

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 45th year | No. 14668 | Saturday | December 23, 2023 | Dey 2, 1402 | Jumada al-Thani 9, 1445

Abject Failure

Golani Brigade incurs crushing defeat and escapes Gaza



Tehran condemns Arab-Russian communiqué on three islands as meddling

TEHRAN- Tehran has stressed that it will not hesitate to protect its territorial integrity and has denounced as an intrusion in its domestic affairs the joint statement issued by a number of Arab nations and Russia over Iran's three Persian Gulf islands, Abu Musa, the Greater Tumb, and the Lesser Tumb.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei's top advisor, Ali Akbar Velayati, stated on Thursday that he believed the concluding remarks of the 6th Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Morocco about the three Iranian islands amounted to meddling in Iran's domestic affairs.

Decrying the communiqué, he continued, "The meeting was held in the presence of some Arabs, who are indifferent to the fate of the Palestinians, and Russian experts in Morocco and issued a statement that has various flaws, the most important of which is interference in Iran's affairs."

Instead of taking effective action to halt Israel's attack in Gaza, the UAE —which has adopted a "regrettable" ▶Page 2

Omani delegation visits National Museum of Islamic Revolution and Holy Defense

TEHRAN- A delegation from Oman, led by the head of the Sultanate of Oman's National Defence University, Ahmed Salim Mohamed Baomar, visited the National Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Holy Defense in Tehran on Thursday.

During the visit, the Omani delegation was accompanied by General Ali Asghar Mohsen-Sheikhi, deputy of the National Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Holy Defense. They toured seven halls of the museum and learned about the events that led to the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

At the end of the visit, Baomar thanked the Iranian officials in charge of the museum for their hospitality and warm welcome, saying that since the 1970s, the Sultanate of Oman has played a key role in keeping peace in the region.

He also stressed that during the Iran-Iraq war, Oman kept inviting both sides to peace.

"Today, unlike the previous regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved complete independence in various fields," Baomar added.

General Sheikhi, in his welcoming remarks, said that the Iran-Iraq war, though devastating, had also brought positive outcomes for the Islamic Republic, including greater self-reliance in science, military, and medicine. He expressed hope for continued friendship between Iran and Oman. ▶Page 3

New Delhi abandons pro-Israel stance as war in Gaza takes global stage

By Mona Hojat Ansari

India is a country deeply wounded by colonialism. Apart from millions of people losing their lives during Britain's centuries-long rule over India, the repercussions of the dark days continue to reverberate in the country's societal fabric to this day.

Challenges such as unemployment, famine, inadequate access to sanitation, education, and healthcare, as well as pervasive violence across caste, religious, and gender lines serve as poignant reminders that the impacts of the British colonial era are still alive and kicking in the Indian society.

This is why individuals within India and around the globe were astonished when Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emerged as one of the only world leaders to join Western officials and condemn the October 7 Hamas operation against Israel, an entity that undeniably evokes parallels to the British Raj.

How real is the threat of Yemen's Ansarullah in the Red Sea?

By Maryam Geshani

TEHRAN- "Peace with the (Zionist) Jews is in Confrontation, Not in Shaking Hands with Them". This is the title of an article featured on Yemen's Almaseera website on October 6, just a day before Hamas launched an attack on the southern occupied territories.

This title serves as a window into Yemen's stance, the ongoing actions of the Ansarullah Movement, and their reaction to Israel's bloodshed in the Gaza Strip. On October 31, merely three days following Israel's ground offensive in northern Gaza, Yemen directed a barrage of missiles and drones at the southernmost point of the Israeli-occupied territories, specifically targeting Eilat port.

Following this incident, Yemen made a bold announcement, vowing not to permit Israeli and Israeli-bound vessels safe passage through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea. On November 19, Yemenis reported the seizure of the commercial ship Galaxy Leader, diverting its course towards Yemeni shores,

Palestinian resistance strikes Tel Aviv

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN - 77 days after Israel's slaughter of innocent women and children in the Gaza Strip and amid Israeli propaganda that Hamas and other Gaza-based militant groups may have run out of rockets, Tel Aviv witnessed one of the most powerful missile salvos to date.

The Palestinian resistance, however, did not limit their rocket and missile attacks to Tel Aviv but targeted multiple Israeli-occupied cities and settlements, taking the Israeli regime and its media outlets by complete surprise.

The regime's Iron Dome missile system has been filmed trying to intercept rockets and long-range missiles from the coastal enclave.

The footage that has gone viral on social media and Western news outlets shows a rocket barrage from the Gaza Strip at central Israeli-occupied territories.

While Palestinian rockets and missiles have been fired from Gaza on an almost daily basis, Thursday was by far one of the largest attacks so far.

▶Page 5

Op-ed Iran, Russia, China, and a Europe that is unable to protect its borders!

By Abdolrahim Ansari

TEHRAN - A tense and deeply divided Europe, reminiscent of the 1930s, is a shocking reminder of the continent's fragility. Russia's invasion of Ukraine exposed the continent's military weaknesses and revealed its inability to defend its borders. This disintegration of Europe has raised concerns about its future stability and integrity.

What is this tornado that is sweeping the West? Where does the concern about the decline and disintegration of Europe come from? What makes Robert Tombs, British-French historian and former professor of Cambridge University, question the thinking of Europe and write an article in the Telegraph?! ▶Page 3



President Raisi inaugurates projects in Golestan Province

TEHRAN - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and a group of his ministers visited Golestan province on Thursday to inaugurate some mega projects in the northeastern province, IRNA reported.

Raisi arrived in Golestan province early on Thursday morning through Gorgan Martyrs International Airport and was welcomed by the Leader's representative in the province, the governor and a group of other provincial officials at the airport.

During his two-day trip, the president visited some water, energy, industrial, infrastructure and construction projects, met and held talks with different classes of people and communities, and participated in an administrative council. ▶Page 4

Iranian "Our Uniform" shortlisted in Animated Short Film category of 96th Academy Awards

TEHRAN-The Iranian short animation "Our Uniform" by Yeganeh Moghaddam has been shortlisted in the Animated Short Film category of the 96th Academy Awards by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The short flick is among the final 15 animations, selected from among the 93 works qualified in the category, Mehr reported on Friday.

In "Our Uniform," an Iranian girl recalls school-age memories through the wrinkles and fabrics of her old uniform, quite literally. Rather than using paper, canvas, or a digital medium, Moghaddam painted directly on the cloth used for making school uniforms to tell the story of a character who dreams of a better future. ▶Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Peaceful Iran

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

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed Iran's efforts to stop the Gaza war and wrote: The efforts to immediately stop the current war and evaluate new regional polarizations against the Zionist regime cannot be seen without Tehran's special actions. Along with Qatar and Egypt, Iran is playing a special role in increasing the diplomatic and political pressure on Tel Aviv to ruin the delusional narrative of the Zionist leaders in justifying the cruel killing of civilians. It is under the shadow of the efforts of the Islamic Republic that from bilateral consultations to attracting the attention of the world in international meetings in Jeddah, New York and Geneva, the American-Israeli axis has been placed in its most isolated historical period during the decades of Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Also, Tehran's special diplomacy has provided an opportunity to raise diplomatic pressures in international circles to present positions and pursue the country's demands in the current developments. It has also been able to influence public opinion and the discursive atmosphere ruling the region and the world. Iran could indirectly influence the decisions of political decision-making elites to affect the Gaza war and the bloody events that are taking place in this part of the world's geography.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Bloody Noble

In a note, Vatan-e-Emrooz addressed the dual behavior of the enemies of the Islamic Republic and said: The world has become so chaotic and politicized that those in power allow themselves to clearly break norms in front of everyone. As if there is no obstacle to anti-value measures. On one side, they legitimize war crimes in Gaza and on the other side, they encourage chaos and division in an independent and democratic country. But the important point is related to the Iranophobia efforts of the West during the Gaza war and the enemies' fear of the world public opinion's awareness about the principled positions of the Islamic Republic because Iran has challenged Israel's crimes against humanity and genocide. When free and conscious countries like the Islamic Republic of Iran defend Palestinian children and women, they are immediately angered by the false analysts of peace. In such a situation, enemies present their blood-stained awards to the saboteurs who support the MEK terrorist group and the real enemies of the Iranian nation to cover up the brutality and crimes, including the genocide in Gaza and crimes in other parts of the world.

International community stunned by Palestinian resistance to Israel, Raisi says

TEHRAN- The world is in awe of the Palestinian people's resistance against the Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip, according to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Speaking to a sizable gathering in the Iranian city of Gorgan on Thursday, Raisi praised the courageous Palestinian people in Gaza for their resilience against almost two months of relentless Israeli attacks.

All in the world are surprised by the power and determination of the young Palestinians, he added, noting that heads of many countries officially acknowledge this power and wonder how the Palestinians have achieved it in a land that is described as the world's largest open-air prison.

He went on to add that the resistance is inspired by "the invincible power of the people in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We believe that blood prevails over the sword."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president stated that the adversaries' cruel plans against the country, including efforts to block the foundation and consolidation of an Islamic republic system and impede Iran's prosperity, have failed.

Despite all threats and restrictions, the resolute Iranian people have succeeded in making development in a variety of industries, according to Raisi.

