings (2024) has placed seven Iranian universities among the world's top institutes.

The Leiden ranking system published the 2023 report, according to which 46 Iranian universities were among the 1,411 top universities in the world. Among Islamic countries, Iran ranked first, followed by Turkey and Egypt with 36 and 13 universities, respectively.

In the 2023 edition of the Times Higher Education's Asian University Ranking System, 669 institutions from 31 Asian countries are included and 65 Iranian universities are among the top Asian institutions.

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20% of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), has said.

"Precipitation in Iran is one-third of the world's average, as the country is located in a dry and fragile region where we experience 11 millimeters decrease in precipitation each 10 years and an increase in evaporation of more than 50 millimeters every year," he explained, ISNA reported.

Rainfall fluctuations usually lead to flood and devastation, so a comprehensive planning for watershed management and flood control is required, he noted.

Since most of the water supply is extracted from groundwater resources, the country is in a critical condition in terms of groundwater resources, he stated.

بیست درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالاست

سرپرست سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری می گوید ۲۰ درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالاست.

به گزارش روز جمعه ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی افزود: میزان بارش در کشور ما یک سوم متوسط آن در دنیا است و از نظر جغرافیایی در منطقه ای خشک و شکننده واقع شده ایم که هر ۱۰ سال با ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارش و بیش از ۵۰ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعرق مواجه هستیم که همه منجر به این شده که بارشها در منطقه ما سیلابی و ویرانگر باشد، به همین خاطر نیازمند برنامه ریزی جامع برای مدیریت حوضه های آبخیز و کنترل سیلابها هستیم.

به گفته شهبازی از آنجایی که بیشتر آب مورد استفاده در کشور از آبهای زیرزمینی تامین می شود جزو کشورهای بحرانی و فوق بحرانی از نظر منابع آب زیرزمینی هستیم.



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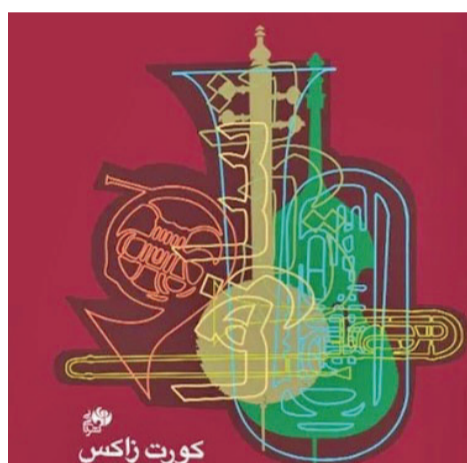
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Lying would negatively influence your livelihood.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:01 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:26 (tomorrow)

“The History of Musical Instruments” published in Persian



TEHRAN-The Persian translation of “The History of Musical Instruments” is now available in the Iranian book market.

Translated by Shahab Jafari, the book has been published by Nay o Ney Music Book Publisher in 466 pages, ILNA reported.

“The History of Musical Instruments” is an unabridged republication of the 1940 W.W. Norton edition by leading musicologist Curt Sachs, who was co-devisor of the Hornbostel-Sachs classification scheme (first published in 1914) for musical instruments.

The book was a classic in 1940. It still is; and one likely to provide answers to most questions about most forms of musical production – save the voice.

The 17 chapters with an epilogue are organized chronologically into four parts: “The Primitive and Prehistoric Epoch,” “Antiquity,” “The Middle Ages,” and “The Modern Occident”. Chapters in each part work their way through the relevant geographical regions. Naturally there is greater emphasis outside Europe in the first part and within Europe in the last. This approach allows general principles to be set out on both how sound becomes music, and how societies value and use

instruments.

This is no dry survey across time and location; it is an evaluation of how (families of) instruments have evolved, adapted and disappeared. And when and why. By taking a developmental approach and by contrasting the societies and their technologies one with another, our understanding of any one (type of) instrument and its uses is deepened.

Lovers of western classical music will not be disappointed and will find it instructive to see how many instruments in the contemporary symphony orchestra and smaller ensembles relate to older folk instruments.

Coverage of families from all five continents is thorough, expert and easy to read and understand. Electrical and electro-acoustic instruments emerging since the second world war, of course, are missing from the book. The ten-page epilogue dealing with the twentieth century really covers only the predominance of percussion and wind as well as a propensity for extremes (e.g., of some instruments’ size and power) and interest in the instruments of earlier periods.

