

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 44th year | No. 14403 | Thursday | January 5, 2023 | Dey 15, 1401 | Jumada Al thani 12, 1444

Report

Nasrallah: Soleimani saved region from U.S. occupation

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has said the aim of assassinating the martyrs Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was to break the resistance and weaken the parties to its axis.

The Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah made the remarks during a speech, in a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the U.S. assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's deputy chief of the Popular Mobilization Forces Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis next to Baghdad International Airport.

Nasrallah highlighted that the American policy in the region was and continues to be, to dominate West Asia and seize its wealth, including the vast oil and gas reserves.

"The first thing that martyr Soleimani and other leaders and martyrs challenged was the initial phase of the new 'U.S. Middle East project' in Lebanon and Palestine," Nasrallah said, adding that the September 11 attacks "which gave impetus to the American project to enter Afghanistan and Iraq, while approaching Iran and Syria."

The Secretary-General of Hezbollah confirmed that "if the Israeli war on Lebanon (July 2006) had succeeded, it would have moved onto Syria, but that did not happen," explaining that "because the martyr Soleimani was here." **▶ Page 5**

Iran lashes out at French magazine over derogatory caricatures

TEHRAN- The Iranian embassy in France has censured the derogatory caricatures by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

In a statement issued by the embassy on Wednesday, the embassy insisted on the need to call on French authorities to stop publishing anti-Iran contents, bar the spread of campaign of insults and hatred.

"The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while strongly condemning this move by Charlie Hebdo, greatly expects the concerned French officials to take necessary and immediate measures against this publication," the embassy demanded, warning that if the magazine goes on with its obscene caricatures it will "surely leave a destructive effect on relations between the two countries and nations."

The embassy said the move by the magazine goes sharply against freedom of expression. **▶ Page 2**

Iran football needs fresh blood

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Iran national football team need further young players and there is no time to waste.

Team Melli were the oldest out of any team at the 2022 FIFA World Cup, with an average age of 28.9.

If the team want to make a better performance in the upcoming World Cup than they did in Qatar's World Cup, they need to build a new team.

Only five members of the 2022 World Cup squad will be aged 30 or below come 2026 – with only Saeid Ezatollahi and Majid Hosseini being able to consider themselves as members of the current starting XI. The talented players like Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, Abolfazl Jalali, Mohammad Omri, Mehdi Ghaedi, Omid Noorafkan, Sina Asadbeigi, Mohammad Mohebbi and Alireza Koushkei must be injected into the team.

Team Melli's next coach, should not be afraid of putting aside big names like Mehdi Taremi, Ehsan Hajisafi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Karim Ansarifard, Ramin Rezaei and Mehrdad Mohammadi.

Iran football needs fresh blood.

Ayatollah Khamenei Lambasts Western 'Hypocrisy' on Women

▶ Page 3



© khamenei.ir

From Inside

- Vice president says Saudis willing to resume talks with Iran **P2**
- Iran envoy to Azerbaijan meets Amir Abdollahian **P3**
- Iran, UAE to accelerate port, maritime, transit cooperation **P4**
- Tehran mulling over launching direct shipping line to Brasilia **P4**
- Loading, unloading of goods in Arvand Kenar port rises 271% **P4**
- Bas-relief found near Pasargadae by accident **P6**
- Archaeologists redraw boundaries for Neolithic village **P6**
- 3.5 tons of narcotics confiscated in 48 hours **P7**
- Blood storage at acceptable levels **P7**
- Iranian troupe to show "The Importance of Being Earnest" **P8**
- "King of the Seven Climes" rules over Iranian bookstores **P8**

Tehran Papers

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

Harmful cooperation with FATF

Iran's inclusion in the FATF's black list will not cause problems for our foreign trade and exchange rate stability, the Kayhan publication wrote. **▶ Page 2**

Iran envoy reacts to joint statement by female foreign ministers

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Denmark Afsaneh Nadipour has penned an open letter in response to a recent joint statement by female foreign minister on the developments in Iran.

In October, sixteen female foreign ministers met online to discuss the alleged human rights violations in Iran. The meeting was hosted by Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly and attended by her counterparts from Albania, Andorra, Australia, France, Germany, Iceland, Kosovo, Libya, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Norway.

"We, as women foreign ministers, are gathered in solidarity with the courageous Iranian women engaging in their right of peaceful assembly and advocating for their human rights. We recognize that Iranian women are also fighting for a better future for all Iranians and we have the moral obligation to support them. We strongly support the vital work of human rights defenders, in particular women human rights defenders, who ensure people around the world are free to exercise and enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms," they said in a joint statement after the meeting. **▶ Page 3**

General Soleimani's memoir "I Feared Nothing" published in Spanish

TEHRAN – Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani's memoir "I Feared Nothing" ("A Nada le Temia") has been published in Spanish.

The book, which covers the Quds Force chief's memories until 1978, was launched on Tuesday in Madrid during a special ceremony held at the Iranian Culture Center to commemorate the third anniversary of his assassination.

Iranian cultural attaché Mohammad-Mehdi Ahmadi, Ambassador Hassan Qasqavi and a group of Spanish cultural figures attended the meeting.

Ahmadi read a message sent to the meeting by Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili.

Esmaili thanked the Iranian Culture Center for its contributions to the publication of the book and said, "I hope this great book will lead the **▶ Page 8**

Non-oil exports increase 19%

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's non-oil export rose 19 percent from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21,2022) up to December 31, as compared to the same period of time in the past year, data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) show.

According to the IRICA data, Iran exported 97.843 million tons of goods valued at

\$43.088 billion in the mentioned period, also registering a two-percent increase in weight, IRNA reported.

Liquefied natural gas, liquefied propane, methanol, liquefied butane, and film-grade polyethylene were the main exported products in the said time span.

Major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, Turkey, the

United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India.

The Islamic Republic has also imported 28.18 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$44.337 billion in the first 286 days of the present year, with a 14.7-percent growth in value and a 10-percent increase in weight, year on year.

The major items of goods imported into the country in the said period include corn, **▶ Page 4**

Numerous homegrown vaccines to fight new strains

TEHRAN – The existence of several COVID vaccines makes the fight against the new strains easier, Shahnam Arshi, deputy director for the infectious diseases management department of the Ministry of Health, has said.

COVIRAN, Noora, PastoCovac, Fakhra, and SpikoGen are some of the vaccines made by Iranian experts.

Iran is dealing with the newly-emerged eighth wave of the pandemic, as three new strains of BQ1, XBB, and BA2, have been diagnosed recently in patients.

Within the next one to two months, the new wave of the pandemic will reach its peak, according to deputy health minister Hossein Farshidi.

The new wave is not as severe as the previous waves, but people are advised to inject the booster dose and to practice personal and social hygiene, especially avoiding gatherings and wearing masks in closed spaces that do not have proper ventilation, Arshi explained. **▶ Page 7**



© ISNA / Majid Khabazi

International meeting held on Gen. Soleimani school of thought
TEHRAN- The first international conference on the Martyr Soleimani school of thought was held on Wednesday at the Iran International Conference Center in Tehran with the participation of foreign audiences.

Addressing the conference, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that the martyrdom of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani boosted the power and glory of the Islamic Ummah. **▶ Page 2**

Visit Tarikhaneh, one of Iran's oldest mosques.

TEHRAN – The Tarikhaneh Mosque, which was formerly a fire temple from the Sassanid era (224–651), is situated in central Iran, close to the city of Damghan.

According to some sources, including ArchNet, a collaborative digital humanities project specializing in Islamic architecture, the Tarikhaneh is the oldest mosque still in operation in the nation.

The monument, also known as Tarik Khana, combines Sassanian building methods with a straightforward Arab design. An arcade lines the central courtyard, a single bay deep on all but the qibla side where it increases to three bays.

The central aisle on the qibla arcade is wider and taller than the others, a form that preciently indicates the later ubiquitous monu-

mental axis of Persian architecture.

The arcades, recalling Sassanian precedents, are formed of fired brick arches, elliptical and sometimes slightly pointed, and massive circular brick piers.

Standing together at a distance from the mosque are the remains of a square minaret of the uncertain date, **▶ Page 6**

TEHRAN PAPERS

Harmful cooperation with FATF

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

from page 1 ▶ One of the main doubts is non-cooperation of banks from Russia and China or other countries with Iran due to the FATF. The reason for making such comments is lack of sufficient mastery of the standards and documents of this international organization and the sanctions rules of the United States.

First, the FATF standards and its restrictions are not aimed at ending cooperation, but of increasing caution.

Secondly, the issue of non-cooperation of Chinese banks is not a new issue. After 2012 and the start of sanctions by the United States, this cooperation was stopped.

Thirdly, the cooperation of sanctioned Iran with the FATF not only will not lead to more cooperation, but on the contrary, it will lead to the termination of cooperation.

Farhikhtegan: Zionist regime's role in Iran's riots

Farhikhtegan analyzed the Zionist regime's involvement in the riots in Iran.

We saw examples of this involvement in separatist groups' attempts to smuggle weapons into the country and escalate tensions in western cities. These groups were also trained by Israel's security agencies for a terrorist attack on Iran's aircraft factory (HESA), and their action was thwarted in the days before the street protests began.

Israel does not have any new strategic plan against Iran and is trying to repeat the scenes of internal chaos in certain cities, particularly Tehran.

Jomhuri Eslami: One-dimensional foreign policy

Jomhuri Eslami, in its editorial, warned that what has happened in the close relations of the Islamic Republic with China and Russia over the last year has clearly shown that the one-dimensional policy of looking to the East is not in our interest at all.

Moreover, the one-dimensional policy of looking to the West is not beneficial either, it highlighted.

The officials in the Islamic Republic must fundamentally revise foreign policy according to the experiences gained over these years and, as stipulated in the Constitution, make the policy of interaction with the East and the West without accepting the domination of foreigners as a foreign policy principle.

Arman-e Melli: Iran's future neglected

Seyyed Mustafa Hashemi Taba, a political activist and former vice president, told Arman-e Melli that if we do not think about the serious challenges that the country is facing and not taking urgent action, we will face problems in the future.

The important thing is the future of Iran, the environmental and agricultural situation and the future of people's lives. Some say that the law should be changed for better management of the country. Sadly enough, no attention is paid to this important issue. Yet more attention is paid to political and economic issues.

Regarding the current situation, no political group can claim that it can solve all problems alone. Unity is created in the country when all political and social groups work together for a successful future.

In the first stage, the policies should be reformed and then the managers who are not competent should be replaced.

The current problems do not only depend on the policies of the current government; this government also inherited the wrong policies of the previous governments. If the policies are in line with development, people will be willing to participate.

Etemad: Lagging behind rapid global developments

Etemad in a note criticized lack of conceptual understanding of basic dialogue, and wrote that in most sensitive international issues that are directly related to national security, there is no consensus among the elites or a correct conceptual understanding.

It further referred to the reason behind this and said we have failed to learn how to discourse or understand the culture of basic dialogue.

Based on incorrect data, wrong analysis and wrong decisions are taken, and many times actions are taken completely against national interests, the author noted, citing some examples, like, how to interact with the Ukraine crisis and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Therefore, in order to be able to stand stiff in this turbulent and stormy era of fast-paced developments, we must first reach an 'elite analysis' and draw a road map based on that, and with a clear task about how to interact with the world, and have an innovative, creative and active presence in foreign policy, the author suggested.

Vice president says Saudis willing to resume talks with Iran

TEHRAN – Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, Iran's vice president for parliamentary affairs, on Wednesday described his meeting with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan in Brazil as "detailed" and said the Saudi side expressed willingness to resume dialogue with Tehran.