Javan: London's accusation against Tehran

In an article, Javan discussed London's accusation against Tehran about the attacks of the Yemeni army on Israeli ships and wrote: David Cameron, the British Foreign Secretary, on Thursday, during his trip to Egypt, based on his claim about Iran's support for the attacks of the Yemeni army, said that we will definitely warn about the dangers of encouraging the Yemeni army to attack the vital shipping route in the Red Sea. However, the spokesman of Iran's diplomatic apparatus has repeatedly emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have a proxy force in the region; the resistance groups in the countries of the region are completely independent and act according to their own decision about the security of their countries or supporting the oppressed Palestinian nation. The members of the coalition believe that they can stop the threats of Yemen and their supporters in Tehran with the "Guardian of Welfare" operation. Although Greece wanted to join the new American military coalition in the Red Sea by sending a warship under the pretext of protecting and ensuring the security of commercial ships against the attacks of the Yemeni army, Australia, along with important countries in the region, has refused to join such a coalition.

Hamshahri: Iran is the protector of its territorial integrity

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed a joint statement between Russia and the Arab countries and quoted Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as saying: Iran considered as baseless and rejected the content of the statement of the sixth meeting of the Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum regarding the three Iranian islands and condemned it. The Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and lesser Tunb, located in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, have eternally belonged to Iran and are an inseparable part of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not consider as negotiable the issue of its territorial integrity and sovereignty over the three islands and rejects any claim from any side in this regard. The Islamic Republic of Iran asks all its northern and southern neighbors to take into consideration the actual and potential capacities available at the bilateral and regional levels, to take steps towards strengthening relations and to avoid making and repeating some rejected claims because Iran will not doubt to maintain its territorial integrity.

In a Tuesday phone call with his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov, Raisi asserted that the crimes committed by the U.S. and the Israeli regime against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have enraged people internationally.

"What is being afflicted on the oppressed people of Gaza in terms of oppression and crime, by the Zionist regime and the U.S. has deeply affected and angered all the Muslims of the world as well as all the people of the world," the Iranian president said.

The atrocities, he stated, "have deeply affected and enraged not only all the world's Muslims, but also the entire people of the world."

The president of Iran stressed the necessity of using all resources at hand to support the oppressed Gazan people.

Following the Palestinian resistance group Hamas's surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying regime in retaliation for the Israeli regime's crimes against Palestinians, the Tel Aviv regime launched a war on Gaza on October 7.

The Israeli regime has killed almost 20,000 Palestinians since the commencement of the U.S.-backed war, including around 8,000 children and 6,200 women, and injured 52,586 more. Numerous people are reported missing and believed dead under the rubble.

Tehran condemns Arab-Russian communiqué on three islands as meddling

From page 1 ▶ "regrettable" position against the Palestinians and supported Israel's massacre of the oppressed people in Gaza— keeps bringing up this "baseless claim" regarding the three islands.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the rightful owner of the three islands, will closely watch the actions of those who wish to harm the national and regional interests and will respond accordingly," he pointed out.

The ownership of the islands "will not be affected by such poor meetings," Velayati continued.

"The strategic and friendly relations between Iran and Russia have not been achieved easily," the top advisor added, urging Russia to be even more cautious about its positions regarding the Islamic Republic.

"In such circumstances that Russia is in a complex international situation, some positions of the Russian Foreign Ministry are regrettable," he said, acknowledging that "although, some political pressures on Russia in the current



complicated situation will cause it to damage its reputation in order to obtain a worthless point"

There are innumerable historical, legal, and geographical records in Iran and other countries that attest to the historical status of the three Persian Gulf islands— Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs—as belonging to Iran.

Nonetheless, the islands have been consistently claimed by the United Arab Emirates.

The islands were ruled by the British until November 30, 1971,

when Iran regained authority over them two days before the United Arab Emirates was set to become an official federation, and one day after the British withdrew their troops from the region.

"No hesitation to preserve territorial integrity"

The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry debunked the accusations regarding the three Iranian islands on Thursday in a separate statement, calling them "baseless and unacceptable."

Nasser Kanaani underscored that

Iran dismisses 'Hollywood-style' accusation of plot to assassinate presenters

TEHRAN- The British free-to-air public broadcast television network ITV's "baseless accusations" regarding Iran's plot to kill two TV presenters in London have been vehemently denied and denounced by the Iranian embassy in London.

Iranian operatives allegedly paid a people-smuggler \$200,000 to kill two news presenters outside of their London studio, according to a report by ITV News on Thursday.

Claims that are "not only devoid of factual merit but also appear to be rooted in pre-conceived notions and a Hollywood-style narrative to pursue their malicious scheme and goal against the Islamic Republic of Iran which was in the agenda of some war wingers inside the UK for a while" were rejected by the Iranian embassy.

"Iran as a responsible and transparent state is committed to its obligation according to international law and norms to not interfere in internal affairs of any country," the

embassy said in a letter.

The network initially brought up the "unsubstantiated" allegations of Iran's alleged effort to kill employees of the Saudi Arabian-funded Persian-language Iran International channel, which were subsequently pushed by the British media and government.

The channel attempted unsuccessfully to argue in the British House of Commons last year that Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) should be classified as a terrorist group.

Iran International said at the time that two of its journalists based in the UK had received "credible" death threats from Iranian security services. Those charges were reiterated in a House of Commons meeting by British MP Bob Blackman, who had pledged to campaign for the IRGC's blacklisting.

The re-emergence of the claims is thought to be tied to recent developments in the region, such as a drive by the United States and the United Kingdom to form a coalition against the



anti-Israeli resistance movement.

"It is disheartening to observe commissioned reporting that mirrors Hollywood sensationalism rather than adhering to the principles of objective journalism," the Iranian embassy's letter said Thursday.

"Such a report, exemplified by the recent ITV coverage, is not only condemned but strongly rejected. Accusations without proper substantiation undermine the credibility of journalism and contribute to the spread of misinformation."

Nations with rich historical background should stop Israeli onslaught on Gaza: FM

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's Foreign Minister, has urged nations with centuries-old customs and civilizations to band together to put an end to Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and bring Israeli authorities to account for war crimes.

Amir Abdollahian made remarks on Thursday at the Ancient Civilizations Forum in Tehran.

He also called the situation in Gaza "distressing" and condemned Israel's seven-decade occupation and seizure of Palestinian lands.

In addition, he denounced the self-styled human rights advocates for remaining silent in the face of the horrors and brutalities brought about by the fake Israeli regime.

He denounced the Israeli air and ground assaults, which have resulted in the deaths of at least

20,057 Palestinians, the majority of whom were women and children, injuries to over 53,320 others, and the forced displacement of the majority of Palestinian residents of the besieged region.

Additionally, Amir Abdollahian blasted Israel's deliberate demolition of Gaza's historical landmarks as well as its efforts to obliterate the Old City of al-Quds' Islamic identity.

"Countries with ancient civilizations are expected to condemn such crimes, and utilize all means at their disposal to stop the current situation and put war criminals on trial at an international court of law," the Iranian minister pointed out.

He also urged governments to play their part in maintaining the civilized, cultural, and religious interaction and understanding among nations by criminalizing and punishing such actions.

He denounced the recent desecration of the Holy Quran and other religious scriptures in some European countries.

According to Amir Abdollahian, it is the duty of nations with rich cultural and historical backgrounds to refute ideas of supremacy, dominance, exclusivity, and racism.

He emphasized that the discourse of dominance and aggression, the instrumentalization of international ideals, and the application of double standards continue to have negative effects on the international community.

The nations of Iran, Armenia, Italy, Bolivia, Peru, China, Iraq, Egypt, Mexico, and Greece make up the Ancient Civilizations Forum, which was founded in 2017. Iran assumed the forum's rotational presidency and organized the gathering in 2023.

"U.S. culpable for involvement in Israeli massacre in Gaza"

In a phone conversation with his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi on Thursday, Amir Abdollahian noted that the U.S. has international responsibility for its unquestionable involvement in Israeli war crimes and genocide against the Gaza and West Bank people.

The agreements established between President Ibrahim Raisi and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman are being implemented appropriately, according to the Iranian foreign minister, who also discussed the frequent meetings and contacts between officials of the two nations at all levels.

During Sultan Haitham's May visit to Tehran, at least four agreements pertaining to energy, investment, and the economy were inked between Oman and Iran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran warns about regional implications of Israeli provocations

TEHRAN- The Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Iran to the UN issued a strong warning against any aggressive acts by the Israeli regime that could have a major impact on regional peace and security.

Addressing a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria on Thursday, Amir Saeid Iravani said that Iran wants the Security Council to condemn the destabilizing activities of the Israeli regime and the severe violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, which is a threat to peace and stability in the region.

The full text of Iravani's speech is as follows:

The humanitarian situation in Syria remains extremely challenging.

People are grappling with economic hardships, worsened by the US' imposition of unlawful sanctions.

Adding to this challenge is the difficult underfunding of the Humanitarian Response Plan, with only 32 percent of the needed funds secured.

This significant shortfall is seriously hindering the capacity of the UN.

A commitment to impartial assistance is crucial to ensuring that humanitarian efforts serve the needs of the affected people without being influenced by political considerations.

Donors must refrain from using aid to exert political pressure on the Syrian government.

On the political track, we support the resumption of meetings of the Constitutional Committee as an effective mechanism for advancing the political process.