It is a resource packed full of well-developed technical, social and historical theory and detail. Where an instrument or family has developed rapidly and over a determined period of time, Sachs painstakingly documents the changes, illustrates them and provides a musical assessment of the advances and advantages.

The book’s index is thorough and follows the convenient convention of capitals for people, italics for names in other than English as well as initial capital book font for instruments. Families (such as Clarinet) are further subdivided in the index by region. There are two dozen plates (monochrome photographs) and over 160 illustrations.

Cartoon of Day



Palestine
Cartoonist: Mehdi Khajuei from Iran

Art Bureau director offers condolences for Palestinian artists killed in Gaza war

TEHRAN – Following the recent tragic deaths of several Palestinian artists by Israeli military attacks, the director of Art Bureau has expressed his condolences to their families.

In a statement published on Monday, Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman paid tribute to these martyred artists who were committed to their artistic field and defending the honor of their people.

Dadman remarked that the artists’ blood serves as a reminder of the pain their people endure and the message they sought to convey through their work.

He also noted that “an artist should be one who is constantly in pain, and this pain is not only the source of beauty and artistic purity but also a criterion for humanity. A painless person is not an artist, not at all a human being.”

Dadman added that the



Palestinian people face constant attacks and massacres by those who seek to destroy their land and lives.

He highlighted the role of art in resisting such aggression, saying that “art as a combat front is a way to defend the rights of the Palestinian people and a form of resistance.”

He concluded the statement by calling for the continuation of the struggle, hoping for mercy and peace for the souls of all Palestinian martyrs, especially these honorable artists.

Since the beginning of Israel’s recent attacks on Gaza, several Palestinian artists have lost their lives, including writer Hiba Abu Nada, painter Heba Zagout, photographer and journalist Hisham Al-Nawajeh, painter Doniana Al-Imoor, comedian Ali Abdullah Hassan al-Nasman, and cultural activists Mohamed Abu Matar and Ibrahim Lafi.

Ghassan Kanafani plays published in Persian

TEHRAN –Three plays by Palestinian author and politician Ghassan Kanafani have recently been published in Persian in a collection by Jahan-e Ketab Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Faruq Najmeddin, the collection entitled “Plays” includes “The Door”, “The Hat and the Prophet” and “A Bridge to Eternity”.

Kanafani (1936-1972), is best known for his novels and literary articles but he also wrote three plays only one of which was published during his lifetime. “The Door” was published in 1964 and was overshadowed by the popularity of his novel “Men in the Sun” and went unnoticed.

Another play, “The Hat and the Prophet” was written in 1967 and was published in a Palestinian magazine in April 1973, just a short time after Kanafani’s assassination by Israeli intelligence forces. “A Bridge to Eternity” is also a radio play written for broadcasting in one of the Arab countries, but Kanafani did not make any effort to publish it.

Kanafani’s characters always find

themselves at a crossroads, either yielding to their circumstances or rebelling against them at a cost. Critics say that his heroes are an embodiment of the Palestinian identity and illustrate the intellectual concerns of Palestinians.

Born in Acre, Palestine, Kanafani became a refugee in 1948 when his family was forced to leave their home during the Nakba. Kanafani became one of the most important writers of the Palestinian resistance movement, using his writing to expose the injustices of Israeli occupation and to fight for the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

Kanafani’s works include novels, short stories, and plays, many of which focus on the experiences of Palestinian refugees and the struggle for Palestinian liberation. His most famous novel, “Men in the Sun,” tells the story of three Palestinian refugees who try to cross the Iraqi border in search of work but end up dying in the desert. The novel has been translated into many languages and has become a classic of

Arabic literature.

Kanafani’s other notable works include the short story collection “Palestine’s Children,” which tells the stories of Palestinian children living in refugee camps, and the novel “Return to Haifa” which deals with the theme of Palestinian identity and the struggle to return to Palestine. His works are characterized by a deep empathy for his people and a commitment to their cause.

As a political activist, Kanafani was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and worked as an editor for the group’s newspaper, Al-Hadaf. He was known for his powerful speeches and his ability to inspire others to join the struggle for Palestinian freedom.

Unfortunately, Kanafani’s life was cut short when he was assassinated by the Israeli Mossad in Beirut in 1972. However, his legacy lives on through his powerful and inspiring works and his commitment to the cause of Palestinian liberation.

Art exhibit to raise funds for children with cancer

TEHRAN –A charity exhibition of visual artworks in different media by Iranian artists will open in Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural Center to raise funds for children suffering from cancer.