Hosseini had visited Brazil to participate in a ceremony in which Lula da Silva was sworn in as president on Sunday. Dignitaries from other countries had also participated in the presidential inauguration ceremony.

Hosseini said the Saudi foreign minister listened to his remarks "patiently and expressed his views."

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been at odds over certain issues, the most important of which is the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

Iraq has so far mediated five rounds of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"The main subject was what will be the destiny of the dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia which has been initiated with the mediation of Iraq. They

(Saudi Arabia) announced their readiness to resume the dialogue," Hosseini said after a cabinet meeting.

The Saudi foreign minister welcomed more meetings to study issues that the two sides disagree on and allay concerns so that the two sides finally reach a conclusion, the vice president added.

Hosseini went on to say that the Iranian Foreign Ministry is following the issue of talks with Saudi Arabia and have taken some steps in this regard.

The vice president also called Iran and Saudi Arabia two important and influential countries in the region and said the two sides cooperate with each other in certain areas, including Hajj pilgrimage.

"Every year a large number of Iranians visit Saudi Arabia as pilgrims and it is necessary that cooperation between the two countries increase," Hosseini suggested.

He added, "What the two sides insist on is reestablishing ties between the two countries."

Iranian embassy marks martyrdom anniversary of Gen. Soleimani

TEHRAN- The Iranian embassy in Georgia held an event on Tuesday to mark the third martyrdom anniversary of General Qassem Soleimani.

Ways to fight terrorism were discussed at the presence of both Georgian and Iranian cultural and academic figures.

Iran's ambassador to Georgia Mahmoud Adib delivered a speech regarding the unique characteristics of General Soleimani.

He also talked about the role of Western countries, especially the United States, in creating the Daesh terrorist group to wreak havoc on the security and stability of the region.

During the event, Ambassador Adib touched upon the main reasons why extremism and terrorism were intended to weaken and destabilize West Asia in cahoots with the financial support and assistance of certain Western states.

TEHRAN – In a letter on Tuesday, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to the UN demanded that those responsible in the assassination of Iranian Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani should be penalized.

The letter by Amir Saeid Iravani was addressed to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Security Council President Ishikane Kimihiro, and General Assembly President Csaba Korosi on the occasion of the anniversary of the cowardly assassination of the legendary commander.

The full text of the letter is as follows:

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to you with respect to the third anniversary of the horrific assassination of Martyr Major General Qassem Soleimani (the Commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, an official branch of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran) and his companions, which was carried out by the United States on 3 January 2020 at Baghdad International Airport. In this regard, I would like to bring your attention to the following:

1. Major General Qassem Soleimani was cowardly and deliberately assassinated while visiting Iraq at the formal request of the Iraqi Government. This crime, carried out by the United States forces on the direct order of the then-President of that Country, constituted an act of terrorism and a material breach of the obligations of the United States under international law, entailing its international responsibility.

2. Furthermore, as stated in our letter dated 3 January 2022 (S/2022/5), the Israeli regime was also involved in such a heinous crime, and its involvement was officially admitted by the former Israeli regime's military intelligence chief, who stated that "Israeli intelligence played a part" in that assassination and described it as "an achievement" and one of the two significant and important assassinations during his tenure. In addition, the United States utilized its Ramstein Airbase in Germany as well as some of its military bases in the region to carry out this terrorist operation.

3. Pursuant to our letters on 3, 7, and 29 January 2020 (S/2020/13, S/2020/16, and S/2020/81) and 3 January 2022 (S/2022/5), the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that all those who had aided, abetted or otherwise assisted and supported, whether directly or indirectly, by any means, including the Israeli regime and Germany, are responsible for their direct or indirect involvement in the conduct of this terrorist crime

Iran lashes out at French magazine over derogatory caricatures

from page 1 ▶ "The move followed by Charlie Hebdo magazine is in no way vindicated by fundamentals of freedom of expression, but instead it is considered as a measure made to insult personalities of nations, roll out a campaign of defamation, spread lies and hatred which are not pursuant to norms and standards of international law," the statement read.

"Charlie Hebdo's action represents instrumental use and hypocritical exploitation of the principle of freedom of speech which considers its hostility to religion and religious values as its pride," the embassy added.

"Charlie Hebdo, which falsely raised the claim of defending women's rights, depicts its

International meeting held on Gen. Soleimani school of thought

from page 1 ▶ He noted that General Soleimani had helped stand against insecurity and attempted resolutely to eliminate any threat.

The parliament speaker also



Iran urges punishment for culprits in Gen. Soleimani assassination

and must accordingly be brought to justice.

4. Given the grave consequences of the assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani for regional and international peace and security, and despite the Security Council's numerous resolutions recognizing that all acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable and that all perpetrators, organizers, financiers, and sponsors of terrorist acts must be brought to justice. It is deeply concerning that the United Nations Security Council was prohibited from carrying out its pertinent duties under the United Nations Charter by the perpetrator, the United States. Inaction by the Security Council will only erode its already damaged credibility and authority.

5. It is worth mentioning that Major General Qassem Soleimani played a prominent role in assisting the peoples and governments of regional countries, including the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq, at their request in their fight against terrorist groups. His sacrifices were widely and repeatedly acknowledged by the peoples and authorities of the respective countries, earning him the titles of Hero of the Fight Against Terrorism and General of Peace. His assassination had served the common interests of the United States, the Israeli regime, and Daesh and other terrorist organizations in the region who hailed this crime and referred to it as "an act of divine intervention that benefited" them.

6. I would like to reiterate once

more that the Iranian armed forces are steadfastly determined to vigorously continue Martyr Soleimani's path of actively aiding regional nations and governments in combating foreign-backed terrorist groups in our region until they are entirely eliminated.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Envoy cautions against Israel's military threats against Iran

In another letter on Tuesday, Ambassador Iravani also insisted that Iran keeps the right to take action if Israel launches military attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities.

The letter addressed to the UN chief and the UNSC, Ambassador Iravani said such military threats constitute a blatant violation of the UN Charter.

Here is the text of the letter:

I would like to draw your attention to Israel's ongoing breaches of international law and the UN Charter against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Israeli regime continues to threaten to use force against Iran, the most recent of which are statements made by regime authorities openly threatening to use force against Iran's peaceful nuclear programs.

On 28 December 2022, Benny Gantz, outgoing Defense Minister of the Israeli regime, declared, "Israel has significantly increased its

preparedness in recent years and is preparing for the possibility of an attack on Iran". Similarly, Yair Lapid, departing Prime Minister of the Israeli regime, repeated the same hostile tone and claimed, "No Israeli Government will allow a nuclear Iran. If it is necessary to act, we will act". Furthermore, on 27 December 2022, Aviv Kohavi, Chief of Staff of the Israeli regime, remarked, "The level of preparedness for an operation in Iran has dramatically improved."

These inflammatory and belligerent statements threatening to use force against Iran's peaceful nuclear programs, which have been under the most stringent and intrusive nuclear verification, monitoring and transparency measures ever implemented in a country in the IAEA's history, are a flagrant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, specifically Article 2(4) of the Charter.

This is not the first time the Israeli regime has threatened to use force against Iran. As emphasized in Iran's letter dated 27 July 2022 (S/2022/581), this regime has already blatantly and openly admitted its responsibility for the terrorist and destructive operations committed against Iranian officials, scientists, civilians, and its peaceful nuclear infrastructure by this illegitimate regime inside Iranian territory in recent years. Indeed, such warmongering statements demonstrate that the Israeli regime is responsible for all criminal and terrorist acts committed against Iran and must bear the consequences.

While warning against the Israeli regime's military adventurism against Iran in order to pursue its malign policies in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its legitimate right, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter, to respond to any threat posed by the Israeli regime and protect its people as well as national security interests at any time it deems appropriate.

The United Nations Security Council must uphold its Charter responsibility in the maintenance of international peace as well as security and condemn the Israeli regime's warmongering statements and malevolent activities, which are a real threat to international peace and security. This regime must be forced to comply with international law and abandon its dangerous plans for the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Iranian FM: We won't allow France to overstep the mark

The foreign minister of Iran also denounced Charlie Hebdo for its insulting and obscene caricature.

The French magazine will face a "decisive and effective" retaliation for its blatant and disrespectful action against the highly esteemed "religious and political authorities," Hossein Amir Abdollahian tweeted.

"We won't allow the government of France to overstep the mark. They have definitely taken a wrong path. We have already included that magazine in the list of sanctions," Amir Abdollahian underlined.



true nature by publishing very disgusting and obscene caricatures in a special edition," stated the embassy.

Addressing the parliament, Deputy Parliament Speaker Ali Nikzad also said "humanity is owed" to Soleimani's sacrifices.

General Soleimani did not just

Iran censures Ben-Gvir's visit to al Aqsa mosque

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly condemned the visit by Israel's new far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to the al Aqsa mosque compound in al-Quds on Tuesday, saying al-Quds will remain the eternal capital of Palestine.

"The united al-Quds is the permanent capital of the country of Palestine and any desecration of the holy sites of Palestine including al-Quds is an open violation of international regulations and an insult to the values and

sanctities of the Muslims of the world and it will draw reaction from Muslim nations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a statement.

Praising the resistance of the Palestinian people, Kanaani warned against the "adventurous and provocative moves of the new cabinet of the occupying Zionist regime."

He insisted that liberation of Palestine, including the holy Quds, remains as the first priority of the Islamic world and suggested it is

the "duty of all freedom-seeking people of the world, especially Muslim nations and governments, to act 'unitedly' in defending al-Quds and countering the invasive measures of the Zionist regime."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman also urged all international bodies, including the United Nations, to abide by their duties in this regard and prevent invasions and "barbaric acts" by the "racist Zionist regime" against Palestinian people and sanctities of Muslims.

Ayatollah Khamenei lambasts Western 'hypocrisy' on women

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, met with a group of prominent Iranian women on Wednesday and addressed a variety of issues related to women.

At the beginning of his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei expressed satisfaction with the holding of a meeting that is exclusively for women. "God willing, the meeting here today will have numerous benefits for our future and our way of thinking. I am very happy that we were able to hold this meeting this year. This meeting was exclusively for women. Up until this moment, it has been overflowing with outstanding, excellent ideas. The matters discussed by the women were very good, and I personally, truly benefited from them. Some recommendations were made. God willing, a solution will be found for these matters. Some of these suggestions may be related to the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution," he said, according to a readout of the meeting put out by khamenei.ir.

He added, "They may need to be discussed there or in other places, especially the issue of employing our intelligent, skilled, experienced, knowledgeable, scholarly, wise, and perceptive women in different places in the country where decisions are made. This is an important matter. Of course, this issue has occupied my mind. We need to find a way for this. God willing, we shall find a way. We will see what can be done."

Western hypocrisy against Women

Ayatollah Khamenei castigated the "decadent Western culture" and its crimes against women. "On the issue of women, our stance towards the hypocritical Western claimants is



a position of demand, not defense. There was a time many years ago, when a number of students at a university asked me, 'What do you have to say for yourself in defense of such and such a case?' I told them, 'I don't have a defense. I have an attack.' That is how it is with the issue of women. The world is to blame. When I say 'the world' I mean the Western world, Western philosophy, and the existing Western culture. Of course, [what I am talking about] is the modernized West. I am not concerned about the historical West."