We support the Special Envoy's efforts and his diplomatic engagement with the parties to facilitate the resumption of Committee meetings and to advance the political process.

The United Nations' role should remain supportive, ensuring that the entire process is guided by Syrian leadership and ownership.

Iran stands in favor of the return of Syrian refugees to their homeland.

The United Nations, especially the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), plays a central role in this undertaking.

We appreciate and support the engagement and constructive dialogue between the Syrian officials and the UN in addressing this pressing issue.

The security situation in areas controlled by illegal foreign forces and under occupation is a matter of serious concern. The primary source of insecurity is the unlawful presence and continued occupation of US military forces, creating an environment conducive to the growth of terrorist activities within Syria and the broader region.

At the same time, the Israeli regime persists in its acts of aggression against Syrian territory.

In parallel with the atrocities in the Gaza Strip, this regime engages in terrorism and aggression within Syrian borders, intentionally targeting civilians and critical infrastructure.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran FM protests Russian position on trio islands in phone call with Lavrov

TEHRAN – In a Friday telephone conversation between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, Iran asserted its territorial integrity, designating the Iranian trio islands as an inseparable part of the nation's sovereign territory.

The phone call, which took place on Friday afternoon, touched upon key issues addressed at the 6th Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Morocco on the three Iranian islands. Amir Abdollahian emphasized the rejection of any claims made by external parties regarding this matter.

The top Iranian diplomat addressed the trio islands as an integral part of Iran's territorial integrity, stating, "Concerning Iran's territorial integrity and governance matters, we hold no formalities with any party."

Amir Abdollahian acknowledged the positive and growing relations between Iran and Russia, highlighting that respecting the



sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries is a fundamental principle in international relations.

The discussion also delved into regional developments, including the South Caucasus.

The head of Iran's diplomatic apparatus continued the discussion by offering a positive evaluation of the negotiation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia towards reaching a peace agreement. He pointed out the adverse consequences of foreign interventions in the region and

stressed the necessity for regional countries to utilize their capacities in ensuring peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The Russian Foreign Minister, on his part, echoed the importance of Iran's constructive role in promoting peace in the South Caucasus. He considered the relations between Moscow and Tehran as strategic and emphasized, "Russia has consistently respected Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity—a policy that should

never be questioned."

Lavrov added that during the negotiations for the final statement of the meeting in Morocco, they explicitly focused on respecting Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Throughout history, the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tumb, and the Lesser Tumb in the Persian Gulf have consistently been acknowledged as integral parts of Iran. This assertion finds backing in numerous historical, legal, and geographical documents, both within the country and worldwide.

Despite the substantial evidence supporting Iran's historical claim, the United Arab Emirates has consistently challenged the Iranian sovereignty over these islands.

The islands came under British control in 1921. However, on November 30, 1971, shortly after British forces withdrew from the region and just two days before the formal establishment of the UAE federation, Iran reclaimed sovereignty over the islands.

Iran, Russia, China, and a Europe that is unable to protect its borders!

From Page 1 ▶ Tombs' article in the Telegraph highlights the growing concern among many European elites about the continent's decline, especially after Russia attacked Ukraine, which exposed many facts to the eyes of the world.

The attack has been a sign of something reminiscent of tremendous transformation; something that looks more like an internal collapse, and a huge inability.

In this article, Tombs also blames Russia for chauvinism, Iran and its allies for religious millenarianism, and China for predatory state capitalism, saying that in the short term, we will see a connection between these three countries.

According to Tombs, the cultural institutions within English-speaking democracies that advocate for "decolonization" are creating further divisions and undermining Western culture and history. These internal divisions, he argues, are contributing to Europe's decline.

He also concluded that most of the disorders are caused by "ourselves!"

Tombs proposes a solution to Europe's problems, suggesting that European leaders should crack down on those who undermine the continent from within. He also implies that independent public institutions established by non-liberals should be dismantled, however, these measures could lead to authoritarian tendencies and suppression of democratic freedoms.

The writer's suggestions for dealing with decline are all signs of violation of democracy.

But are these things the root causes of Europe's current status? Can Europe prevent decline by restoring the armies and strengthening the information and cyber systems that the author proposed as a solution?

Can Europe succeed in preventing the tendency of other countries and nations to get close to new centers of power in the Eastern Axis (Iran, Russia, China)?

Iran has expanded its soft and hard power, while China has emerged as a global economic powerhouse. Russia, despite facing numerous challenges, remains a formidable military power. These developments have contributed to Europe's decline. But the inherent egotism and arrogance embedded in the Western systems that see Europe and the West as a garden, and the rest of the world as a forest, have made nations loathe and distance themselves from the West.

Europe's overdependence on the United States has also undermined its autonomy and contributed to its instability. The war in Ukraine is a prime example of this dependence, as Europe blindly followed Washington's lead despite its own interests being at stake.

A clear example of this issue is the war in Ukraine; the White House drew its policies for

its own interests, and in the meantime, Europe simply followed Washington's orders, and despite the multitude of problems that Europe is dealing with, it is unable to turn back from the path and oppose America.

More interestingly, instead of encouraging Europe to return from this wrong path, Tombs is worried about the end of the war in Ukraine and even stopping Washington's support for Zelensky's government!

The United States has embroiled the European Union with Russia and abandoned backing Europe and rushed to the aid of Israel.

Given the U.S. policy toward the current happenings in the world, shouldn't the war in Ukraine come to an end?

America itself will soon face many problems that will make this country weaker against the eastern powers especially in West Asia, where Iran will counter this oppressive country. Then, can America still be a good supporter of the Europeans?

The West has gradually planted the seeds of hatred in the hearts of the nations of the world with its extravagance, oppression, colonialism, and exploitation over many years, and today, when the nations are regaining their independence, the U.S. is getting more and more isolated and hated. Therefore, it is better for Europe to understand today's world.

Iranian MP dismisses Swedish court's verdict on Hamid Nouri as politically-charged

TEHRAN – A member of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy has alleged that the recent verdict by the Swedish court in the case of Hamid Nouri is driven by significant political influence and is perceived as unjust.

In an interview with Iranian media, Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, vehemently condemned the Swedish court ruling on Hamid Nouri. He argued that the case carried a political undertone from its inception, maintaining a consistent political trajectory that culminated in a verdict driven by political motives.

The lawmaker expressed deep concern, asserting that throughout the proceedings, Nouri's case was tainted by injustice, pointing fingers at Western powers and

Iran's adversaries for engaging in political manipulation.

Highlighting the unfair and political nature of the Swedish court's ruling on Hamid Nouri, Meshkini cautioned against such political maneuvers, emphasizing their lack of benefit to anyone and their tendency to lead to a dead end.

Providing insight into the judicious actions of Iran's judicial, security, and intelligence apparatus, the lawmaker assured a persistent pursuit of justice for Nouri. He asserted, "The case is believed to be fueled by political motives orchestrated by enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, certain Western nations, and the Zionist regime. Sweden is perceived as executing the agenda crafted by Iran's adversaries."

Expressing regret over the entirely unfair nature of the case, the member of parliament lamented the

double standards and dual behaviors exhibited by Western institutions. He criticized their engagement in political maneuvering throughout this particular case.

The recent judgment by the Swedish court in Hamid Nouri's case has ignited intense criticism, with accusations of significant political influence and perceived injustice. On Tuesday, the Stockholm Court of Appeals upheld a controversial life sentence for 62-year-old Nouri, who was detained in 2019 based on allegations of abuse and his purported involvement in the deaths of prisoners in Iran in 1988. These allegations were vehemently denied by Nouri.

Nouri's arrest took place at Stockholm Airport in November 2019, resulting in his immediate imprisonment. The accusations against him were initiated by individuals affiliated with the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MKO)



terrorist group. This group openly acknowledges carrying out terrorist operations against Iranian officials.

Since his unlawful arrest, the former Iranian judiciary official has been held in solitary confinement, intensifying the controversy surrounding his case. The legal proceedings have faced criticism for depending on unverified claims from a group known for its hostility toward the Iranian government, raising concerns about the trial's fairness and legitimacy.

Top Iranian commander urges vigilance amid growing security concerns

TEHRAN – In an address at a conference on Thursday, Brigadier General Nozar Nemati, Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force, conveyed a message to the nation, illuminating the increasing security risks faced by Iran.

Reports from Iranian media outlined Brigadier General Nemati's emphasis on the urgent need for heightened vigilance. He disclosed that resolute adversaries are actively working to compromise the nation's security, with a determined focus on destabilizing the core values and principles that underpin Iranian society.

Delving into the complexities of the challenges

confronting the nation, particularly in the realms of ideology and media, the high-ranking commander elaborated on the adversaries' use of sophisticated media tools. These tools are strategically deployed to influence the ideological and religious beliefs of families across the entire country.

Brigadier General Nemati highlighted the enemy's primary goal within the soft war landscape – the erosion of the cherished family foundations in Iran. He issued a call to families to remain vigilant, cautioning against falling into the carefully laid traps set by these adversaries.

Notably, he underscored that sworn enemies of the country strategically downplay the significant achievements of the nation's elites, conveniently overlooking substantial gains even in the face of paralyzing sanctions imposed by the West on Iran.

Expanding on the importance of allegiance, Brigadier General Nemati emphasized the pivotal role of allegiance to the principles of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, as the guiding principle for the Ground Forces. He stressed that all military programs are executed in strict alignment with the directives issued by the Leader.

