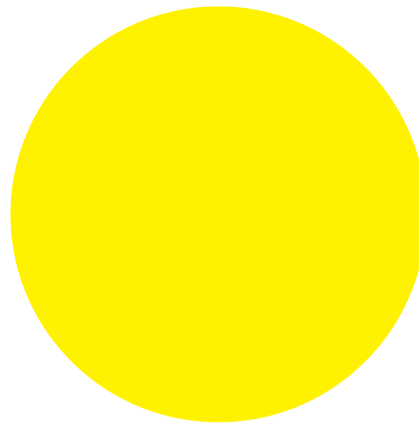


West has security goals in Central Asia



EXCLUSIVE

5 >



Iran Daily

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7398 • Monday, October 2, 2023 • Mehr 10, 1402 • Rabi' al-Awwal 16, 1445 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

Iran's six-month trade exceeds \$54b: **IRICA**

2 >



Raisi: Normalization With Israel 'A Regressive Move'

4 >



Rey Fortification, a testament to magnificence of ancient Rey in its prime

EXCLUSIVE

3 >



Hangzhou Asian Games: Aqaei wins kurash silver

6 >



Jafar, the generous kebab seller

EXCLUSIVE

7 >

West's complicity in using chemical bombs during Iran-Iraq War

7 >



Arash gas field issue to be settled through dialogue: Analyst

2 >



MP: Iran an emerging military superpower

EXCLUSIVE

5 >



Tourism industry could replace oil revenues: Minister

8 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

China new home prices tick up



AFP – China's new home prices rose slightly in September, breaking a four-month decline, data showed on Sunday, as developers sped up launches to take advantage of a recent slew of support measures.

Prices rose 0.05% on average from the previous month after falling since May, according to a survey by China Index Academy, a real estate research firm. Only 30 of the 100 cities surveyed reported a fall in new home prices.

Italy plans €21b asset sell-off



CNBC – Italy aims to raise at least 1% of gross domestic product (GDP), or roughly 21 billion euros (\$22.2 billion), through asset sales between 2024 and 2026, the Treasury said in its Economic and Financial Document (DEF).

The plan is part of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's efforts to keep in check the euro zone's second-largest debt pile as a proportion of GDP, while investors keep a close eye on Rome's creaking public finances.

South Korea September exports fall



REUTERS – South Korea's exports slowed their fall in September, in contrast to market expectations, marking the mildest decline in a yearlong downturn, a hopeful sign for the global economy from the bellwether industrial economy. Overseas sales by Asia's fourth-largest economy fell 4.4% from a year earlier to \$54.66 billion, trade data showed on Sunday, compared with an 8.3% loss in August and a 9.1% decline tipped in a Reuters survey of economists.

Iran's six-month trade exceeds \$54b: IRICA



Iran's foreign trade surpassed \$54 billion during the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), witnessing a 4.84 percent growth compared with the same period in 2022, announced Mohammad Rezvanifar, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration. The Islamic Republic's foreign trade was nearly at \$54.6 billion in the first half of the current Iranian year, Rezvanifar noted, according to IRNA. The foreign trade reached

85.3 million tons in terms of weight in the first six months of 1402, which grew 23.78% compared with the same period last Iranian year, he said.

Also, the official added, Iran's foreign transit stood at 7.7 million tons in the first half of the year 1402, showing an 8.24 percent growth compared with the same period last year.

Iran exported 67.7 million tons of non-oil commodities, worth \$24.144 billion, in the six months. The export of non-oil commodities in the period in-

creased by 29 percent in terms of weight.

Meanwhile, a sum of 17.6 million tons of goods valued at \$30.44 billion were imported into the country in the said period, indicating an 11.62 percent rise in terms of value, and a 6.89 percent rise in terms of weight, year-on-year. Iran's top export destination during this period was China, with \$6.9 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq, with \$4.5 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with over \$3 billion,

Turkey with \$2.4 billion, and India with \$1.1 billion. Liquefied natural gas, liquid propane, and liquid butane were the top exported items in the said six months.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports in the first half of the current year were the UAE, with \$9 billion, China, with \$8.8 billion, Turkey, with \$3.3 billion, Germany, with \$1.1 billion, and India, with \$987 million worth of imports.

Corn, smartphones, soybeans, sunflower seed oil,

and rice were the top imported items in the said period.

Iran's annual non-oil exports set a new record in the history of the country during the 12 months to March 20.

The non-oil trade of the country in the previous Iranian year hit 159.236 million tons in weight, and \$112.821 billion in value. Iran's non-oil trade has increased by \$11.38 billion as compared to the previous year, hitting a record in the history of the country.