He added, "That is a whole different matter. The modernized West is the one that has expressed its opinion on all aspects of life since about 200 years ago. We demand answers from them. They are guilty with regard to the issue of women; they are to blame. They have really inflicted harm. They have committed crimes."

Ayatollah Khamenei then pointed to Islam's view toward women. He said, "Unlike the deeply patriarchal Western capitalist system, in Islam, both men and women are prominent and have legal, intellectual, theoretical and practical privileges. But the Westerners untruthfully attribute their inherent patriarchy to Islam."

Two Western misuses of women

The Leader said two things

constitute an example of the West's misuse of women: the field of work and the pleasure-centric view of women. "The main purpose of raising the issue of women's freedom in the West was to drag them from the home to the factory to use women as cheap labor," he said.

The Leader said the pleasure-centric view is another fundamental blow to women. "In this truly sad story, the capitalist system, using a variety of methods, convinces the woman that her benefit and value lies in the behavior that makes her sexual appeal more prominent and more attractive to the men on the street. And this is the biggest blow to the dignity and status of women," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Captivity in the name of freedom

Referring to the statistics and facts that even the official centers of Western countries announce, he called the West's claim about defending women's rights the ultimate insolence. "The alleged freedom of the capitalist system is the same as 'captivity and insult' to women, and one is ashamed to even mention some incidents in the West," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

Promoting Islam's view on women

Ayatollah Khamenei, while repudiating the West's view on women, underlined the need to

promote Islam's attitude toward women.

Expressing his satisfaction with the presence of a large number of scholarly, wise and faithful women in the country, Ayatollah Khamenei called it necessary to explain and expose the disastrous view of the West on the issue of gender and women.

"By using virtual communication, present Islam's view on the issue of men and women in the form of short and expressive propositions and initiatives such as creating hashtags these facts to those who are thirsty, especially in Islamic countries," he said.

Hijab a Sharia necessity

The Leader also referred to the issue of the hijab (veil), describing it as an inviolable Sharia-mandated necessity. "Hijab is undoubtedly an inviolable necessity, but this inviolable necessity should not cause those who do not fully observe hijab to be accused of being irreligious or counter-revolutionary," he remarked.

Ayatollah Khamenei described those who do not observe hijab entirely as being "our women and girls" who also attend religious and revolutionary ceremonies.

"Weak hijab is not a right thing, but it does not make that person to be considered outside the circle of religion and Revolution," he added.

Female champions: the best advertisement for hijab

"The best advertisement for the hijab is that our sports girl becomes a champion and raises her country's flag in front of international cameras while standing on the champion's podium with a hijab," he said.

He also said those women who had improper hijab stood up to the calls for protest against the hijab.

Iran envoy reacts to joint statement by female foreign ministers

From Page 1 ▶ Nadipour said this expression of support was "disingenuous and politically-motivated." She asked her female counterparts to avoid the double standards applied against the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to Iran's IRNA official news agency.

She pointed to the valuable presence of Iranian women in the UN Commission on the Status of Women of which Iran has recently been removed. "During my years of work and experience in this field, I have noticed that in the meetings of this commission, Iranian women have actively participated in the discussions and decisions of the commission and used the opportunity to exchange ideas with others in a constructive international interaction that provides the basis for the introduction of best practices at the national level and multilateral learning."

Emphasizing the inclusion in international and multilateral efforts to improve the status of women and girls, Nadipour considered the removal of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women as a factor for depriving Iranian women of the opportunity to participate and learn from this international forum.

The Iranian ambassador pointed out that the decision to remove the membership of an elected member from the commission was not due to real concern for the rights of Iranian women and girls, but was another attempt to put pressure on a

country that pursues its independent policies.

She also said that over many years, Iranian women have taken great steps to improve their status and livelihood in the society, to achieve their rights and empowerment and in these years, many laws and measures have helped them in this matter.

Nadipour considered the reaction of these governments to be political, and called them indifferent to the sufferings of Iranian women in recent years.

Addressing the female foreign ministers, she said, "What I and my compatriots expect from you and other foreign ministers is to avoid the double standards applied against my country, including its female population, and allow us to use all our capacities and potential to improve our situation."

He noted, "As part of a dynamic and lively, active, educated and stable society, Iranian women have used every opportunity to assert their rights, including equal opportunities and social freedoms. They will undoubtedly strive hand in glove with their countrymen to achieve their rights as best as possible and achieve more in the direction of self-improvement and prosperity of their country."

Earlier, a group of Iranian female lawmakers had reacted to the removal of Iran from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), saying the move was "completely political" and "cruel."

The Iranian parliament's Committee of Women

issued a statement in which they accused the Western countries of violating the rights of women.

"While Western countries have been claiming to defend women's rights, according to statistics and international reports, they are the biggest violators of women's rights. These countries, in a completely political move and in the name of defending women's rights, ended the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Commission of the Status of Women," the statement said.

It continued, "This is while the status of women in Iran has improved in various areas according to the statistics, especially in the field of education and health, we see a significant and positive situation."

The statement said, "Canceling Iran's membership in the Commission on the Status of Women, which was done outside of the rules and with a completely political behavior by America and European countries, which themselves play the biggest role in the exploitation of women and their commodification, is a heretical and cruel move."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani also described the adoption of America's non-consensual resolution against Iran at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a political scheme that lacks legal credibility, runs counter to the UN Charter and sets the wrong precedent in the international body.

Iran envoy to Azerbaijan meets Amir Abdollahian

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan Seyed Abbas Mousavi met on Tuesday with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to brief him on the latest developments in Tehran-Baku ties and the future agendas.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian highlighted good and excellent ties with all neighbors within the framework of the sitting Iranian administration's neighborly policy, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

He also presented Mousavi with the necessary guidelines for enhancing relations between the two neighboring countries in various political, economic and cultural fields, emphasizing a successful holding of the Joint Economic

Commission between the two sides in the near future.

In late December, Amir Abdollahian exchanged views with his Azeri counterpart Jeyhoun Bayramov about the most important issues of bilateral and regional relations during a telephone conversation.

At the beginning of the conversation, Amir Abdollahian congratulated the government and people of Azerbaijan on the beginning of 2023 and expressed hope that relations between Tehran and Baku will expand in various political and economic fields in the New Year.

The top Iranian diplomat also referred to Tehran's readiness to boost transportation and transit ties with Azerbaijan, saying

cooperation in these fields must be increased and that we are ready to boost trade ties.

Amir Abdollahian reaffirmed Iran's opposition to the presence of foreign countries in the region. He stressed that regional countries are capable of resolving problems in the region properly through adopting positive approaches.

Forming working groups for media activities on both sides and examining water scarcity and pollution of the Aras River between the two countries were among other issues raised and proposed by Iran's foreign minister in the telephone conversation.

Azerbaijan's foreign minister, for his part, underlined the importance of cooperation with

the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Jeyhun Bayramov also said Baku is interested in holding a session of the joint economic commission of the two countries in early 2023 and boosting trade and economic ties.

Iran FM receives message from UAE

On Tuesday, Amir Abdollahian also received United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Tehran Saif Al Zaabi.

In the meeting, the Emirati envoy submitted the message of his country's foreign minister to Amir Abdollahian, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

In the message and during the meeting, the two sides stressed the need to expand Tehran-Abu Dhabi relations more than ever before.

JANUARY 5, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Al-Nassr surpass Persepolis on Instagram

TEHRAN - Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia surpassed Iranian club Persepolis to become the most followed team in West Asia.

Al-Nassr have gained over five million followers on Instagram after signing five-time Champions League winner Cristiano Ronaldo.

Following the transfer, Ronaldo's announcement by the club got 32 million likes and Al-Nassr gained over 2.5 million new followers in a matter of hours - a 400% increase. The club currently stands at 8.9 million followers on Instagram.

The football world came to a standstill when Al-Nassr signed the Portuguese forward on Dec. 30, announcing that they recruited the most followed person on Instagram with 528 million followers.

Persepolis have 8.3 million followers on Instagram.

Taremi set to extend Porto contract: report

TEHRAN - Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi will reportedly extend his contract with Porto.

The 30-year-old striker has been linked with big European clubs but Portuguese news outlet A Bola reported that Taremi will renew his deal with Porto.

Taremi's current contract will expire in 2024 and he will extend his deal for two more years.

Taremi scored 37 goals in 51 matches for Porto and Iran in 2022.

He is above Messi, Harry Kane, Karim Benzema, Sadio Mané, and Neymar.

Kylian Mbappé has finished as the top Europe-based goalscorer for club and country for the first time, the Paris Saint-Germain forward coming in comfortably ahead of Erling Haaland and the man who ended the last three years top of the pile, Robert Lewandowski, UEFA.com reported.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh on Besiktas' radar

TEHRAN - Iranian international winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh has been linked with a move to Turkish football team Besiktas.

Jahanbakhsh is going to leave Feyenoord due to lack of playing time in the team.

Jahanbakhsh, whose contract will expire in 2024, has been also linked with a move to the Greek teams, his agent said.

"As you have already heard and know, there is indeed interest from Panathinaikos in Alireza," Amir Hashemi said. "That's all I can tell you at the moment."

The 29-year-old player joined the Eredivisie outfit on a three-year contract from Brighton & Hove Albion in July 2021 but just scored four goals in 37 matches for the team.

Besiktas, headed by Senol Gunes, have reportedly shown an interest in signing him.

Foolad, Havadar emerge victorious in IPL

TEHRAN - Foolad and Havadar football teams defeated their rivals at Iran Professional League (IPL) Matchday 15 on Wednesday.

Foolad edged past Aluminum in their away match in Arak thanks to Ahmad Abdollahzadeh's first half goal.

Havadar also beat Zob Ahan 1-0 in Tehran. Ezatollah Pourghaz scored the winner in the 45th minute.

On Thursday, leaders Persepolis will host Nassaji in Tehran, Esteghlal meet Tractor in Tabriz, Malavan face Naft Masjed Soleyman in Bandar Anzali, Sepahan play Mes Kerman in Isfahan, Mes Rafsanjan lock horn with Paykan at home and Sanat Naft host Gol Gohar in Abadan.

Shohreh Mousavi no longer vice president of FFIRI

TEHRAN - The vice-president of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) has been removed from her position.

She was dismissed from the position due to her frequent absences in the meetings of the board of directors.

She is also facing financial problems, which led to her arrest in April 2022.

Ehsan Osouli, spokesman of the Iran football federation, has confirmed the news.

He didn't talk about her replacement.

Shahrdari Gorgan too strong for Al Naft at WASL West Asia League

TEHRAN - Shahrdari Gorgan of Iran thrashed Al Naft of Iraq 110-69 in the WASL West Asia League on Wednesday.

Shahrdari Gorgan Mohammad Jamshidi top scored with 31 points, while Antwaine Wiggins scored 29 points for Al Naft.

The Iranian basketball team started the campaign with an 81-74 loss against Lebanese team Al Riyadi in Beirut but defeated Syrian basketball team Al Karamah 83-78 in their second match.

Shahrdari Gorgan are drawn in Group B along with Al Naft SC (IRQ), Al Karamah SC (SYR) and Al Riyadi Beirut (LBN).

Each Sub-Zone league consists of eight (8) teams divided into two (2) groups of four (4). Each team will play the other team at home and away. The top team from each group will advance to the Semi-Finals, while the second and third will face-off in qualification to Semi-Finals match-ups.

Eventually, the top three teams from WASL West Asia League and WASL Persian Gulf League will qualify for the WASL Final eight, where they will be joined by Champions of South Asia and Central Asia.