SPORTS

Iran wins four medals in 2023 Asian Youth Chess Championships

TEHRAN – The Iranian chess players claimed six medals at the 25th Asian Youth Chess Championships.

Ramtin Kakavand won two gold medals in the boys' under 10 standard and blitz.

Rosha Akbari claimed a bronze in the girls' under 12 blitz. Mohammadtaha Arkak seized a bronze in the boys' under 8 blitz.

Kanaan Pourmousavi took a bronze in the boys' under 12 blitz. Niyousha Mohammadi also won a bronze medal in the girls' under 14 standard.

The competition was held at the Al Ain Chess Club in the UAE from Dec. 12 to 22.

Iran move down in world futsal ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team moved down one place in the world futsal ranking released on Friday.

Team Melli moved down to seventh place in the table with 1,593 points.

Brazil lead the table with 1,829 points.

Spain (1,754) and Portugal (1,727) sit in the second and third places, respectively.

Russia (1,647), Argentina (1,609) and Kazakhstan (1,598) are fourth, fifth and sixth in the table.

Japan are the Asian second best team with 1,409 points.

Russia national futsal team defeated Iran 6-2 in a friendly match last week.

In the match held in Lar, Fars Province, southern Iran, Ruslan Kudziev scored four goals as well as goals from Pavel Karpov and Nikita Fakhrutdinov.

Saeid Ahmadabbasi and Mohammadhossein Derakhshani were on target for Iran.

Iran had defeated Russia 3-2 Monday night.

Team Melli, headed by Vahid Shamsaei, prepare for the 2024 AFC Futsal Asian Cup, where Iran are drawn in Group D against Kuwait, Bahrain and debutants Afghanistan.

Havadar reach agreement with ex-Iran captain Shojaei

TEHRAN – Former Iran national football team will most likely be named Havadar football team head coach.

Iranian media reports suggest that the Iranian top-flight club have reached an agreement with the 39-year-old trainer. Shojaei has previously worked as player-coach in Tractor.

He will replace Mahmoud Fekri, who parted company with Havadar, in the Tehran-based football team.

Havadar lost to Sepahan 5-0 in the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Tuesday and Fekri parted ways with the team.

Iran beach soccer suffer three losses against Senegal

TEHRAN – Iran's men's beach soccer team suffered three consecutive losses against Senegal.

The matches were held in Bushehr, southern of Iran, as part of preparation for the 2024 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Team Melli lost to the African champions 2-1 on Tuesday in their first match and also suffered another 5-4 loss to the team on Wednesday.

On Friday, Iran, headed by Ali Naderi, were defeated against Senegal 3-2.

Iran are drawn in Group B along with Spain, Tahiti and Argentina.

Senegal are in Group C with Belarus, Colombia, Japan. The prestigious competition will be held in the UAE from Feb. 15 to 25.

Iran came third at their last appearance at the global finals. Tahiti finished runners-up twice, while Spain have one silver medal to their name.

Iran unchanged in FIFA ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national football team maintained their position in the FIFA Men's World Ranking, ending 2023 on 21st.

Japan, the best Asian football team, maintained their 17th spot in the Ranking issued on Thursday.

A year on from tasting glory at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Argentina (1st) are still on top of the world as 2023 draws to a close. France (2nd) and England (3rd) round off the year-end podium and there has been no significant movement in the top 13. The next FIFA Men's World Ranking will be published on 15 Feb. 2024.

Lucas Alcaraz to lead Nassaji

TEHRAN – Nassaji football club have reportedly opened negotiations with Spanish coach Luis Lucas Alcaraz González.

Alcaraz, 57, most recently headed the Spanish football club Ibiza. Nassaji parted company with Mehdi Rahmati on Wednesday.

The Iranian top-flight team suffered a 4-0 loss against Esteghlal on Tuesday and the 40-year-old coach stepped down from his role.

Rahmati had replaced Spanish coach Carlos Inarejos in the Ghaemshahr-based team in June.

Under the leadership of the former Iran and Esteghlal goalkeeper, Nassaji failed to book a place in the 2023 AFC Champions League next round.

Hossein Vafaei victorious at German Masters

TEHRAN – Hossein Vafaei of Iran scored comfortable win in the qualifying round of the German Masters on Thursday to book place in the final stages in Berlin next month.

Vafaei top scored with 72 in a 5-0 whitewash of Mink Nutcharut, while former World Champion Graeme Dott came from 3-2 down to beat Brazil's Victor Sarkis 5-3.

Ryan Day top scored with 91 in a 5-3 win over Stan Moody, while Scottish Open semi-finalist Zhou Yuelong came from 2-0 down to edge out Jak Jones 5-4 with a top break of 104.

The qualifying round concluded on Friday.

Official match ball of AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 revealed

TEHRAN – The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Kelme have unveiled the Official Match Ball of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 Final.

The biggest continental showdown kicks off in Qatar on January 12, 2024.

The Official Final Match Ball, named VORTEXAC23+, builds on the design of the Official Match Ball of the tournament, VORTEXAC23, and embodies the glory of the highly anticipated decider of the competition on 10 February 2024.

VORTEXAC23+'s gold color takes inspiration from the desert sands of the host nation, Qatar, which combines elegantly with the nation's traditional maroon color.

The contrast reflects the competitive spirit of the most exciting moments, as the dominance of the gold depicts the glory of reaching and competing for the coveted AFC Asian Cup title.

Transit of goods via Kermanshah province up 69% in 8 months on year

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, rose 69 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Ali-Asghar Abbaszadeh, an official with the province's customs department, said that 232,980 tons of commodities worth \$948,058,442 were transited via the province, in the eight-month period, with 69 percent growth in weight, and 48 percent rise in value, year on year.

As previously announced by the deputy transport minister, transit of commodities through Iran increased by 28.2 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Shahriyar Afandizadeh announced the achievements resulting from promoting transit negotiations, and the foundations of the "Iran-Way" initiative in the growth of the country's transit this year, and said that 9,458,862 tons of commodities were transited via Iran in the first eight months of the present year.

The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the 13th government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors, the official stressed.

As stated by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

As previously announced by Afandizadeh, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

The official also announced that Iran registered a new record high with the transit of 8.3 million tons of non-oil goods in 1401, adding that 2.5 million tons of oil products were also transited via the country in the previous year.

"Considering the transit of 7.5 million tons of non-oil goods in 1400, we have seen a 10.7-percent growth in the transit of this type of goods in 1401 compared to the previous year", he said.

"In 1401, we witnessed important developments and achievements in the strategic and operational areas of the country's transit, whose definitive effects will be seen gradually and steadily on the growth of transit from the country in 1402 and the coming years", the deputy transport minister further highlighted.

Afandizadeh then explained: "In line with the activation and development of the North-South International Transport Corridor, in a tripartite meeting in last September between the high-ranking officials of our country and the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, while aiming to achieve the transit of 15 million tons of goods through this corridor by 2030, agreements were reached in the field of strengthening the cooperation of the three countries in joint investment and financing, the completion and development of key infrastructures and their exploitation, especially the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway line, facilitating cross-border traffic of goods and increasing the quality and quantity of this traffic", adding

Tehran to host intl. steel structures expo in late-Dec.

TEHRAN - The First International Exhibition of Steel Structures and Industries, Machinery and Related Engineering Services of Iran (Iran Steel Fair 2023) is due to be held in Tehran during December 23-26, IRIB reported.

The exhibition is going to cover steel-related areas in various fields including machinery and tools, mining, construction industry, defense industry, refinery and

that the implementation of these agreements is being followed up.

He went on to say, "One of the most important events last year was Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In a short period of time after the meeting of the heads of Shanghai in September 1401 in Samarkand, the first six-party meeting of the transport ministers of Iran and the countries of Central Asia, in addition to Russia and Azerbaijan was held in Tehran in October 1401 with the goal of achieving 20-million tons of annual transit between Iran and Central Asian countries, as an area with a very high role and importance in east-west and north-south transit, especially after the recent regional and international developments, which was approved by the members."

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

After seven years of reduction in the transit of goods from the country, the growth path of transit resumed in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022) and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved.

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

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

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

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

In early June, Afandizadeh announced that the Transport and Urban Development Ministry is preparing a five-year comprehensive plan for increasing transportation and transit relations with Central Asia, as well as the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman countries.

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

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

petrochemical and other industries related to energy production and transmission as well as transportation.

Simultaneously with this exhibition, the country's first national conference on steel structures will also be held with a focus on examining the role of steel structures in ensuring the safety and security of urban buildings.

Iran to become major trade partner for EAEU

TEHRAN - Iran will become one of the most important trade partners of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) with the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two sides, said the union's minister in charge of trade.