US senators have confirmed rise in Iran's oil output, exports: Owji

US senators and Western media have confirmed the increase in Iran's oil production and exports despite sanctions over the past two years, said Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji. Production and exports of oil products and gas condensates are on the rise thanks to the unflinching efforts of the Oil Ministry's staff, Shana quoted the minister as saying. The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) registered 19.8 percent and 16.4 percent economic growth for the domestic oil and gas industry, re-

spectively, in the spring of 2023, revealing the great efforts made in upstream and downstream sectors, the minister noted. In September, Bloomberg reported that Iran's oil exports continued their upward trend in August, to reach 1.85 million barrels per day (bpd). Citing tankertrackers.com, which provides data on oil cargoes to governments, insurers and other institutions, the report noted that the increase in Iranian shipments comes in the same month that key OPEC+ producers, Saudi Arabia and Russia, kept a lid on their own oil exports in a bid to tight-

en the market, the report said. According to the Tanker-Trackers data, Iranian crude exports topped two million barrels a day in the first 20 days of August, the highest this year. Iran has been steadily ramping up its oil production and exports this year, finding buyers for its supplies in Asia. The country's production is now at the highest level since a ban on its exports kicked in five years ago, with US officials privately acknowledging they've gradually relaxed enforcement on some of the measures.

Arash gas field issue to be settled through dialogue: Analyst

A senior expert in Middle East affairs is convinced that the dispute over the Arash gas field, known as Al-Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, will be resolved through holding political negotiations and reaching an agreement.

Hadi Seyyed Afqahi made the remarks after Kuwait's representative said in his address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia alone have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in the offshore gas field, Shana reported. Given Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji's clear remarks and call for talks, the issue will be settled through negotiations, assured the analyst. "Owji's presence in the 93rd Saudi National Day

ceremony as the [Iranian] head of Iran-Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Commission drew much attention," said Afqahi, adding the Iranian minister's views were welcomed by Saudi officials, particularly the kingdom's oil and energy authorities.

He said Owji's presence at the ceremony will expand Tehran-Riyadh relations in all fields, including the oil, economic, and commercial sectors. Following the Beijing statement signed by Ali Shamkhani, then-secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), and Musaad bin Mohammed Al Aiban, minister of state and national security adviser of Saudi Arabia, and a joint statement issued after a meeting between Irani-

an Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the desirable impacts of Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement on regional developments, particularly in Yemen, are tangible, he noted. Furthermore, a Yemeni delegation's visit to Saudi Arabia was positive, recalled the expert, referring to the improvement of Syria-Saudi Arabia ties and an invitation extended by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to attend an Arab League summit, Bahrain's willingness to resume diplomatic relations with Iran, and talks on the Palestinian cause as the positive impacts of Iran-Saudi Arabia détente.



Rey Fortification, a testament to magnificence of ancient Rey in its prime



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

If you have explored the captivating historical attractions of Shahr-e Rey in Tehran Province and ventured to Cheshmeh Ali, then you must have caught sight of the Rey Fortification. This ancient defensive wall has long been the subject of speculation about its age, potentially dating back 6,000 years, or even to the Median period. Once encircling the expanding Shahr-e Rey, which stretched across a vast 510-hectare area, only a 300-meter section of this mighty wall remains today in Cheshmeh Ali, a historic hill. It offers a tantalizing glimpse into the grandeur of Rey's past and the magnificence of its fortifications. The fortification, along with Cheshmeh Ali and the entire historical realm of Shahr-e Rey, holds a captivating and intricate tale. In its heyday, it stood as a protective barrier encompassing one of the most splendid and largest cities in the Islamic world. Ancient Shahr-e Rey remained buried beneath layers of time for many years. Among the few areas where the history of Shahr-e Rey can be studied is a historic site called Rashkan Castle (Dezh-e Rashkan), which marks the starting point of the city's story and its pinnacle of prosperity. It is from this stronghold that the defensive wall extended to other areas.

Situated near the Safaieh neighborhood, Rashkan Castle stands as one of the oldest defensive fortresses in Shahr-e Rey.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Qadir Afroond, head of the Rey National Heritage Site, said that the fortress derives its name from one of the Parthian kings.

During two phases of archaeological excavations, the remains of the monument, including stairs and brick structures, were discovered within the fortress. The first phase took place from December 2005 to mid-April 2006, followed by a second phase in 2007, with the collaboration of a French archaeologist. Furthermore, on top of a mountain in the region, within the sole remaining tower named Tabarak Castle, an ancient Parthian coin was unearthed.