The WASL Final eight finalists will qualify for FIBA Asia Champions Cup 2023, on the road to FIBA Intercontinental Cup 2023, FIBA's highest club competition.

Infantino criticized for selfie in front of Pele's coffin

TEHRAN - FIFA President Gianni Infantino has been widely criticized for having a picture taken next to the coffin of footballing legend Pele who passed away last week.

He was one of the major figures at the funeral of the Brazilian legend on Monday but the occasion was soured when the Swiss was seen taking a selfie in front of the open coffin, showing a total lack of respect for the former Santos and Brazil striker, as well as the other mourners such as his family members.

The photograph portrayed the leader taking a selfie - smiling tentatively - along with other people who attended the funeral, all just a few centimeters away from the legend's coffin.

There was, as predicted, a big backlash on social media from people who were far from impressed that he chose to take the selfie.

"FIFA supremo Gianni Infantino takes a selfie in front of Pele's open coffin. Without prejudice, what do you expect to miss a photo op, even if that person is Pele? It's called a 'PR stunt,'" one person said.

"Infantino at it again" and "My God, what's wrong with this guy?" were some of the most viral comments on the matter.

Infantino recently stated that he would like all FIFA nations to have at least one stadium in their countries named after Pele so that his legacy can be remembered by children playing the game.

National Housing Movement projects enjoy 35%-40% progress in Zanjan city



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

In early November, Hadi Abbasi-Asl, the deputy minister of transport and urban development, announced that currently, at least one million units of the National Housing Movement are under construction with average progress of about 30 percent.

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

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in early February.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by the former Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Also, in late July, Qasemi inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

And on November 5, the deputy head of the Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution announced that 195,000 units of the National Housing Movement are under construction in the rural areas, and stressed that the figure will reach 240,000 units by the eleventh Iranian calendar month Bahman (January 21, 2023).

TEHRAN- A provincial official put the average physical progress of the National Housing Movement projects at 35%-40% in Zanjan, the capital city of Zanjan province.

Stating that the National Housing Movement is a joint work between the government and the people, Asghar Esmaili, the head of the province's Transport and Urban Development Department, said that service providers, banking networks and executive bodies are somehow involved in the construction of the National Housing Movement units.

In early November 2022, a board member of the National Land and Housing Organization announced that about 57,000 hectares of land within the boundaries of the cities has been provided for the National Housing Movement plan.

Arsalan Maleki also said that the private sector owners in provinces with land shortages can participate in the National Housing Movement to provide land.

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

TEDPIX falls 12,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 12,196 points to 1.579 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 13.544 billion securities worth 73.196 trillion rials (about \$192.6 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 10,164 points, and the second market's index lost 20,754 points.

TEDPIX climbed 151,114 points (10.1 percent) to 1.647 million points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index has risen 87,603 points (6.22 percent) to 1.496 million points in the previous Iranian calendar month Azar (ended on December 21, 2022).

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

Iranian government has allocated 150 trillion rials (about \$394.7 million) to the country's Capital Market Stabilization and Development Fund (CMSDF) in the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402 (begins on March 21) to support small shareholders, Tasnim news agency reported on January 1.

As reported, the government has decided to supply the mentioned fund from the shares of state-owned companies to protect small shareholders against the risks of the capital market.

Also, in order to strengthen the companies active in the market, a part of their profit which is allocated to increasing their capital is going to be exempted from tax; this will encourage such companies to increase capital and expand their activities.

In late October 2022, Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) unveiled a comprehensive support package to encourage activities in the capital market as shareholders were getting reluctant to invest in the market.

One of the major measures considered in this package was the insurance of shareholders' capital and dividends over the next Iranian calendar year.



Earlier in February 2022, the government's economic coordination headquarters had also unveiled a support package for the capital market, which included measures such as reducing the price of petrochemical feed, reducing taxes on manufacturing companies, defining new regulations for the mining sector, increasing the capital of the Stock Market Stabilization Fund, controlling the release of government bonds, and determining the exchange rate of the banks; but this package, despite the temporary positive effects, was not able to change the general trend of the market and prevent the continuous fall of the stock prices.

Meanwhile, the SEO head has said the government is going to consider the issues and concerns regarding the stock market in preparing the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (begins on March 21).

Majid Eshqi said: "In the meeting of the government economic coordination headquarters and in the report that we presented to the president, the concerns of the stock market for the future were discussed and it was decided to consider the challenges and concerns of the market in the budget of 1402 [next Iranian year] with the government's support."

"The stock market is going through difficult times; this situation is caused by a set of factors affecting the market trend and the behavior of investors," Eshqi said.

The SEO head also mentioned the reluctance of buyers in the stock market and said: "Lack of liquidity is another problem that is now evident in the market because buyers have stopped buying in this market for various reasons."

Non-oil exports increase 19%

from page 1 ▶ rice, wheat, soybeans, sunflower seed oil, and cell phones, based on the IRICA data.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the mentioned period, followed by China, Turkey, India, and Germany.

Reportedly, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 17 percent during the mentioned period, as compared to the same time span in the past year.

Iran traded more than 126 million tons of non-oil products worth over \$88 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

As previously announced by the IRICA former head, the



value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), as compared to its previous year.

country's non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for the preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers, and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official has underlined.

Iran, UAE to accelerate port, maritime, transit cooperation

TEHRAN - In a meeting between the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s ambassador to Tehran on Tuesday, the two sides stressed the acceleration of mutual port, maritime, and transit cooperation.

As the PMO portal reported, during the meeting Saif Mohamed Obaid Jasem Al Zaabi underlined the capacities of UAE companies for port and maritime investment in neighboring countries, especially Iran, and announced a field visit by his country's experts to Iranian ports in the near future.

The Arab official also referred to the very good transportation and transit infrastructure in his country and welcomed Iran's approach to developing transit cooperation with CIS countries.

Al Zaabi emphasized the need for the expansion of economic relations between Tehran and Abu Dhabi, expressing the trust and interest of the UAE government in



PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei (R) and UAE's Ambassador to Tehran Saif Mohamed Obaid Jasem Al Zaabi

developing port and maritime cooperation with Iran.

The PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei for his part stressed the strategy of the Iranian

government to develop economic cooperation and good relations with neighboring countries, saying that the development of maritime relations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates is very important for the Islamic Republic.

Stating that Iran is ready for the development of maritime, transit, and port relations with Abu Dhabi, Safaei emphasized: "Transit and port connections between Tehran and Abu Dhabi with Central Asian countries and other nations can be formed quickly and prosper very fast."

The official also welcomed any investment by UAE port and maritime companies in Iran's southern ports, especially Shahid Rajaei Port and Chabahar Port.

"Chabahar Port has very good capacities and the private sector of the United Arab Emirates can forge long-term investment contracts in Chabahar port," he said.

Tehran mulling over launching direct shipping line to Brasilia

TEHRAN - Head of the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce has announced the possibility of launching a direct shipping line between the two countries for the development of mutual non-oil trade, IRIB reported.

Speaking in a meeting of the chamber's Export Development Committee on Wednesday, Fakhreddin Amerian said: "It is expected that the Islamic Republic Shipping Lines (IRISL) will help develop this line with support and cooperation."

He also called on the responsible



Head of Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce Fakhreddin Amerian (2nd R)

government entities to prepare a list of the commodities that can be bartered or exchanged between the two countries.

"The Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber [of Commerce] considers itself as an agent for the implementation of the Islamic Republic's economic diplomacy goals, and therefore, with the establishment of a representative office in Brazil and obtaining the license to set up an Iranian business center in the country, we are the first joint chamber that has a permanent base in the target country," the

official said.

According to Amerian, Brazil is one of the biggest exporters of livestock inputs to Iran, and launching the mentioned shipping line could offer an opportunity to balance the trade between the two sides.

He put the value of trade between the two countries at six billion dollars in the previous year, saying that the imports from Brazil were double the value of Iran's exports to the country in the mentioned year.

30m flowers, ornamental plants produced in Golestan province in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 30 million flowers and ornamental plants were produced in Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, in one year.

Navid-Reza Farahani, the deputy head of the province's Agriculture Department for horticulture management, said the area of flower and ornamental plant production centers in the province is currently 65 hectares, of which 20 hectares are covered by greenhouses and 45 hectares are open spaces.

He said in addition to domestic consumption in the province, the products of the flower



production centers are sent to other parts of the country and the centers of the provinces.

According to the official, cultivation, production, and sale of greenhouse products bring good income to the producers and considering the high added value, it is considered a profitable economic activity.

The production of greenhouse products increases water efficiency up to 10 times and by creating sustainable employment, it contributes greatly to the livelihood of working families in this sector, Farahani added.

He said that more than 800 people are working in the 65 hectares of existing greenhouses in the province.

Russia inks deal to build cargo ship for Iran

TEHRAN - Consul-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Astrakhan Mehdi Akuchekian has announced the signing of a deal with Russia for building a ship for the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines

(IRISL), IRIB reported.

According to Akuchekian, the mentioned ship is going to be used for transferring goods to Astrakhan's Solyanka Port.

Iran and Russia have been developing cooperation in the joint construction of large-capacity vessels at Iranian shipyards and cargo vessels at Russian shipyards, according to a statement from the

Russian government.

Moscow is also considering the possibility of investing in Iranian seaports, while Tehran has offered its seaports as hubs for transiting Russian cargo.

Loading, unloading of goods in Arvand Kenar port rises 271%

TEHRAN- The loading and unloading of commodities in Arvand Kenar port, in southwestern Khuzestan province, rose 271 percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of Ports and Maritime Department of Abadan County, where the port lies, announced.

Kambiz Maleki-Zadeh said that 6,314 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in Arvand Kenar port in the said nine-month period.

Arvand Kenar port is the closest port to the Persian Gulf at the mouth of Arvand River, and the proximity of this commercial port to the ports of

neighboring countries, including the ports of Faw and Umm Qasr in Iraq, as well as Kuwait, can play an influential role in the expansion of exports.

As previously announced by the head of Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by 5.7 percent in the first nine months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year,

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of the sixth Exhibition of Transportation, Logistics, and Related Industries, in mid-December, Ali-Akbar Safaei said during the mentioned period 156.714 million tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded at ports.

As reported by the PMO portal, in the said nine months, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1.835 million TEUs, of which 995,000 TEUs was the share of loading and 845,000 TEUs was related to unloading.

The loading and unloading of container cargo increased by six percent and 8.4 percent, respectively, compared to the figure for the previous year's same period, the official said.

According to Safaei, in the three quarters of the current year, 11,976 passengers were also transported from the country's ports, registering a 42.7 percent rise, year on year.

WORLD HEADLINES

Nasrallah: Soleimani saved region from U.S. occupation



From page 1 ▶ And he added, "Syria and Iran withstood the American pressure..."

He stressed that "the Iraqi resistance defeated the Americans, forced them to withdraw from Iraq..."

And he stressed that "if Syria did not stand firm, and there was no will to resist in Iraq..."

Nasrallah stressed that "the worst thing that was used in the second version of the 'new Middle East project' is sectarianism and takfiri thought..."

The Secretary-General of Hezbollah stressed that the aim of the assassination was to "break the resistance, terrorize the Iraqis, and weaken the parties to the axis of resistance in Syria, Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine."

He noted out that the martyr Qassem Soleimani "turned after his martyrdom into an inspiring symbol..."

He added that after his martyrdom, "the so-called 'deal of the century' fell through, and Lebanon fixed the rules of engagement, while Syria fixed the political rules."