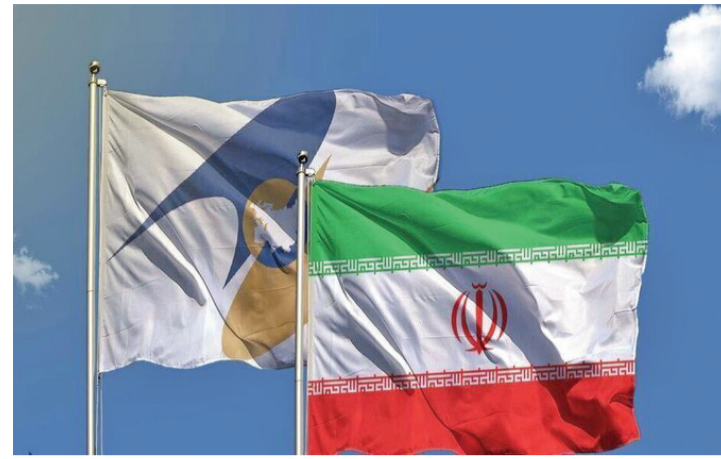
Andrey Slepnev made the remarks in a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali, as he announced plans for signing of the mentioned FTA in Moscow in the near future, IRNA reported.

He also called the agreement the most important cooperation document between the two sides.

Jalali, for his part, said the free trade agreement is the result of intensive negotiations and the will of the two sides to develop their relations.

In 2018, Iran and the EAEU inked a preferential trade agreement (PTA), which came into effect on October 27, 2019.

The two sides later began



negotiations to upgrade the PTA to a FTA after the success of the former.

Back in August, Slepnev said that the EAEU is ready to boost its annual trade with Iran to \$30 billion.

Noting that the draft of the free trade agreement between Iran and the union has been finalized and is ready to be approved and signed, the official said: "We hope that the free trade agreement of

this union with Iran will be signed before the end of 2023."

"The member states of the Eurasian Union have a serious approach to expanding cooperation with Iran and considering such determination, the agreement will be quickly approved in their parliaments," he added.

The official said the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU resulted in the trade

between the two sides doubling and it is expected that by signing the free trade agreement the trade between the two sides will be doubled once again.

"The signing of the comprehensive agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Union will provide suitable conditions for mutual access to the markets for both sides," Slepnev said.

"We know very well that the volume of trade with a large country like Iran is still not very high, and therefore, it seems that targeting 30 billion dollars of annual trade is a good way to develop trade between our countries," he noted,

The Eurasian Economic Union was established in 2015 at the initiative taken by Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. Afterward, the Republic of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan joined the Union.

PMO inks 31 investment deals, MOUs worth \$1b with private firms

TEHRAN - During a national conference on maritime-oriented development which was held on the occasion of National Ports and Maritime Day, 31 major contracts and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) worth 500 trillion rials (about \$1.0 billion) were signed with domestic and foreign private sector companies for investment in the country's ports.

As the portal of the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported, the signing ceremony of the mentioned deals and MOUs was attended by senior officials including Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazarpash, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei, and Head of the Parliament's Construction Committee Mohammadreza Rezaei Kochi.

Based on the signed deals and MOUs the private companies are going to implement development projects in the ports of Shahid Rajaei, Imam Khomeini, Bushehr, Amirabad, Shahid Beheshti, Anzali, and Nowshahr.

On the sidelines of the mentioned conference, also a deal was signed for the construction of 50 passenger ferries with a total investment of 100 trillion rials (about

\$200 million).

Earlier in November, Safaei said PMO was going to attract 1.0 quadrillion rials (about \$2.0 billion) of investment in the country's ports and maritime sectors to develop maritime economy.

Speaking in a televised interview on November 12, the official said 450 trillion rials (about \$900 million) of the mentioned figure is going to be invested by the private sector and the rest will be supplied by PMO.

According to the official, private contractors have so far signed deals worth 60 trillion rials (about \$120 million) with PMO to implement development projects in the country's ports.

"To realize the general development policies of the maritime sector, we need an integrated, coordinated, and agile management at the highest level," Safaei said.

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 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).

President Raisi inaugurates projects in Golestan Province

From page 1 ▶ The accompanying ministers also paid visits to various cities of the province to get in touch with people and meet with provincial officials to discuss problems and issues.

In this regard, Education Minister visited Azadshahr and Ramiyan, the Economy Minister visited Aqqala and Bandargaz, the Minister of Interior went

to Maraveh Tapeh, Kalaleh and Gorgan, the Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education visited Gorgan, Aliabad Katol and Galikesh, the Minister of Sports and Youth traveled to Kordkoi, Bandar Torkaman and Gonbad Kavos, Kurdkoi and Ramiyan, Minister of Transport and Urban Development was in Gorgan, and Oil Minister in Aqqala.

This was President Raisi's second visit to the province since the beginning of his administration.

In his first visit, Raisi allocated 120 trillion rials (about \$240 million) for various development projects in the province, of which so far 43 trillion rials (about \$86 million), equivalent to 41 percent, have been realized, and with the

President's second visit to Golestan, new credits were allocated to accelerate the implementation of the projects approved in the first visit.

Inaugurating a 600-bed hospital, several water supply projects, and a project for dredging of Gorgan Bay were among the major projects inaugurated during president Raisi's visit to Gorgan.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$1.3b to Pakistan in 8 months

TEHRAN - Iran has exported non-oil commodities valued at \$1.3 billion to Pakistan during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that Pakistan registered the highest growth in import of goods from Iran, among the other neighboring countries, in the mentioned eight-month period.

He said that Pakistan had imported non-oil products worth \$855 million from the Islamic Republic in the first eight months of the past year.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is aiming to expand its economic and trade relations with Pakistan through establishing joint free zones and trade centers with the country, IRIB reported.

According to Ahmad Jamali, the deputy secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council, Tehran has reached an agreement with Islamabad to establish a joint free zone on the border between the two countries.

"We have identified 200 investment opportunities in potential joint free zones with Pakistan which can be used to boost export to the country," Jamali said in a meeting held in late November by the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) for exploring Iran-Pakistan business opportunities.

Noting that Chabahar free zone in Sistan-Baluchestan Province is a good platform to develop

exports from Iran to Pakistan, the official added: "Identifying investment opportunities in free zones can lead to the prosperity of businesses and trade of the two countries' economic operators."

Jamali further noted that Iran has considered significant incentives for the exporters to Pakistan and the government fully supports business operators active in the mentioned country.

Mentioning an upcoming exhibition of Iran-Pakistan trade opportunities, which is scheduled to be held in mid-January 2024, Jamali said holding such exhibitions would also be another great way to expand economic relations between the two countries.

Also speaking in the same meeting, Director of TPO's South Asia Department Hadi Talebian-Moghadam announced a plan for establishing trade centers in Pakistan in the coming months, saying: "We are planning to increase the volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan, because the two countries need each other's goods and products."

Stating that currently the highest level of trade between Iran and Pakistan is nearly \$2.5 billion, he added: "In the two countries' strategic cooperation roadmap, we seek to increase the level of exports and exchanges between the two countries to five billion dollars bartering and free trade."

As announced by the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade announced, Iran's non-oil export to Pakistan increased by 18 percent in the previous Iranian

calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Pakistan was Iran's fifth largest export market in the previous calendar year, importing non-oil products worth \$1.488 billion from Iran, Ruhollah Latifi stated. He added that Iran imported non-oil goods worth \$842 million from Pakistan last year, up 170 percent from the previous year.

The intertwining of economic, security, and transit relations between Iran and Pakistan has made the relations of the two countries beyond the neighborhood and turned them into strategic partners with common interests at the regional level.

Having more than 900 kilometers of joint border can lead to closer and more cooperation between the two countries in areas such as transit corridors and bilateral trade.

Iran and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in mid-January to facilitate bilateral trade between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by the former TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak and Head of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Muhammad Zubair Motiwala.

Based on the MOU, which was signed on the sidelines of Iran's Exclusive Exhibition in Karachi, the parties pledged to exchange business information, support each other's private sectors, and provide the conditions and context for the presence of their trade delegations in the other country.

Tehran hosts 7th assembly of Ancient Civilizations Forum

TEHRAN – On Thursday, Tehran played host to the 7th assembly of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, which brought together representatives from the member nations.

The event, chaired by Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, welcomed attendees, fostering dialogue and cooperation among nations known for their rich cultural legacies.

Addressing the esteemed assembly, Amirabdollahian underscored that cooperation between civilizations is an element of soft power that could be used to promote a new discourse in the global arena and help resolve common problems of humanity.

The minister emphasized the imperative for ancient civilizations to utilize their collective potential in condemning the atrocities committed by the Zionist regime of Israel in Gaza. He urged these nations to leverage all available resources to halt such crises and prosecute war criminals through an international tribunal, highlighting the pursuit of justice.

Moreover, he underlined inter-civilizational

collaboration as a potent soft power element for member nations, enabling the introduction of a new discourse on the global stage and facilitating solutions to shared human challenges.

The Ancient Civilizations Forum, comprising ten member nations including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Armenia, Italy, Bolivia, Peru, China, Iraq, Egypt, Mexico, and Greece, was established in 2017. Iran assumed the presidency and hosted the summit in 2023, showcasing its commitment to fostering cross-cultural dialogues and strengthening international cooperation among ancient civilizations.

The conclusion of the Forum's 7th assembly heralds a renewed commitment among ancient nations to uphold cultural diversity, foster mutual understanding, and confront contemporary global issues collectively, setting the stage for further collaboration and harmony among ancient civilizations.

Iran holds the rotating presidency of the Forum in 2023.

Over 6 million tourists visit Kurdistan province in 9 months

TEHRAN – Kurdistan's tourism chief has said that since the beginning of the Nowruz holidays until now, more than six million tourists have entered the western Iranian province.

Mansour Mehrzad, speaking to Mehr News Agency, mentioned a 14% growth in overnight stays in the province compared to the same period last year.