Afroond also revealed an intriguing discovery waiting to be unveiled in the vicinity — the ancient fortress known as Arg. In close proximity lies the remnants of another architectural marvel, the Sharestan Castle, once home to local residents.

Birun, another area, holds a significant place in the region, as it is where Abu Reyhan al-Biruni, a renowned Islamic scholar, was born. His name finds its roots in this particular locality. Covering around 10 hectares, Arg and Sharestan fortresses dominated the landscape. Sharestan Castle accommodated the majority of the

city's population, while others resided in the outskirts known as Birun.

As the city of Rey experienced a population surge due to its growing importance, Sharestan proved inadequate in housing the increasing number of residents. Consequently, the city's boundaries expanded, allowing for more space to accommodate the burgeoning population.

"The development of the city began in the late Buyid period and continued until the Seljuk era, when Shahr-e Rey reached its maximum size and population," Afroond explained.

Rey Fortification represents the remnants of the defensive wall constructed during the Seljuk period. It played a crucial role in expanding the city's initial 10-hectare space to a vast area spanning 510 hectares — an exponential increase that caused the city to grow 50-fold. The English traveler, Sir Robert Ker Porter, documented the map of Shahr-e Rey in 1821.

Afroond also mentioned Shahriar Adl, a renowned Iranian archaeologist, and the collaborative project involving two American and Canadian archaeologists. Together, they initiated an exploration and study of various sections of ancient Rey in 1973, based on Sir Robert Ker Porter's map.

Unfortunately,

the project lasted no more than a year due to Adl's illness, with the foreign archaeologists returning to their respective countries. Subsequently, Adl's deputy, Yahya Koosha, continued the project from 1974 until his retirement in 1991, when the project was ultimately abandoned.

During those excavations, an industrial area dating back to the Seljuk era was discovered, along with remnants of adobe bricks from Rey Fortification.

Referring to the recent establishment of the Rey National Heritage Site, Afroond conveyed the challenges faced in preserving Shahr-e Rey's ancient remains. Buried beneath the modern city's infrastructure, the ancient heritage lies a significant five to seven meters underground.

Sadly, with every construction permit issued by the municipality, a piece of Rey's ancient legacy is inadvertently lost or destroyed.

Through ongoing efforts and dedicated programs, an endeavor is underway to protect and investigate the various historical sites scattered throughout the city. The timeless secrets of Shahr-e Rey await those who dare to delve into its rich past.



Arg
IRAN DAILY



Sharestan
IRAN DAILY

Rey Fortification
IRAN DAILY



World registration of Saray-e Afzal to boost Shoushtar tourism

Iranica Desk

The head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Shoushtar, Khuzestan Province, emphasized that the registration of Saray-e Afzal Caravanserai on UNESCO's World Heritage List will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the development of tourism in the region.

Davoud Najjar-Asiabani said that one of the important advantages of registering Saray-e Afzal on the World Heritage List is raising awareness and informing the global community about this historical monument. He said that this would lead to an increase in tourism activity, subsequently boosting the local economy and benefiting the people. Therefore, an important

effect of the world registration of Saray-e Afzal is an increase in the presence of domestic and foreign tourists in Shoushtar. He also pointed out that the registration of Saray-e Afzal on the World Heritage List can help promote the region's handicrafts and be used as an opportunity to introduce them to the world. The head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts

Department of Shoushtar emphasized that world heritage is a powerful and internationally marketable symbol, and registered monuments such as Saray-e Afzal attract the attention of tourists. He added that monuments registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List benefit from programs, protective measures, and monitoring methods. Najjar-Asiabani said that the

private sector is currently operating Saray-e Afzal, adding that this caravanserai is a permanent exhibition and sales center for Shoushtar's handicrafts. In addition to showcasing and selling the region's handicrafts, over 100 artisans are active in the workshops of this caravanserai. He also noted that the history of the monument dates back to the Qajar era. It is a large complex

that includes a *sabat* (an arched structure built between the opposite buildings on both sides of a narrow street in tropical and desert areas), mosque, historical houses, bathhouse, and other structures, and is one of the major buildings in this complex. The magnificent architecture of this caravanserai has attracted the attention of many tourists from ancient times to the present day.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Several
suicide
operations
discovered

IRNA – The information minister on Sunday announced the discovery of several suicide operations among the crowd on Saturday.

Esmail Khatib said the enemies were trying to carry out terrorist operations, adding that they were trying to assassinate several Sunni clerics, guards, judges, etc., to make the parties guilty of this incident and incite ethnic and religious sectarianism.