Sayyed Nasrallah also reassured supporters of the anti-Israel resistance icon following what was circulating in the Israeli and Persian Gulf Arab media regarding his health condition, stressing that "there is no need for concern."

Regarding the new Israeli occupation government, Sayyed Nasrallah saw it as "a mixture of corrupt, criminals, extremists and madmen..."

On the Israeli Minister of Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, storming the al-Aqsa Mosque, Sayyed Nasrallah stressed that "the condemnation of the resistance in Lebanon alongside the"

condemnation of the Palestinians," will make the attack "on the sanctities not only blow up the situation in Palestine but also in the entire region."

Israel's new far-right security minister Itamar Ben Gvir stormed the al-Aqsa mosque compound in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem), a holy Islamic site, angering the Palestinians and drawing a slew of condemnations.

Ben Gvir, stormed al-Aqsa Mosque, with a heavy Israeli security presence from the occupation's military units.

The Palestinian resistance factions condemned the move in a joint statement warning that the occupation will not succeed in changing the facts on the ground, and al-Quds (Jerusalem) will remain Arab and Islamic and the focus of the conflict with it.

The resistance factions in the besieged Gaza Strip said "we will not give up our role in defending al-Aqsa, and the occupation must remember the Sword of al-Quds battle."

The statement added "the occupation bears full responsibility for the repercussions of its insistence on aggression against our people and Islamic and Christian sanctities. Ben Gvir's storming of al-Aqsa Mosque is an escalation that warns of a religious war in the region."

It also said that "Ben Gvir's storming of al-Aqsa is a cowardly attempt by him, a dangerous escalation and a provocation of the feelings of our people and the Arab and Islamic"

and said the visit had violated international law and "the historic and legal status quo in al-Quds."

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh called on Palestinians to confront such raids onto the Mosque's compound and accused Ben Gvir of staging the visit as part of a bid to turn Islam's third holiest site "into a Jewish temple".

Elsewhere in his speech, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah also said, "we will not accept any change in the rules of engagement in Lebanon, and the Israelis know that we were ready to go to the farthest place when demarcating the borders."

On the issue of electing a president for the republic in Lebanon, Sayyed Nasrallah said: "We do not want a president who protects the resistance, because it does not need protection. Rather, we want a president who does not stab the resistance in the back."

He pointed out that "we have the right to adhere to a president who does not stab the back of the resistance because otherwise, it would mean we are heading to a civil war."

Sayyed Nasrallah pointed out that "Iran only negotiates the nuclear file, and the Americans are the ones who want to bring the region's other issues into the nuclear negotiations," stressing that "whoever links the presidency vacuum in Lebanon to the nuclear file in Iran is ignorant."

He stressed that Iran "has not interfered in internal Lebanese affairs for 40 years," adding that "even if the Saudis and Iranians sit down (during the talks between the two sides), Saudi Arabia's priority is Yemen, not Lebanon."

Sayyed Nasrallah added, "We encourage the recent meetings and dialogues in Lebanon, and I tell you not to wait abroad because time is pressing." He continued, "we are keen to resolve the dispute between Hezbollah and the Free Patriotic Movement."

"I have always told Minister Gebran Bassil that if you feel embarrassed about allying with us, then you are not obligated," Nasrallah said, stressing "we will address the dispute with the national movement because the Lebanese need meetings and communication."

He concluded, addressing the Lebanese, by saying, "This axis, with your support and sacrifices, is on its way to victory, and the blood of the two martyrs launched a qualitative stage that will lead to victory."

French government bans online sales of paracetamol due to drug shortages

Faced with drug supply shortages, the French government is banning online sales of paracetamol, a fever and painkiller widely present in French pharmacies.

"The sale over the internet of medicines consisting exclusively of paracetamol will be suspended until Jan. 31, 2023," the government said in a decree published Wednesday on the official government website.

The decree stated that "tensions over paracetamol-based medicines have persisted for more than six months," especially those forms intended for children.

The government further said: "The various measures taken by the health authorities, effective as they have been, have not yet made it possible to put an end to this."

For several months now, the National Agency for the Safety of Medicines (ANSM) has been asking pharmacists in France to ration the sale of paracetamol.

Last December, the Health Ministry already warned that despite these measures, the situation remained "complex" and could not be resolved for several weeks.

In its Wednesday decree, the government pointed in particular to the worsening health situation in China, where COVID-19 cases have exploded following the sudden lifting of strict health restrictions.

The Chinese government had banned exports of paracetamol, even though the country produces much of the active ingredient, which is used by laboratories worldwide.

UAE, China call for UN Security Council meeting over Al Aqsa Mosque

The United Arab Emirates and China called Tuesday for a UN Security Council meeting after Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir entered Al-Aqsa Mosque's courtyards amid warnings of unrest.

The Council is expected to convene on Thursday, diplomats said.

The visit drew fierce condemnation across the world, with the U.S., Israel's closest ally, expressing deep concern over the recent developments.

"We're deeply concerned by any unilateral actions that have the potential to exacerbate tensions precisely because we want to see the opposite happen," State Department spokesman Ned Price said

"The United States stands firmly for the preservation of the historic status quo with respect to the holy sites in Jerusalem."

He added that any unilateral actions undercutting the status quo are "unacceptable."

For Muslims, Al-Aqsa represents the world's third-holiest site. Jews, for their part, call the area the Temple Mount, saying it was the site of two Jewish temples in ancient times.

Israel occupied East Jerusalem, where al-Aqsa is located, during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. It annexed the entire city in 1980 in a move never recognized by the international community.

U.S. House in chaos after Kevin McCarthy loses speaker votes

On a day of high political drama, Republican leader Kevin McCarthy repeatedly failed in his bid to be elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The House adjourned without a speaker on Tuesday night - the first time since 1923 they had failed to choose a leader after a first-round vote.

The start of a new Congress was supposed to be a victory lap for the Republican Party as it took control of the lower chamber following November's elections. Instead, Mr. McCarthy faced a rebellion from within his own ranks and made history for all the wrong reasons.

The California congressman has lost three consecutive votes for Speaker so far, and it's unclear what his path to victory could be when the House returns on Wednesday to try all over again. They will keep voting until someone wins a majority.

And even if Mr. McCarthy finds a way, analysts warn, the turmoil on the floor of the House foreshadows a tumultuous two years of moderate and right-wing Republicans at war with each other.

If the Republican party is unable to effectively run the lower chamber of Congress, this could hamper the ability of the House to carry out some of its core functions like passing spending bills or raising the debt ceiling.

Turkey, Russia may establish joint patrols in northern Syria

Turkey and Russia may establish joint patrols in northern Syria, according to the Turkish national defense minister on Wednesday.

Speaking to a group of reporters at the Turkish parliament, Hulusi Akar commented on Turkey's recent tripartite meeting with Syria and Russia in Moscow.

"Our goal is the defense of our country and nation. For this, the fight against terrorism is a very important element," he said.

Noting Turkey's successes in its counterterrorism efforts, Akar said that he told his counterparts at the tripartite meeting in Moscow that it is not possible for Turkey to accept more refugees.

He expressed hope that the tripartite talks will continue "reasonably, logically, and successfully."

Akar said that Turkey would not make any decision that may cause trouble for the Syrian people, adding that Ankara's "position must be known by all parties and treated accordingly."

Disabled people in UK unable to afford heating, food: report

Disabled people in the United Kingdom are among the hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis, a new report has concluded, with comparatively low incomes leaving them exposed to soaring prices.

The Resolution Foundation, an independent think-tank, said on Wednesday that more than 40 percent of people with a disability could no longer afford to keep their homes warm compared with 23 percent of the non-disabled population.

Meanwhile, nearly one in three disabled people had been forced to reduce their spending on food. Fewer than one in five people without disabilities reported the same issue.

"Disabled people have been stung not just by fast-rising energy prices but also by increasing food prices," the report said.

"[They] are more likely to be worried about the cost of essentials and to say that the crisis is making their health worse," it added.

The UK's inflation rate is currently above 10 percent - the highest level since the 1980s.

But even before the crisis, those with a disability were far more likely to live in materially deprived households, the Resolution Foundation said.

Thirty-three percent of adults in the lowest-income households had a disability. By comparison, in the UK's richest households, just nine percent of adults had a disability.

About 22 percent of the British population, or more than 14.5 million people, have a disability, according to government data.

The Resolution Foundation report was based on an analysis of official figures and a survey of about 8,000 working-age people, more than 2,000 of whom reported a long-term illness or disability.

Adults with an underlying disability were found to earn a median income of 19,397 pounds (\$23,373) a year, whereas those without a disability earned 27,792 pounds (\$33,488).

The gap is partly a result of the relatively low employment rate among disabled people, the report said, with 54 percent of disabled adults in work, compared with 82 percent of non-disabled adults.

"But employment status explains only a third of the income gap between working-age disabled and non-disabled people," the foundation said.

The remainder is likely explained by the "kinds

of jobs disabled people work in - including their typical pay and the number of hours worked."

Recent government moves to offer disabled people support - such as the repeat of a 150-pound (\$180) cost-of-living payment in 2023 and a commitment to raise disability benefits in line with inflation - would help them weather the economic turmoil, said the group.

But Charlie McCurdy, an economist at the think-tank, said further measures are necessary.

"More policy work will be needed, not just through this crisis, but to make more progress on closing the huge income gaps that already existed between disabled people and the rest of the population," McCurdy said.

In an emailed statement to Al Jazeera, a spokesperson for the Department for Work and Pensions said the government recognized disabled people face additional costs and was "committed" to protecting the most vulnerable.

As part of a 37-billion-pound (\$44.6bn) package of support, the government has supported six million people with a disability or health condition over the past year, the spokesperson said.

UK railway workers' strike to continue until 'decent settlement'

Railway workers on Wednesday gathered at picket lines across the UK as tens of thousands of members of the country's biggest rail union continues the strike on the second day.

Some 40,000 members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union at Network Rail and 14 train operators kicked off a 48-hour strike on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tens of thousands of members of the UK's biggest rail union walked out on Tuesday, the first day in a series of protests that are expected to cripple rail services and cause travel chaos across the country.

While rail services make daily announcements, urging passengers to only travel if necessary, workers are staging strikes at picket lines across the UK.

Among the striking workers at the line near the King's Cross & St Pancras station, a train manager who did not want to give his name, told Anadolu Agency that they will continue their action to negotiate a settlement that is fair for people.

He said strikes will continue "as long as it takes to make sure that we get a decent settlement for our workers."

They are fighting for the terms and conditions, he noted, saying he is worried that there could be many job losses.

"The terms of conditions that we currently have will be eroded and taken away," said the national railways' manager, referring to the government's stance.

Protecting the jobs and removing the compulsory redundancies are among the main demands of the workers, added the RMT union member.

He also said they have not received

a pay raise for the last three years although they were "key workers" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would like to see a swift resolution. However, do I see a swift resolution to the matter? Probably not. Not at the current time. I think this might take a little bit longer," he added.

Along with workers, some people are also attending the picket lines across the country to show solidarity with the strikers. Some of them joined the action by carrying banners that read: "Passengers support striking workers."



A commemoration ceremony was held in Gaza City on the martyrdom anniversary of General Qassem Soleimani. The event was organized by the Palestinian Committee for International Quds Day.

Visit Tarikhaneh, one of Iran's oldest mosques



From Page 1 ► possibly part of the original construction period and a cylindrical minaret from the Seljuk period (1060-1307). The latter is strikingly divided into six zones of ornamentation. Each rendered in brick with a different geometric pattern.