Entitled “Positive Hundred”, the exhibit will showcase the works of 74 contemporary artists including Reza Bangiz, Behzad Shishegaran,

Abdolhamid Pazuki, Farah Osuli, Bahram Dabiri, Mojtaba Ramzi and Amir Hossein Heshmati, IRNA reported on Monday.

Organized by Behnam Daheshpour Charity Organization, the exhibit will open its doors to the public on Friday and will continue until November 10.

The Behnam Daheshpour Charity

Organization, founded in 1995 by the late Behnam Daheshpour, is a non-governmental and non-profit organization aimed at creating a society free from the fear of cancer.

Though Behnam passed away in 1996 from cancer, the organization was revived in 2010 by volunteers and sponsors after obtaining the necessary legal permits.

Its mission is to provide preventive, supportive, and medical services to cancer patients and their families through various volunteer groups. The organization offers treatment, drugs, and additional peripheral services during a patient’s treatment period, with the goal of easing the burden on those affected by cancer.

Actor Alireza Khamseh donates awards to Film Museum of Iran

TEHRAN –Veteran actor and comedian Alireza Khamseh has donated a collection of his awards, trophies, photos and documents to the Film Museum of Iran.

The collection includes Khamseh’s Simorgh trophy from the 27th Fajr Film Festival, Best Actor award from the Pyongyang International Film Festival in North Korea (for non-aligned countries), 13 statuettes from various film festivals, 14 commendation plaques from film

and television programs, and handwritten screenplays for the films “Good Life Fragrance” and the television series “Marriage”.

Also included are a commemorative medal from Imam Reza’s shrine, verdicts of various film festivals, a paper file of letters and contracts, folders of appreciation letters from various organizations, a wooden plaque of the first Khuzestan Film Festival, a verdict on being selected as a jury member of the 19th Iran

Cinema Celebration, and various photographs from his participation in cinema projects.

Khamseh played roles in several prominent films, including The Death of Yazdegerd by Bahran Beizai, “The Grand Day” by Kianush Ayyari, “Under the City’s Rooftops” by Asghar Hashemi, “Apartment No. 13” and “Two and a Half”, both by Yadollah Samadi, “I Love the Earth” by Abolhassan Davudi and several others.

IAF to hold Japanese Cinema Days

TEHRAN-Three Japanese films will be screened at the Iranian Artists’ Forum (IAF) in Tehran as part of the Japan Cultural Month in Iran.

Titled “Japanese Cinema Days,” the film event is organized jointly by the IAF and Embassy of Japan in Iran, ILNA reported on Monday.

During the three-day event, slated for October 31-November 2, “Somebody’s Flowers” by Yusuke Okuda, “A Long Goodbye” by Ryota Nakano, and “The Lone Ume Tree” by Kotaro Wajima will be shown at the Nasser Hall of the IAF.

Shown on Tuesday, October 31, “Somebody’s Flowers” revolves around a freak suburban accident. One very windy day in Tokyo, a man is killed walking into his apartment complex by a falling plant pot, sparking an investigation: was it pushed, or did it just fall?

A 2021 production, “Somebody’s Flowers” is a beautiful narrative that explores the mental

and societal obstacles that litter the path of those subjects who suddenly need to grieve the loss of loved ones with a refined elegance and a pleasing naturalism. Okuda succeeds in translating his own experiences into a meandering narrative that, without any doubt, will profoundly resonate with its audiences.

The following day, November 1, “A Long Goodbye” will be screened. The 2019 family drama, tells the story of Mari and Humi who learn from their mother that their father has dementia on his 70th birthday. They help prepare their mother for his farewell and prepare themselves for the emotions to follow.

Based on Kyoko Nakajima’s namesake novel, the film portrays every stage of its hero’s disease, from beginning to end.

“The Lone Ume Tree” will be shown on November 2. Produced in 2021, it is about an old house left alone among new buildings. Tamako, a popular fortune teller, lives there alone with her son, Tadao, who is mentally-

challenged and autistic. The unpredictable behavior of her son makes her neighbors constantly complain and want them to leave the neighborhood.

With disability rarely represented in mainstream media, Wajima captures with great sensitivity and notes of humor, the strength and vitality of a mother and her disabled son, while not shying away from the problems, prejudices, and conflicts faced by disadvantaged people and their families in Japan.

The Japan Cultural Month is an annual event, during which a plethora of cultural activities are offered to those interested to know more about the Japanese traditions.

This year’s edition of the event that kicked off on October 8, is set to run through to November 20.

The Iranian Artists Forum is located at The Iranian Artists Forum is situated at Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.