He clarified that the enemies are seeking to make the eastern borders unsafe, and it is necessary for Shia scholars, Sunnis and officials to be vigilant.

Raisi
encourages
further
Iran-China
cooperation

IRNA – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, in a congratulatory message to his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on the occasion of China's National Day (Oct. 1), regarded the progress of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation program between the two states as a beacon for future collaboration.

Raisi characterized the bilateral coordination on regional and international affairs, particularly Iran's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, as a new arena for cooperation between the two countries and the promotion of multilateralism.

Sweden
slammed
for inaction
on insult to
Qur'an

TASNIM – The Iranian Foreign Ministry slammed the Swedish government and police forces for their passive response to the repeated acts of desecration of the Holy Qur'an, reminding Stockholm that actions speak louder than words.

In a statement released on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani strongly condemned the most recent case of desecration of the holy book of Muslims in Sweden.

Raisi: Normalization with Israel
'a regressive move'

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi addresses the opening ceremony of the 37th International Islamic Unity Conference in the Iranian capital of Tehran, on October 1, 2023. president.ir

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has censured the normalization agreements by certain Arab countries with the Israeli regime, underlining that the liberation of the occupied Al Quds is the "most important issue" in the Muslim world.

Raisi made the remark in an address to the opening ceremony of the 37th International Islamic Unity Conference in the Iranian capital of Tehran on Sunday. He further stressed that attempts to normalize relations with the Zionist regime are seen as a "retrograde step" for any gov-

ernment, as it is what the foreigners want, Press TV reported.

"The way to confront the enemy is not through compromise and surrender but through resistance and resilience," he noted.

"The option of surrender and compromise are by no means on the table; resistance and resilience against the enemy has paid off and will force the enemy to retreat."

"Becoming united does not only mean unity of religions or geography, it rather means to express cohesion and solidarity to safeguard

the interests of the Islamic Ummah," he said.

Resorting to foreigners and fulfilling their wishes is a "regressive" step, he added. "The liberation of Al Quds and Palestine is the most important indicator of the unity of the Islamic Ummah," Raisi said.

He praised the international conference on Islamic Unity in Tehran as an "anti-Zionism and anti-hegemony" event, saying that "Today's strategy of unity can fortify the Islamic Ummah against the enemy, and unity [works] against its hybrid warfare."

Raisi also called for further consolidation of the Islamic Ummah's unity in the face of threats posed by Takfiri terror groups.

"Takfiri groups' horrific crimes perpetrated in mosques and religious centers, explosions in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the massacre of people as well as crimes committed by the US and the Zionist regime's henchmen in various Islamic countries entail promoting unity among the Islamic Ummah to confront the Takfiri current," he added. He called on Muslim scholars and thinkers to prepare

themselves for assuming an important role in the new world order by promoting cohesion, unity, and proximity of faiths.

"Muslims and the Islamic world must establish themselves in the new order, disrupt the current unjust order, and create a just order in the world," he said, stressing that the Islamic Ummah will play a key role in the emerging world order.

Raisi said sacrilegious acts such as the desecration of the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet, heinous crimes by Takfiri terrorist groups, and normalization deals with the Israeli occupying regime as well as media campaigns spearheaded by the enemies are meant to deter the Islamic Ummah.

"The enemy intends to disappoint the Islamic Ummah about the future by propagating the idea that only everything it wants and wishes will happen, but the Islamic Ummah has foiled such plots," the Iranian president added.

The 37th International Islamic Unity Conference kicked off in Tehran on Sunday with the participation of hundreds of guests from dozens of Islamic countries. The annual conference is organized by the Iran-based World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought during the Islamic Unity Week which coincides with the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) tomorrow.

SNSC urges full implementation of security
deal with Iraq

National Desk

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council emphasized the precise and complete implementation of the security agreement with Iraq.

In a meeting with Iraq's national security adviser in Tehran on Sunday, Ali Akbar Ahmadian stressed that the security agreement between the two countries serves as a guarantee for the security of their borders and provides a reasonable and suitable roadmap for eliminating destabilizing factors in both countries and the region, IRNA reported.

The security agreement, signed in March, commits Iran and Iraq to safeguarding the principles of good neighborliness and protecting the common border.

"This agreement guarantees the security of the common border and is a rational and appropriate road map to the elimination of factors that create insecurity in the two countries and the region," the top Iranian security official stated.