The prayer hall of a mosque is where the rich and poor, prominent and ordinary people all stand and bow together in the same rows. Women may participate in the prayers, but they must occupy a separate space or chamber in the mosque. No statues, ritual objects, or pictures are used in mosques. The only decorations permitted are inscriptions of Quranic verses and the names of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions.

Iran is preparing to put forward Tarikhaneh as a

candidate for inclusion in the cultural heritage list of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO).

The ancient city of Damghan was the winter capital of the Parthian monarchs.

Situated about 350 kilometers northeast of Tehran, Damghan was once a prosperous city on the Silk Road that connected China to West Asia and Europe.

Narratives say that Damghan was once called the city by one hundred gates.

Later, during the reign of the Sassanids, the Umayyad, Abbasid, Taherid, Samanid, Sarbedaran, and Deylamite dynasties, Damghan had a significant position for the emirs and governors.

Tilework reinstalled on Atiq Mosque after restoration

TEHRAN – A team of restorers has reinstalled blocks of tilework, bearing Arabic scripts, floral, and geometric patterns, on the façade of the ancient Atiq Mosque in Shiraz.

The restoration project was carried out by experienced restorers under the supervision of cultural heritage experts, according to Fars province's tourism chief.

The Friday Mosque of Shiraz, also known as the Masjid-e Atiq, was first built in 875 during the reign of Saffarid ruler Amr b. al-Layth (878-900).

It was rebuilt, restored, and expanded various times thereafter.

Most of the present-day structure -- a four-ivan courtyard mosque -- dates from the seventeenth century. Damaged by numerous earthquakes, it was repaired and restored extensively after 1935.

There are some Shabestans (subterranean halls) and beautiful tilework on the ceilings of this building, which give it a unique charm. It is located in the east of the Shah-Cheraq shrine.

Jajarm to offer safari tours

TEHRAN – The tourism directorate of the northeastern city of Jajarm in North Khorasan province plans to arrange safari tours, the city's tourism chief has said.

Organizing such tours aims at developing tourism and attracting more travelers to the region, Mohammadreza Talebi explained on Tuesday.

Jajarm is one of North Khorasan's oldest human settlements due to its large Neolithic, Copper Age, and Bronze Age sites, the official added.

Though North Khorasan province may not be the first choice of travelers, its tourism is getting momentum.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, toward Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20 km north.

UNESCO sites at a glance

Lake Turkana National Parks

The most saline of Africa's large lakes, Turkana is an outstanding laboratory for the study of plant and animal communities.

The three National Parks serve as a stopover for migrant waterfowl and are major breeding grounds for the Nile crocodile, hippopotamus, and a variety of venomous snakes.

The Koobi Fora deposits, rich in mammalian, molluscan, and other fossil remains, have contributed more to the understanding of paleo-environments than any other site on the continent.

The property represents unique geomorphological features with fossil deposits on sedimentary formations as well as one hundred identified archaeological and paleontological sites. There are numerous volcanic overflows with petrified forests.



The existing ecological conditions provide habitats for maintaining diverse flora and fauna.

The island parks are the breeding habitats of the Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*, the hippopotamus amphibious, and several snake species. The lake is an important flyway passage and stopover for palaeartic migrant birds.

TEHRAN – Two climbers have found a rock-carved bas-relief on their way near the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae, southern Iran.

"Two climbers came across this inscription while climbing on their way near Tangeh Bolaghi in the Pasargadae region," a local official in charge of the protection of cultural heritage said on Wednesday.

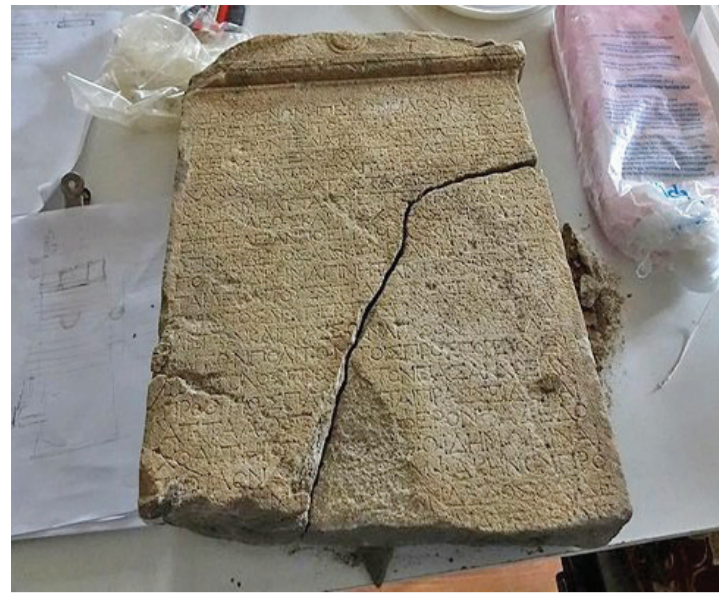
They immediately informed officials of the Pasargadae, the World Heritage site, Mehr reported.

"These two mountaineers, who asked not to be named, considered the historical relics to be a part of the past of this region, which belongs to all Iranians, and efforts should be made to preserve and protect them.

Experts say the inscription, which dates from the Sassanid era, is actually a dedicatory letter that informs about the construction of a bridge, dam, and road, and a blessing has been prayed for its builders.

Inscribed on a rock piece measuring 90 by 40 cm, the relief bears three separate texts with the same themes, all in the Pahlavi script.

Tangeh Bolaghi is an archaeologically significant valley, consisting of 130 ancient settlements, dating back to the period between 5,000 BC and the Sassanian dynastic era (224-651 CE). It is situated in the southern province of Fars, some seven kilometers from Pasargadae.



Bas-relief found near Pasargadae by accident

Archaeological research since 2005 has discovered a section of a former royal road connecting Pasargadae to Persepolis, Susa and other regions of the Persian Empire up to Sardis. Excavations have provided archaeologists with a unique insight into the lives of the people living in the Achaemenid dynastic era.

Pasargadae, which began under Cyrus the Great in about 546

BC, maybe more expanded than what is perceived from its ruins. "Archaeological evidence suggests that Pasargadae is beyond what we see. It was a summer residence, a recreational area with many gardens and buildings..." according to Iranian archaeologist Ali Mousavi.

Situated about 50 km north of Persepolis, Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire in the 6th

century BC. Its palaces, gardens, and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization.

Pasargadae developed into a city of some significance until it was superseded by Darius I's magnificent palace in Persepolis. The key sights on this isolated plain are the Tomb of Cyrus, Darius' Garden, and Cyrus' private palace. Around 500m north of Cyrus' private palace is the remains of the Prison of Solomon (Zandan-e Soleiman), variously thought to be a fire temple, tomb, sundial, or store. On the hill beyond is the Tall-e Takht—a monumental 6000-sq-meter citadel used from Cyrus' time until the late Sassanian period. Local historians believe the references to Solomon date from the Arab conquest when the inhabitants of Pasargadae renamed the sites with Islamic names to prevent their destruction.

The 160-ha archaeological site stands as an exceptional witness to the Achaemenid civilization. The vast Achaemenid Empire, which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Indus River in India, is considered the first empire to be characterized by respect for the cultural diversity of its people. Experts believe that Pasargadae represents the first phase of this development, specifically Persian architecture, which later found its full expression in the city of Persepolis.

Archaeologists redraw boundaries for Neolithic village

TEHRAN – New boundaries have been defined for parts of the Neolithic village of Leylan in East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

A team of cultural heritage experts and archaeologists has demarcated Leylan's Tepe Chaman, which is estimated to date back to the 5th millennium BC, said archaeologist Akbar Abedi, who presided over the project.

The project aimed at preserving and protecting the pre-historical site, he added.

In addition to reviewing the precise chronology and Neolithic cultural materials of this region, the project examined the site's place within the Neolithic studies of Northwest Iran and West Asia, he noted.

As well, it surveyed regional and extra-regional trade and relations of this region with neighboring regions such as Eastern Anatolia, Northern Mesopotamia, South Caucasus, and

Lake Urmia's west and south, he mentioned.

Pottery and cultural materials found in the area indicated that settlement began around the 7th millennium BC at the beginning of the Neolithic period and lasted for about a millennium until the 6th millennium BC, he explained.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later, the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital. It was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The Neolithic, also called the New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or



technological development among prehistoric humans. It was characterized by stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding, dependence on domesticated plants or animals, settlement in permanent villages and the appearance of such crafts as pottery and weaving. The Neolithic followed the Paleolithic Period, or the age of chipped-stone tools, and preceded the Bronze Age or the early period of metal tools.

Heating options on agenda for UNESCO-designated market

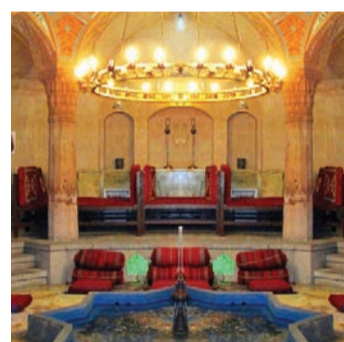
TEHRAN – The heating system of the UNESCO-registered bazaar of Tabriz, northwestern East Azarbaijan province, needs to be improved, the governor of Tabriz has said.

As a World Heritage site, the historical bazaar of Tabriz needs to be protected and organized with the participation of all organizations involved, CHTN quoted Ali Jafari as saying on Wednesday.

One of the most important issues in the bazaar is the protection and restoration of electricity wires and cables to improve the visual appearance and safety of the bazaar and shops, as well as the installation of a fire alarm system, the official added.

Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010 and was mentioned by Marco Polo when he traveled the Silk Road in the Middle Ages.

A jumble of interconnected covered passages that stretches for about five kilometers, the bazaar has been a melting pot of cultural



exchange since antiquity.

It embraces countless shops, over 20 caravanserais, and inns, some 20 vast domed halls, bathhouses, and mosques, as well as other brick structures and enclosed spaces for different functions. Its history dates back to over a millennium, however, the majority of fine brick vaults that capture most visitors' eyes date from the 15th century.

Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was

when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The ancient city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin.

During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Bazaars in Persian towns

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

Distinctive architecture characterized some bazaars—such as those built at Kashan and Isfahan in Iran in the 17th century. They were usually roofed for protection against

the hot desert sun, either with a single roof, with individual vaulted cupolas or domes, or with awnings.

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

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

People watching and even mingling with them in the bazaars is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country. Bazaars have traditionally been major economic and social centers in any Iranian city.

Qajar-era bathhouse to host sightseers after restoration

TEHRAN – Hammam-e Nobar, a public bathhouse in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan province, is scheduled to open its doors to visitors by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (which ends in March 2023), the provincial tourism chief has said.

Owned by Tabriz Municipality, the bathhouse will open its doors to the public after being fully restored, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh explained on Wednesday.

The historical structure is one of the significant architectural works left over from the Qajar era

(1789-1925) in Tabriz, therefore its preservation and protection is on agenda, the official added.

Bathhouses or 'hammams' in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities, but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes

due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past.

TEHRAN – The average level of blood reserves in the country is 9.6 days, which is an acceptable level, a spokesman for the Blood Transfusion Organization, has said.

It should be noted that the need for blood and blood products is constant and blood donation should be done continuously, IRNA quoted Abbas Sedaghat as saying on Wednesday.

With the establishment of the national blood network, we have been able to meet all the needs of medical centers, including more than 900 hospitals that have blood banks, he explained.

Also, we have raised the standards, before this definition, the average level of blood storage included four to five days, but the level doubled as much as 8 to 9 days, in order to manage blood supply better, he noted.