He stated: "We need to establish committees to facilitate tourism and welcome guests to the province in the Nowruz of 1403 (which marks the Persian New Year)." Mehrzad added that those committees will be in charge of transport, emergency services, public safety and city traffic coordination, accommodation and welfare, planning

and statistics, roadside prayer rooms, and health services, market supervision and regulation, coordination with municipalities and rural districts, complaint resolution, health, environment, and cultural information and advertising.

"Satisfaction of travelers and tourists coming to the province is among the main objectives of his directorate," the official said.

"Moreover, more than 50 guideposts have been installed by this department, in collaboration with the directorate of roads and transportation of the province, to introduce the prominent attractions of the province and announce distances to health services and roadside prayer rooms."

Inauguration of sturgeon fishery museum celebrates Iran's aquatic heritage



TEHRAN – On Thursday, Iran's tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami opened a fishery museum dedicated to sturgeon fish during his visit to Ashuradeh, which is the country's sole island in the Caspian Sea.

The inauguration event was attended by a diverse audience, including local officials, marine biologists, and conservationists, marking a milestone in celebrating the nation's rich aquatic heritage.

The sturgeon fishery museum stands as a testament to the country's commitment to preserving and showcasing the historical significance of the sturgeon, a species revered for its cultural and economic importance in the region.

Addressing the event, the minister underscored the significance of Ashuradeh Island as Iran's solitary island in the expansive Caspian Sea.

He highlighted the island's unique ecosystem and its pivotal role in sustaining marine life, especially the sturgeon population, whose historical relevance to Iran's cultural tapestry is unparalleled.

The museum, adorned with captivating exhibits and interactive displays, offers visitors a comprehensive insight into the life cycle, habitat, and conservation efforts of the sturgeon fish. From informative panels detailing the sturgeon's migration patterns to engaging virtual simulations replicating underwater ecosystems, the museum promises an immersive learning experience for visitors of all ages.

A highlight of the inauguration was the unveiling of life-sized replicas of sturgeon fish. Furthermore, the museum serves as an educational hub, aiming to raise awareness about sustainable fishing practices and the pressing need to safeguard endangered species like the sturgeon.

Local residents expressed their enthusiasm and pride in witnessing the establishment of the sturgeon fishery museum. Many anticipate its role in fostering a deeper appreciation for Ashuradeh Island's ecological significance while bolstering tourism in the region.

The museum was established un-

der a memorandum of understanding signed between the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts and the Agricultural Services Specialized Holding Co., which is affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad.

Developing fishery tourism, preserving national resources, establishing national and international caviar trade centers, launching sturgeon breeding centers, and holding training courses and educational and recreational tours related to the caviar industry are among the goals that the memorandum pursues.

Ashuradeh is the name of an island on the Miankaleh peninsula, located 10 km west of Bandar Turkaman in Golestan Province. The tiny island and the wetlands that surround it provide a rich ecological harbor for numerous migratory birds.

The employees of the Iran Fisheries Organization constitute the main residents of the island, which has a surface area of about 320 hectares.

The Persian sturgeon (*Acipenser persicus*) is a species of fish in the family Acipenseridae. It is found in the Caspian Sea and, to a lesser extent, the Black Sea and ascends certain rivers to spawn, mainly the Volga, Kura, Araks, and Ural Rivers.

in the western part of the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa.

Indeed, located on the Mediterranean coast, the site was inhabited at least from the 6th century BC when a Phoenician trading post was established there. The term Kasbah, which originally designated the highest point of the Medina during the Zirid era, today applies to the ensemble of the old town of El Djazair, within the boundaries marked by the ramparts and built at the end of the 16th

century, dating back to the Ottoman period.

In this living environment where nearly 50,000 people reside, very interesting traditional houses, palaces, hammams, mosques and various souks are still conserved, the urban form of which bears witness to an effect of stratification of several styles in a complex and original system that has adapted remarkably well to a very hilly and uneven site.

UNESCO-listed Salasel castle undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – Restoration work has commenced on the UNESCO-listed Salasel castle, a significant element within the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System situated in the southwestern Iranian city.

According to CHTN, the director of this World Heritage site recently announced the initiation of preservation and restoration efforts targeting various sections of the historical fortress.

Amin Mahdavi, who presides over the World Heritage site, emphasized its primary objective: the enhanced preservation and maintenance of the Salasel fortress, a pivotal component of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System.

The restoration initiative, guided by the necessity and priority set by technical experts at the World Heritage site, has been entrusted to a skilled contractor.

Dating back to the Sassanid era, Salasel castle stands atop a massive rock in the northern region of Shushtar city. Its strategic location, surrounded by a deep moat from east to west and adjoining a river on the west side, historically fortified it against enemy attacks.

What distinguishes the castle



from others is the Darian River passing underneath it, providing access to water through an internal staircase. This unique feature allowed inhabitants to withstand prolonged sieges by external forces, lasting for months or even years.

The castle, designed in an oval

shape, exhibits a multidimensional structure with circular-shaped towers. Throughout history, it has undergone reconstruction and repairs, and during the Qajar era, a state mansion was erected north of the castle by the Khuzestan ruler.

The Shushtar Historical Hydraul-

lic System, encompassing bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and ancient waterfalls, is a testament to the ingenuity stemming from earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian civilizations. It possibly drew influence from the Petra dam, tunnel, and Roman engineering.

Recognized as a Wonder of the World, the hydraulic system earned admiration not only from the Persians but also from Arab-Muslim civilizations during their zenith. The main canal played a pivotal role, facilitating the construction of a new town and irrigating a vast semi-desert plain.

UNESCO affirms the exceptional universal value of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, which dates back to the 3rd century CE, possibly built upon older foundations from the 5th century BC. It stands complete with various functionalities, exhibiting large-scale engineering excellence.

Named after the city of Shushtar, whose origins trace back to the time of Darius the Great, an Achaemenid king, this site continues to stand as a testament to ancient engineering brilliance.

Beijing's deputy minister for culture and tourism tours Tehran palace complex

TEHRAN – On Thursday, China's Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Li Qun toured sections of the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran.

According to reports by the public relations office of the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, Hadi Mirzaei, the director-general of Iran's cultural heritage museums, and Bijan Moqadam, the director of the Niavaran Complex, accompanied the Chinese deputy minister during the visit.

The specialized museum palace of Niavaran, Ahmad Shah's Koushk Museum, the Jahan-Nama ("World Windows") Museum, and the Niavaran Car

Museum were among the spaces explored during their tour.

Covering an area of about eleven hectares, the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty ordered a summer residence to be built in the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad-Shahi pavilion is one of

the highlights of the complex.

With an area of 9,000 square meters, the palace is entirely adorned with magnificent plasterwork, mirrorwork, and tilework. Its architecture boasts a blend of pre and post-Islamic arts. Its beautifully decorated and fully furnished interior features loads of artwork, such as precious paintings and sculptures by Iranian and foreign artists.

The main palace of the complex was originally erected for royal ceremonies and gatherings. However, it later turned into a dwelling for Mohammad Reza Shah and his family.

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1402/108-52/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender:
Leasing 20MHz space on AM8 satellite in accordance with the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:
From **Sunday 24 Dec 2023 (1402/10/03) 10:00 a.m** until **Tuesday 26 Dec 2023 (1402/10/05) by 15:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave, Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 10,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No. IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 23725 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 12/100/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed, should be submitted no later than **10:00 a.m. on Saturday 27 Jan 2024 (1402/11/07)** at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Saturday 27 Jan 2024 (1402/11/07) at 10:30 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened **Sunday 28 Jan 2024 (1402/11/08) at 12:00 p.m** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.

The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.
For more information please see :
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept., IRIB

Iran's care for refugees beyond international responsibilities

TEHRAN – Iran's generous and exceptional services for refugees despite unfair economic sanctions has exceeded expectations and international responsibilities, an official with the National Organization for Migration has said.

Behzad Moradipour made the remarks in the meeting of the Almaty Process Experts Group which was held on Wednesday, November 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Representatives from eight states were participating in the event.

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Turkmenistan are currently members of the Almaty process. Iran and Pakistan attended the meeting as observers.

Moradipour, who represented Iran in this meeting, highlighted that the country has been directly affected by the consequences of the massive influx of millions of refugees and foreigners for more than four decades.



economic sanctions imposed on the country, he said.

He emphasized the need for providing accurate information and data governance in the management of refugees and immigrants.

During the meeting, the eight officials discussed issues related to immigrants in the host countries, enhancing regional cooperation, and coordinating activities in the field of migration, as well as sharing experiences on managing and improving the quality of data.

Almaty Process

The Almaty Process is a regional consultative process on refugee protection and international migration to, from, and within Central Asia.

The Almaty Process aims to address the multiple challenges resulting from mixed migration dynamics and to enhance regional cooperation and coordination on mixed migration.

It aims to promote dialogue

on international migration and refugee protection, and the implementation of a coherent, integrated, and differentiated policy on people on the move and develop mechanisms for monitoring and resolving issues related to irregular migration.

It seeks to develop an action plan within the framework of the project aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to manage migration and ensure the protection of refugees.