Donating blood is not related to a specific season and time, and blood donors should keep in mind to donate blood regularly and save the lives of patients in need, he highlighted.

Every year, with the onset of the cold season and air pollution, the blood donation rate decreases, while the need for blood is constant and those who need blood should not be forgotten.

Blood donation in Iran

According to the reports provided by the World Health Organization, Iran competes with Europe and the U.S. in blood donation indices, even



Blood storage at acceptable levels

outpacing them in one or two cases.

Iran is among the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region as a reference in the field of blood donation activities.

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement

or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the

rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).

Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMPs are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region, so out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

Over 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually, Bashir Haji-Beigi, the former Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman, said in June.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country, with Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Tehran, and Mazandaran provinces having the largest number of blood donation centers, he stated.

3% share of global biotech market lost due to sanctions

TEHRAN – The U.S. sanctions have impeded the country's ability to acquire a targeted 3 percent share of the global biotechnology market, the secretary general of the Biotechnology Development Headquarters has said.

Iran is an advanced and developed country in the field of biotechnology and home to outstanding technologists, ISNA quoted Mostafa Ghanei as saying on Wednesday.

"We could easily increase Iran's share of the global biological market to three percent," he said.

Considering that Iran has 1 percent of the world's population, we aimed to gain 3 percent of the world's biotechnology market, but the sanctions did not allow us to become a good actor in the field of biotechnology at the international level.

The Secretary of Biotechnology Development Headquarters considered financial exchanges to be the main problem in this field.

In recent years, we have tried to realize this plan, and technologists and knowledge-based companies have also taken steps in this direc-

tion, and good successes have been achieved, but we are far from reaching the desired point, he noted.

Biotechnology development

Currently, 20 to 30 types of biotech medicine are produced in the country in addition to kits, vaccines, and blood products. Also, 80 percent of biotechnology pharmaceutical items are domestically produced.

Biotechnology today is widespread in all fields and is no longer limited to biomedical drugs so it has replaced injured limbs.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology is set to achieve a 3 percent share of the global biotechnology market.

In May 2021, the Biotechnology Development Council launched 129 production projects with the aim of saving up to \$1.44 billion in foreign currency.

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



Foreign exchange savings of \$1 billion per year by producing 22 biopharmaceuticals, gaining the first rank in biotechnology products and vaccines in West Asia, and the presence among the top five biotechnology producers in Asia are among the country's achievements, Mostafa Ghanei, secretary of the biotechnology development office of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, said in October 2020.

So far, 27 biotechnology medicines, 12 vaccine projects, 90 pharmaceutical raw materials, and 55 projects in agriculture and food security have been implemented in order to gain a 3 percent market share and biotechnology assistance to the development of the economy, he explained.

3.5 tons of narcotics confiscated in 48 hours

TEHRAN – The anti-narcotics police managed to discover over 3.5 tons of drugs over the last 48 hours, especially in the desert areas of the eastern border of the country, Majid Karimi, head of the anti-narcotics police, said on Wednesday.



discovered 3.5 tons of drugs and arrested 82 smugglers, Karimi stated.

In these operations, 108 vehicles, 18 motorcycles, two weapons, and 200 pieces of ammunition were seized, he added.

Eskander Momeni, secretary general of the anti-narcotics headquarters, said on Monday that the bill on

combating and preventing narcotics will be submitted to the Majlis (Iranian parliament) in the coming days.

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Momeni said in December 2021.

Great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 48 percent of morphine, and 26 percent of world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime attaches special importance to the regional and global role of Iran in the fight against narcotics and, as a leading United Nations

agency, Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, said in June 2022.

In the Iranian calendar year ended in March 2021, about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

Numerous homegrown vaccines to fight new strains

From page 1 ▶ Currently, all entry points to the country, especially the borders, are under control and monitoring, and travelers must carry a 72-hour negative corona test, he added.

Recently, medical researchers announced that there is a risk of one of the Omicron variants in the world that is resistant to all available therapeutic antibodies, and the findings indicate that new treatments must be identified to deal with this substrain.

According to new research at a German institute, the new Omicron substrain, BQ.1.1, is resistant to all approved antibody treatments.

Omicron escapes neutralizing antibodies and causes symptomatic disease even in vaccinated



or convalescent individuals due to mutations in the spike protein. This is known as an immune escape and is dangerous for high-risk populations, including the elderly and people with weak immune systems.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 34

Urmia Lake and its southern satellite wetlands, especially Kanibarazan Wetland, are linked ecologically.

This is of critical importance for Pelicans and Flamingos which use Urmia Lake and its islands for breeding and the satellite wetlands for feeding.

The main values and functions of the wetland are water purification, biodiversity, water storage and preventing salt water intrusion.

The wetland has potential capacity for ecotourism, sightseeing, recreation, education and research.

The site supports a number of threatened species. More than 144 bird species have been recorded here.

Kanibarazan Wetland is one of the most important habitats for waterfowls in the region. This site supports *Acanthalbumus urmianus* (F: Cyprinidae), which is endemic to Iran (especially found in Urmia Basin/Orumiyeh basin).

Because of the critical condition of Urmia Lake, many additional birds are attracted to Kanibarazan Wetland.

It is an important staging/feeding and breeding ground for waterfowl, especially for the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*).

In addition, because it is a permanent wetland, the number of birds increase in Kanibarazan as other seasonal wetlands dry out in late summer and fall.

This wetland is significantly important as a feeding habitat for the Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) which nests in Lake Urmia.

During winter, the bird population decreases but in other seasons (April, November and December) this wetland regularly supports more than 20,000 birds.

During the 2004 census, the maximum bird count was 38,812 and in summer of 2005 it was 29,354[1], this included waders, coots, terns, and cormorants.

Geology

Kanibarazan is located in sedimentary structural parts of Mahabad, Khoy, Alborz and Azarbaijan. It has special features.

When the Permian stratigraphic calcareous sediments overlaying the sandstone forma-

tion was formed, this was then affected by the Hrsynyn Mountain creating phase, allowing syenite masses to penetrate into it.

Also, remnants of Cambrian, Algyvmysyn and Kvartrny formations are widespread in the region.

The Algyvmysyn formation is a consolidated mix of marine sediments that formed when lake regression completely converted sediments into limestone and marl.

Also in some parts, lime slices can be seen which indicates the degradation and sedimentation activity resulting from lake transgression and regression.

The wetland bed consists of sticky mud while the surrounding wetland area is covered in dense calcareous rocks.

The porosity and permeability of the dense rocks mean that they do not play a significant role in wetland water supply.

Pedology

The region's soils are formed from accumulated alluvial sediments. Such soils are mainly fine textured and generally formed of clay and slit with characteristic slow drainage.

Near the southern foothills, small pieces of stone and gravel are mixed with the bed's fine grain sediments.

The result of sampling indicates a soil depth of 1.5 meters and the texture is mainly fine (45% clay, 45% slit, 10% sand). The soil is highly saline to a depth of 1.5 meters.

Sodium chloride is the main salt in the soil, followed by magnesium chloride and calcium chloride. When the wetland is dry, a layer of salt accumulates on the soil surface.

Climate

The climate is semi-arid with cold winters and mild summers. Mahabad Weather Station is the nearest station to Kanibarazan Wetland.

Based on data over a 19-year period, the annual average climate conditions of this wetland area are as follows: rainfall 436 mm; humidity 53.5%; maximum and minimum temperatures 18.9 °C and 6.7 °C respectively; number of days with rain 78.8; number of days with snow, or rain and snow 27.4.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Only 15% of Tehran's construction, demolition waste recycled'

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran's department of environment (DOE) has said.

Waste materials, generally termed as construction and demolition waste, are part of construction materials' packaging, containers, and spent machinery and equipment parts that are no longer usable.

"A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face," Bazgir said.

He further referred to a construction waste management unit opened in Abali in Damavand county last week, and stated that the unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رئیس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دیو می شود.

محمد حسین بازگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله ها دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود.

ظرفیت این واحد بازیافت حدود ۳۰۰۰ تن است و می تواند این مقدار نخاله و آوار ساختمانی را بازیافت کند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 4

New cases	113
New deaths	0
Total cases	7,561,541
Total deaths	144,696
New hospitalized patients	45
Patients in critical condition	137
Total recovered patients	7,336,294
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,796,715
Doses of vaccine injected	155,171,588



Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**
 Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

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



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

JANUARY 5, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Love children and be kind to them and keep your promises to them since they only know you as their providers.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:09 Evening: 17:24 Dawn: 5:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:15 (tomorrow)

Architecture: Iran, after World War II

Part 3

The project transformed 200 hectares of barren alluvial plain into parkland suitable for leisure activity. Using available road building technology, more than four million cubic meters of earth were moved and compacted to create a 100,000 seat buff-brick surfaced earthen stadium, which serves also as a dam holding a man-made lake in the adjacent excavation pit.

The lake was conceived as a water reservoir to irrigate 160 hectares of trees and to allow pleasure boating, while establishing a central focus of activity for many other sport and recreational facilities. The Sports Center was the site of the 1972 Asian Games and has served as a place of national celebrations.

The Shahyad (Azadi) monument, built in 1971 on the occasion of the 2500 year anniversary of the Iranian monarchy, continued the École des Beaux Arts line of monuments dedicated to renewed cultural identity.

Designed by the Iranian architect H. Amanat, the structure attempts to unify three major periods of Persian history by combining the Sassanid parabolic arch of Ctesiphon with the pointed Islamic vault in a new construction of concrete and travertine.

Conceived within the Roman tradition of the triumphal arch, it houses a museum and has served as the symbolic gateway to the capital city from the existing international airport.

Only time will tell of its future urban value, as the new international airport in the south of Tehran comes into operation and the present gateway function of Shahyad is lost.

This period saw much significant work in historical restorations and preservation in the major cities of Iran. The Safavid architecture of Isfahan received special attention after 1964, when the National Organization for Conservation of Historic Monuments of Iran (NOCHMI) and ISMEO (Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente) commenced work on the Aali Qapu, Chehel Sotun, and the Hasht Behesht; this program resulted not only in the preservation of these historical buildings, but also in the publication of numerous volumes documenting their architectural details and in the training of Iranian craftsmen and technicians with specialist skills.

As a result, many other historical structures were transformed, starting in Isfahan (where, for instance, the old caravanserai associated with the 17th century madrasa Chahar Bagh, was made into the Shah Abbas hotel) but soon spreading to Shiraz and the holy cities of Mashhad and Qom, where major building complexes were preserved and the crafts traditions enlivened. In 1973, 600 major building sites were on the list for preservation and 300 of these were actively under repair.

In 1964, Victor Gruen Associates of the United States and the Aziz Farmanfarman Association of Tehran, under the direction of the Iranian city planner Fereidun Gaffari, were jointly commissioned to produce the twenty five year phased physical development plan that was legislatively approved in 1968, and soon replicated by other planners for all the major cities of Iran.

A key factor in these plans was the urbanization of the population living in rural villages. In 1964, Iran was approximately 60 to 65 percent rural and 35 to 40 percent urban. As part of the overall government plan to industrialize Iran rapidly, planners were asked to accommodate a reversal of

these numbers by the 1990s.

More than 60,000 rural villages scattered throughout the most desolate areas of the Iranian plateau were to be coalesced into approximately 15,000 super villages structured upon mechanized farming principles.

Greater access to central education, health facilities, and the marketplace were the anticipated benefits of this process, but the enormous effort and complications ensuing from the displacement of millions of rural dwellers was never fully appreciated.