IOM to share Iran's experience with other nations

On November 26, the chairman of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pir-Hossein Kolivand, said IRCS is ready to cooperate with other nations and share its experiences in providing services to refugees and immigrants.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Lalini Veerassamy, the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRNA reported.

Kolivand stressed that all these are done without any expectations, merely out of a humanitarian perspective. While other countries, receiving substantial funds from international organizations to help refugees, fail to provide the same services.

Appreciating the services provided to Afghan refugees, Veerassamy stated Iran hosts millions of immigrants and refugees.

Although managing and organizing these foreign nationals is very difficult, the immigrants are well-treated in Iran.

She added that the International Organization of Migration will help the IRCS because of common objectives. "We will try to alleviate the sufferings and hardships of the refugees through favorable cooperation."

"We will make efforts to introduce Iran's exceptional services to refugees to the world and introduce Iran as a leading and successful country in managing immigrants," Veerassamy concluded.

Official statistics say around five million Afghan nationals live in Iran, about one million of them live in Khorasan Razavi province, mostly in the capital city of Mashhad.

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

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

Iran has been directly affected by the massive influx of millions of refugees for more than four decades.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has made a very generous effort to provide services to millions of refugees and foreign nationals despite difficult living conditions and oppressive

WHO, Russia collaborate to strengthen emergency response capacities in Iran

TEHRAN – In a significant stride towards bolstering emergency response capacities and healthcare resilience, a Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kit (TESK) was generously donated to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) of Iran.

The donation is part of a collaborative initiative between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Russian Federation.

This joint project, aimed at enhancing Iran's ability to respond effectively to emergencies, saw the presence of key figures including Dr Reza Dehghanpour, the Deputy for Development and Human Resources of NEMO, Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Rafael Gevorkyan, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Russian Federation in Tehran and Mr Valerii Malyshev, the Attache of the Embassy. The TESK is designed to provide essential materials and equipment catering to the immediate surgical needs of up to 50 patients during

emergencies, assuming an average of two operations per patient.

Iran, susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, storms, and man-made incidents like road traffic accidents, stands to benefit significantly from this initiative.

The TESK aligns with the broader goal of strengthening healthcare facilities' preparedness, ensuring timely responses to disasters and emergencies with health impacts.

"The collaborative effort between WHO, the Russian Federation, and NEMO underscores the importance of international cooperation in fortifying nations against the multifaceted challenges posed by emergencies and disasters.

This donation signifies a concrete step towards building a resilient healthcare system in Iran and stands as a testament to the power of global partnerships in safeguarding public health," said Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The paramount importance of individual well-being resonates deeply within the cultural and religious framework of Russia. A long-standing collaboration with Iran in healthcare, highlighted by the establishment of Russia's first international hospital in Tehran and donation of it to the Iranian people, signifies our enduring commitment.

This dedication to preserving lives is not only evident in historical initiatives but was also prominently demonstrated in our rapid response to the Covid-19 health emergency in the Islamic Republic of Iran," emphasized Mr. Rafael Gevorkyan, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, during the TESK kit handover ceremony to NEMO.

NEMO, responsible for pre-hospital emergency medical services, possesses the capacity to establish field hospitals during crises. This capability enables on-site care for casualties before their safe transportation to more permanent healthcare facilities.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Yahya award honors dedicated rangers

Three rangers have been selected to receive the Yahya award for their outstanding efforts to safeguard the country's wildlife and environment, Fars news agency reported on Tuesday.

Ataollah Sadeqi from Kordestan province, Ali Akbar Imani Berenjestanaki from Mazandaran province and Hamid Reza Azimpour from Khorasan Razavi province were the three rangers who earned the award.

Bahman Izadi, an environmental activist, who has been active in freeing rangers who are jailed on involuntary manslaughter charges from prison, also received an honorable mention.

Launched in 2014, the Yahya award annually honors the rangers who have gone far in a yearlong to protect the environment, which was first introduced by an Iranian couple, Mojtaba Ramzi and Paridokht Moshkzad, members of the Iranian Cheetah Society, through a generous donation.

جایزه یحیی سه محیطبان برگزیده را اعلام کرد

در مراسم اهدای پنجمین جایزه یحیی به سه تن از محیطبانان برگزیده به پاس از زحمات برجسته آنها در دفاع از محیط زیست کشور هدایایی اهدا شد. به گزارش گروه محیط زیست و گردشگری خبرگزاری فارس، محیطبان عطاءالله صادقی از استان کردستان، محیطبان علی اکبر ایمانی برنجستانکی از استان مازندران و محیطبان حمیدرضا عظیمپور از استان خراسان رضوی برندگان در این دوره برگزیده شدند. همچنین از خانوادهگان محیطبانان شهید نیز قدردانی شد. بهمن ایزدی فعال محیط زیست که همواره در راهی محیطبانان از حکم قصاص یا زندان نقش داشته نیز مورد تقدیر ویژه این برنامه قرار گرفت. جایزه یحیی یک جایزه مردمی است و دو هنرمند ایرانی از اعضای انجمن بوزپلنگ ایرانی پریدخت مشکزاد و همسرشان مجتبی رمزی، بنیانگذار آن هستند.

Tehran, Damascus to boost scientific research cooperation

TEHRAN – The Iranian deputy science minister, Vahid Haddadi-Asl, and the representative of the Syrian Higher Education Ministry, Fadia Yousef Deeb, discussed ways to enhance bilateral scientific research cooperation.

The meeting was held on Monday, December 18, within the framework of the first joint science and technology cooperation committee, attended by a Syrian delegation and representatives of Iran's ministries of science and health.

Referring to the friendly relations between the two countries, Haddadi-Asl considered it necessary to develop and deepen scientific cooperation in the international arena, IRIB reported.

Collaboration in the fields of education, research, technology, and student exchange were among the important topics of discussion.

Yousef Deeb, for her part, acknowledging the capabilities of Iran in scientific developments, announced Syria's readiness for scientific cooperation with Iran; she also stressed the importance of Iran's scientific experiences being shared with Syria.

She asked for a report on the process of establishing science and technology parks and the possibility of training Syrian science and technology managers in Iran or Syria.

Concerning Syria's interest in enhancing technological and innovative cooperation with Iran, the deputy science minister for innovation and technology, Sajjad Mohammad-Ali Nejad, presented an account of the status of science and technology parks in Iran and the different stages of their establishment, including entrepreneurship centers in universities, technology incubators, which are responsible for training technicians to work in knowledge-based companies, and technology campus.

He went on to explain that Iran has managed to establish and expand science and technology parks without relying on other countries, and is willing to share its knowledge and experiences with Syria.

Iran to boost sci-tech co-op with Syria

On December 5, Mohammad-Reza Mohammadzadeh Attar, the Iranian Deputy Science, Research, and Technology Minister; and Mohamad Amer Tlas, the Syrian Vice-President for the National Union of Students, in a meeting in Tehran, discussed ways to enhance scientific and technological cooperation.

The necessity of establishing a joint science and technology park in Syria was highlighted.

The officials also agreed to hold an exhibition of Iran's scientific achievements in Syria to make Syrian students acquainted more with the technologies and innovations of Iran and Iranian universities.

Syrian students who are interested in studying in Iran will be granted scholarships for master's and Ph.D. degrees.

It was also decided to strengthen Persian language courses in Syria by dispatching professors from Iran.

Iran ready for scientific cooperation

Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, Rouhollah Dehqan-



ni-Firouzabadi, condemning unilateral coercive measures against Iran's knowledge-based and scientific companies, has announced Iran's readiness for scientific and technological cooperation with other countries to make a better world.

He made the remarks at the 15th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Social Forum held from November 2 – 3, in Geneva, IRIB reported.

"We are keen to engage with the international community and share our research with them while benefiting from the best practices, developments, and achievements of other countries in the fields of science, technology, and innovation," IRIB quotes Firouzabadi as saying.

He went on to say that knowledge-based companies play a key role in developing new technologies and solutions to face today's challenges, they have a profound impact on the preservation of basic human rights such as the right to life, health, work and development, and at the same time they deal with inequalities, poverty and unemployment in society.

"Despite unilateral economic sanctions and challenges in accessing coronavirus vaccines and related medical equipment, Iran has achieved an impressive 76 percent vaccination rate among its population against COVID-19," Firouzabadi added.

Iran's active participation in international cooperation and sharing knowledge and initiatives to strengthen the global response to this epidemic, especially in developing and less developed countries, demonstrate its unwavering commitment to promoting human rights and improving the well-being of communities around the world.

Also, Iranian knowledge-based companies are actively involved in environmental initiatives and work tirelessly to mitigate climate change and maintain sustainable prosperity. Their dedication and participation in these fields deserve international recognition and support.

Calling unilateral coercive measures against Iran's knowledge-based companies, innovation, and scientific development disappointing, Firouzabadi highlighted, "These measures not only violate the human rights of every Iranian but also severely hinder progress and international cooperation in crisis situations.

We call for an end to such actions to realize human rights and improve global scientific progress."

"We all have the responsibility to work towards a better world for everyone. Using knowledge, science, and technology in a collaborative and inclusive way, we can create a better world and future. Let's make it brighter for everyone," he pointed out.



Students partake in tree planting

Some 2,000 saplings were planted by students on Wednesday in a village in the western province of Kermanshah as part of a national plan to plant up to one billion saplings across the country.



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

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



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

DECEMBER 23, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 17:16 Dawn: 5:41 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:11 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Paintings by Raad Masoumi are currently on view in an exhibition at Shokuh Gallery.

Entitled "O Universe! Thou Indeed Deception and Game", the exhibit will continue until January 1, 2024, at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

* Yasaman Rasouli is currently showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery.

The exhibit named "The Bird Is Gone" runs until January 3 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.

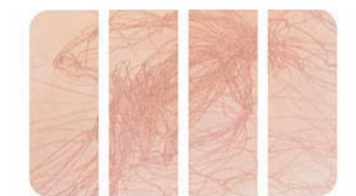


* An exhibition of paintings by Ghazal Marvi is currently underway at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition will run until January 2 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Ali Rasouli is currently underway at Afrand Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Sweet Memories" will continue until January 5 at the gallery located at 48 Jalal Hosseini St., Jahan Ara St., off Jalal Ale-Ahmad Highway.



* Paintings by Mitra Velai are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit named "Twilight" will continue until January 5 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



* Arthibition Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Saied Ahmadzadeh.

The exhibit entitled "Body Parts, Passage of Meaning" will be running until December 31 at the gallery that can be found at Qandi Alley, Sasanipur St., Golnabi St., off Shariati Ave.



* A collection of paintings by Shirin Azadi is currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "Two Dots Amidst Nothingness", the exhibition runs until January 5 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Laleh Memar Ardestani is putting her latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "Soma-Sys", the exhibit will run until January 8 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Larezstan St. off Motahhari Ave.



Sculpture

* Sculptures by Mino Mahin are currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition will run until January 5 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

* Sculptures by Hossein Azadi are currently on view in an exhibition at Etemad Gallery 1.

Entitled "Prison of the Soul", the exhibition will be running until January 16 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

Iranian "Our Uniform" shortlisted in Animated Short Film category of 96th Academy Awards

From Page 1 ▶ aMoghaddam's self-produced seven-minute animation won the Grand Jury prize at Spain's Animayo Festival and the Best Short Animation award at France's Annecy International Animation Film Festival and as a result qualified for the 2024 Oscars.

The short film stands out for its ability to combine different techniques and media, in what is known as Mixed Media, creating a visually captivating experience through a unique and creative approach.

The 2022 production explores the footprints of childhood uniforms as they are more than just a piece of clothing and can affect the way people present themselves in public.

Moghaddam is an animator and illustrator who has a strong passion for nature, culture and the reality she lives in. In her films, she tries to find a voice for beings who usually don't have a voice.

Her student short animation "On the Cover" (2018) gained global attention. Later, she continued creating films and visuals for ecological events. In addition, she has authored the first ecological comic book series for children, published in Iran, titled "The Little Forester".

While the Iranian short animation made its way to the shortlist of its category, another work from Iran did not make it.

"The Night Guardian" by Reza



Mirkarimi, which was Iran's submission to the 96th Academy Awards in the International Feature Film category, did not advance to the next round of voting.

The feature film was among the movies from 88 countries and regions submitted in the category. However, it is not present in the shortlist of 15 films.

Mirkarimi's film, which debuted at the Fajr Film Festival last year, garnered nine award nominations and ultimately won the best director category.

Co-written by Mirkarimi and Mohammad Davoud, "The

Night Guardian" follows the story of an innocent village boy whose carefree life is disrupted by his trust in a construction engineer.

After leaving his village due to drought, Rasoul is relieved to find employment as a night guardian at a construction site. However, he soon discovers that something sinister is happening at the seemingly deserted location. As he becomes ensnared in the peculiar circumstances surrounding him, Rasoul finds himself trapped and in danger.

Since 1994, Iran has been a regular participant in the Oscars film category, with two wins under

its belt for "A Separation" and "The Salesman," both directed by Asghar Farhadi. Two of Mirkarimi's films have previously been selected to represent the country: "So Close, So Far" in 2005 and "Today" in 2014.

The shortlisted films in the category for the 96th Oscars are from Armenia, Bhutan, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine, and the UK.

Nominations voting for the 96th Academy Awards will begin January 11, 2024, and last for five days. Final nominees will be announced on January 23, 2024. The 96th Oscars will be held on March 10, 2024.

IAF cinemathèque to show Oliver Stone's "Wall Street"

TEHRAN-The cinemathèque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will show "Wall Street," a 1987 drama film, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Oliver Stone, on Monday.

After the movie screening at 5 p.m., it will be reviewed at a session with the presence of the veteran film critic Javad Toosi and journalist and documentary filmmaker Mehdi Khorramdel, Honaronline reported.

"Wall Street" stars Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen, Daryl Hannah, and Martin Sheen. The film tells the story of Bud Fox, a young stockbroker who becomes involved with Gordon Gekko, a wealthy, unscrupulous corporate raider.

In the movie, Fox is willing to do anything to get to the top, including trading on illegal inside information taken through the ruthless, greedy Gekko who takes the youth under his wing.

Stone made the film as a tribute to his father, Lou Stone, a stockbroker during the Great Depression. The character of Sir Lawrence Wildman was modelled on British financier and corporate raider Sir James Goldsmith.

The film was well received among major film critics. Douglas won the Academy Award for Best Actor, and the film has come to be



seen as the archetypal portrayal of 1980s excess, with Douglas' character declaring that "greed, for lack of a better word, is good." Wall Street defines itself through a number of morality conflicts putting wealth and power against simplicity and honesty, and an attack on the value system of extreme competitiveness where ethics and the law are simply irrelevant parts of the show. The film has also proven influential in inspiring people to work on Wall Street.

A film director, producer, and screenwriter, Stone, 77, is known as a controversial but acclaimed director, tackling subjects ranging from the Vietnam war, and American politics to musical biopics and crime dramas. He has received numerous accolades including four Academy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Primetime Emmy Award, and five Golden Globe Awards.

Many of his films focus on controversial American political issues during the late 20th century, and as such were considered contentious at the times of their releases. They often combine different camera and film formats within a single scene, as demonstrated in "JFK" (1991), "Natural Born Killers" (1994), and "Nixon" (1995).

Stone has been critical of American foreign policy, which he considers to be driven by nationalist and imperialist agendas. "We made a mess out of Iraq, Syria, Libya, but it doesn't matter to the American public," he once said. He has also called Saudi Arabia a major destabilizer in the Middle East.

He has approved of politicians Hugo Chávez and Vladimir Putin, the latter of whom was the subject of "The Putin Interviews" (2017). Like his subject matter, Stone is a controversial figure in American filmmaking, with some critics accusing him of promoting conspiracy theories.

The screening of "Wall Street" will be the 567th program of the IAF cinemathèque, which is dedicated to the showing of famous films from Iran and the world.

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

Adaptation of Macbeth to go on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN-Iranian director Abbas Rasai will stage an adaptation of William Shakespeare's masterpiece "Macbeth" at Mah Hall of Tehran's Art Bureau on December 25.

Rasai is also the main actor of the play, which will remain on stage until January 4, 2024.

In "Macbeth," the play opens with Macbeth, a brave and honorable Scottish general, encountering three witches who prophesy that he will become the King of Scotland. Intrigued by the idea, Macbeth shares the prophecy with his ambitious wife, Lady Macbeth. Consumed by a lust for power, they plot the murder of King Duncan, their benevolent ruler. Macbeth hesitates initially, but Lady Macbeth manipulates him, questioning his courage and masculinity, ultimately persuading him to carry out the deed.

Having successfully killed

Duncan, Macbeth is crowned king, but his guilt begins to consume him. He becomes paranoid, convinced that others will discover his dark secret. To secure his position, Macbeth orders the murder of his friend Banquo and his son, fearing they might threaten his reign. Lady Macbeth, however, begins to experience the consequences of her actions, tormented by guilt and descending into madness. Macbeth turns to the witches once more for reassurance, and they provide him with a series of ambiguous prophecies, further fueling his delusions of invincibility.

As the body count rises and unrest spreads, Macbeth's hold on the throne becomes increasingly fragile. Macduff, a nobleman, becomes suspicious of Macbeth and joins forces with Malcolm, Duncan's son, to overthrow the tyrant king.

Lady Macbeth, burdened by guilt and remorse, eventually takes her own life. In the final battle, Macbeth's forces are outnumbered, and he is confronted by Macduff. Despite his belief in the witches' prophecy that "no man of woman born" can harm him, Macbeth is slain by Macduff, fulfilling another of the witches' prophecies.

"Macbeth" explores the tragic consequences of unchecked ambition and the destructive power of guilt. Macbeth's journey from a respected general to a remorseless murderer showcases the corrosive nature of ambition and the erosion of morality. Shakespeare delves into the complexities of human nature, highlighting the potential darkness within each individual. Ultimately, the play serves as a cautionary tale, illustrating the devastating effects of greed and

the inescapable consequences of one's actions.

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the greatest playwrights in history. Born in England in 1564, his works have had an immeasurable impact on literature and the performing arts. Shakespeare's plays encompass a remarkable range of genres, from romantic comedies like "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Much Ado About Nothing" to tragedies like "Hamlet" and "Macbeth".

His influence extends beyond just the stage; his sonnets, consisting of 154 poems, delve into themes of love, beauty, and mortality. Shakespeare's skillful use of language, his ability to create memorable characters, and his exploration of complex human emotions have solidified his place in literary canon and continue to captivate audiences worldwide.