In retrospect, the master plans produced reveal the Western training and goal motivations of their designers and the respective governmental clients.

A concern for the traditional urban settlement patterns of this region, correct environmental fit, and relevance to the indigenous culture of the majority of the population very rarely were in evidence in any of the new plans.

Instead, broad vehicular roadways made great traverses through both traditional settlement patterns and undeveloped, arid lands surrounding the historic cities of Iran in an attempt to accommodate a mass urban population boom.

As a result, urban real estate prices around these roads rose nearly 250 percent from 1966 to 1971; land speculation rather than social or cultural benefit was the principal immediate result of the new master plans.

A period of speculative construction boom commenced before the full appraisal of adequately developed models of relevant planning concepts related to workable community designs, environmentally adaptive movement systems, culturally conscious building prototypes, or the availability of material resources.

In 1963 material shortages and skyrocketing prices forced a six month ban on construction in Tehran, but this was only a hint of the problems that would ensue in the third and final phase of Iran's modern architectural history.

Period III (1973 1979)

In 1974, Iran convened its second international Congress of Architects, "Toward a Quality of Life."

Held at Persepolis under the chairmanship of architect Mohsen Foroughi, the conference brought together leading world architects and urbanists such as Buckminster Fuller and Jose, Lluís Sert from the U.S., Kenzo Tange from Japan, and many others to review Iran's progress in its professional response to the challenges posed by increasing oil revenues.

Participants in this congress (and the earlier one held in 1970 on "The Interaction between Tradition and Technology") prepared The Habitat Bill of Rights (by Jose, Lluís Sert, Moshe Safdie, B. K. Doshi, Georges Candilis, and Nader Ardalan) for the Ministry of Housing and Development, and this book was presented by Iran to the United Nations Habitat Conference in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.

Other participants in Iran's international conferences met again in 1977 to jury the international competition for the National Library of Iran. This competition drew the largest number of international and national entries of any world competition.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
 To be continued.

General Soleimani's memoir "I Feared Nothing" published in Spanish

From Page 1 ► conscious hearts and aware consciences across the world towards freedom, sincerity and the hatred of oppression."

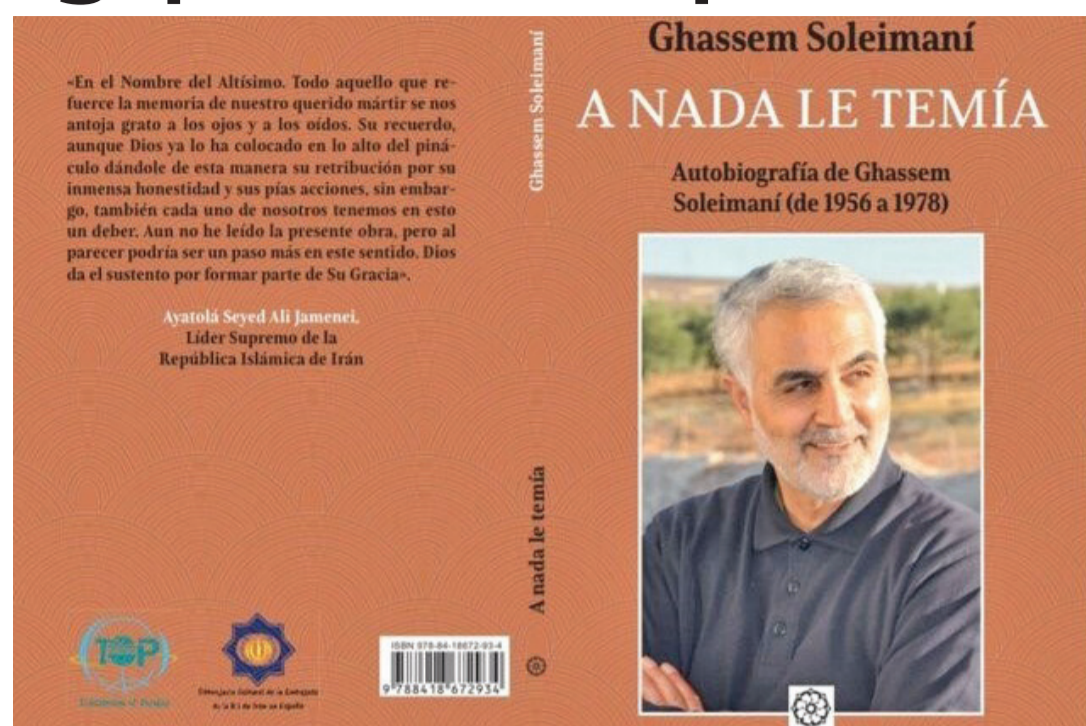
The original edition of "I Feared Nothing" was published by the School of Hajji Qassem in January 2021 on the first anniversary of Soleimani who was assassinated in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad.

The Persian edition was launched at the IRIB International Conference Center during a special meeting attended by Soleimani's daughter Zeinab.

Zeinab said that her father wrote the book with his injured hand adding, "The book is an account of the life of a man from the heart of a remote village of Kerman [Province] who had recounted some parts of his simple and compelling life story for you before.

"This is the story of the transformation of a man who evolved from living as a shepherd into an exalted position as high as the sky. I would like to inform those people who saw him only in his army uniform how he had grown up, and 'I Feared Nothing' is a beginning of a great mission to know an awe-inspiring man."

The ceremony went on with the



Covers of the Spanish edition of General Qassem Soleimani's memoir "I Feared Nothing".

unveiling of a note written for the book by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The Leader had received a rough copy of the book from Zeinab during his recent meeting with Soleimani's family.

"Whatever causes us to remember the dear martyr is really soothing and pleasant," the Leader wrote in his note on December 27, 2020.

"Although he was highly acknowledged by God Who blessed him with a worldly reward due to

his pure and exemplary behavior, we also have a duty [to him]. I have not read this book yet, but it seems to be a step in this direction."

An Arabic translation of "I Feared Nothing" was launched at the 22nd Iraq International Book Fair in Baghdad in June 2021.

Iranian troupe to show "The Importance of Being Earnest"



A poster for the play "The Importance of Being Earnest".

TEHRAN – Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde's romantic comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest" will go on stage at Arghavan Theater in Tehran on January 9.

Mahsa Chizari will direct the play based on a translation by Ayyub Aqakhani. Chizari and producer Mohammad Vosuqi will also play

roles in the performance.

Diana Javid-Musavi, Ahmad Bisotuni, Zahra Modir, Samir Lotfi, Fatemeh Taheri, Jalia Shakeri and Meisam Azizi are the other members of the cast.

Wilde's madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements and lovers' entanglements still delights readers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance.

The rapid-fire wit and eccentric characters of The Importance of Being Earnest have made it a mainstay of the high school curriculum for decades.

Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax are both in love with the same mythical suitor. Jack Worthing has wooed Gwendolen as Ernest while Algernon has also posed as Ernest to win the heart of Jack's ward, Cecily.

When all four arrive at Jack's country home on the same weekend the "rivals"

to fight for Ernest's undivided attention and the "Ernestes" to claim their beloveds pandemonium breaks loose. Only a senile nursemaid and an old, discarded handbag can save the day!

"The Importance of Being Earnest" was first performed on February 14, 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London.

Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways.

Some contemporary reviews praised the play's humor and the culmination of Wilde's artistic career, while others were cautious about its lack of social messages.

Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make The Importance of Being Earnest Wilde's most enduringly popular play.

"King of the Seven Climes" rules over Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of "King of the Seven Climes: A History of the Ancient Iranian World (3000 BCE-651 CE)" has come into Iranian bookstores.

Written by Touraj Daryaei, it is volume 4 from the series "Ancient Iran Series".

Qoqnus is the publisher of the book translated by Sara Mashayekh. It was originally published by Brill in 2021.

In a Middle Persian text known as "Khusro and the Page", one of the most famous kings of the ancient Iranian world, Khusro I Anushirwan, is called "haft kiswar xawaday" ("the King of the Seven Climes").



A copy of the Persian edition of Touraj Daryaei's book "King of the Seven Climes".

This title harkens back to at least the Achaemenid period when it was in fact used, and even further back to a Zoroastrian/Avestan worldview.

From the earliest Iranian hymns, those of the Gathas of Zarathushtra, through the Younger Avesta and later Pahlavi writings, it is known that the ancient Iranians divided the world into seven climes or regions.

Indeed, at some point, there was even an aspiration that this world should be ruled by a single king.

Consequently, the title of the King of the Seven Climes, used by Khusro I in the sixth century CE, suggests the most ambitious

imperial vision that one would find in the literary tradition of the ancient Iranian world.

Taking this as a point of departure, the present book aims to be a survey of the dynasties and rulers who thought of going beyond their own surroundings to forge larger polities within the Iranian realm.

This volume was previously published by the Jordan Center for Persian Studies, University of California – Irvine.

Daryaei holds the Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies and Culture and is the director of the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies at the University of California, Irvine.

Arbaeen, an international ceremony to demonstrate love

An interview with the author of the book "Hot Bullets"

The Ashura and Arbaeen pilgrimage is the subject of Reza Keshmiri's book "Hot Bullets". The author has penned a travel diary on his trip to Karbala.

* What inspired you to write "Hot Bullets"?

Three years ago or so, I enrolled in an online writing course. Although it was a brief course, it served as the foundation for my writing. I began reading Iranian and international literature books and short tales with the teacher's encouragement. And this book is the outcome of that writing course after a variety of experiences.

* How many different story-writing techniques have you used, and how much have they aided you?

I employed story writing techniques as simply as I knew how. Of course, I believe that the most crucial factor in a writer's ability to develop as a writer is the study of novels and notable works of literature, together with

regular writing and practice.

* What was the reason for naming the book "hot bullets"?

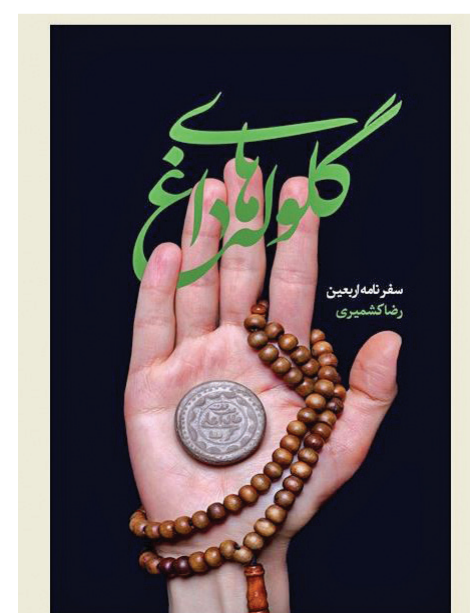
As you are aware, deciding on a title for a book is one of the hardest parts of the process. When I was searching for a good title for the book, the supreme leader's speech in which he remarked that Imam Hussain's lovers traveling to Karbala today are like hot bullets that pierce the enemy's heart caught my attention.

* Which part of the Arbaeen walk do you find to be the most appealing?

Humans are drawn to all Arbaeen experiences. However, when that teenager used warm water and soap to wash and massage my feet, saw my tears, shed his own tears, and then knelt down and kissed my feet, my heart wrenched and I envied his love for Imam Hussain.

* What do you think "Hot Bullets" says to the audience that is most crucial?

The love that causes us to cry and inspires us to love Imam Hussain is the book's key



focus since it encourages us to obtain heavenly love and affection. Love for Imam Hussain is, in my opinion, the best and possibly the only path to Allah's love.