Iran had set a deadline of September 19 for the Iraqi-Kurdish authorities to take action against secessionist anti-Iranian groups stationed in northern Iraq along the common border. The agreement was

made for disarmament and expulsion of terrorists from the Kurdistan Region in northern Iraq.

As a part of the security agreement, the armed Kurdish groups in northern Iraq started pulling out from areas near the border with Iran on September 9, as Baghdad faced the deadline to disarm the groups.

Ahmadian also noted that there are ample opportunities for closer cooperation between the two neighbors in various fields, particularly in economic relations. For his part, Qasim al-Araji reaffirmed Iraq's determination to carry out the security deal with Iran.

He also noted that Baghdad would take every opportunity to strengthen relations with Tehran.



TASNIM

Sabalan destroyer equipped with record
number of cruise missiles: Cmdr.

Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said his forces have managed to furnish the Sabalan destroyer with 12 anti-ship cruise missiles, breaking the record for the number of guided missiles installed on Iranian vessels.

Speaking to Tasnim news agency on Sunday, Irani said that the missile-equipped destroyer will be unveiled soon.

Sabalan is an Alvand-class frigate of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy. It was damaged in an encounter with the US Navy in the Persian Gulf during the Iraqi-imposed war in the 1980s, Press TV reported.

After a few years, the 1,500-ton destroyer was repaired by domestic experts.

Previously, Sabalan was furnished with four anti-ship cruise missiles and took part in 13 Iranian naval fleets.

Iran's Sahand and Sina frigates have each been equipped with eight cruise missiles. The Iranian Navy has in recent years achieved self-sufficiency in manufacturing equipment.

It has also increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers.

On Saturday, during a ceremony in commemoration of the anniversary of the

Iraq-imposed war, Irani said the navy will also take delivery of a new domestically-designed and developed destroyer in the near future, which is furnished with much more advanced and elaborate systems compared to the military vessels already unveiled.

He said that the homegrown military vessel, dubbed Deylaman, will soon join Iran's naval fleet.

Iran also said that the Iranian Navy plans to set up a base in Antarctica.

Iran's southeastern Makran coast is directly connected to the South Pole and the deployment of Iranian servicemen in that region would be of a practical nature, he added, saying that Antarctica is the best place to control the cruise of ballistic missiles.



MOHAMMAD NAJIB/YJC

Iran to deal with huge presence of Afghan migrants

Iranian parliamentarian Fadahosseini Maleki said a program is underway to deal with the huge presence of Afghan refugees in the country.

"We are seriously pur-

suing efforts to organize them," Maleki said, IFP reported.

This comes as public concern has grown over the huge presence of Afghan refugees in Iran, especial-

ly after the Taliban group took power in Afghanistan in 2021.

People argue that the presence of Afghan nationals has not only increased costs of public

services, but also undermined security in the country.

Last week Ahmad Vahidi, the Iranian Interior Minister said currently there are five million Afghans

in Iran.

The influx of Afghan refugees into Iran sped up following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan almost two years ago.

West has security goals in Central Asia

Iran should pursue trilateral diplomacy with Europe and Central Asia



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

After a meeting between the leaders of five Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan) with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany hosted the countries leaders. The meetings indicate the West's serious intention to strengthen its presence in Central Asia. We have discussed the issue with Abed Akbari, an expert on international issues, and managing director of Abrar Institute of International Studies and Research in Tehran.

IRAN DAILY: Is the West pursuing security or economic benefits from its presence in the Central Asian region?

It is definitely for security reasons. In fact, the West wants to have a stronger presence in Central Asia, in a bid to have more control over its rivals – Russia and China. The Central Asian countries are part of China's major project, the "Belt and Road Initiative". Russia

has always had a traditional influence in these countries, especially in the current situation in which Moscow is under pressure from the West due to the war in Ukraine. The Central Asian countries give Russia the opportunity to meet some of its needs.

Presently, Germany, the United States and, to a lesser extent, France are providing these countries with aid. They have also launched public infrastructure projects in these countries to strengthen their presence there. Therefore, the Central Asia region is of great importance to the West as its presence in the region can help the West contain Russia and China. Of course, commercial and economic issues are also important for the West. Turkmenistan's energy as well as Kazakhstan's geographical position are attractive to the West.

Just as big countries like Russia and China paved the way for Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to influence regional equations, Western countries want to do so with a greater presence in Central Asia.

There are growing concerns about the presence of the US-led NATO

alliance in the Caucasus and the Central Asian regions after recent tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia and talks about the establishment of the Zangezur corridor. Do you think that the presence of Western countries in Central Asia is a matter of security concern for the regional countries?

Yes. The military aid that Western countries have been giving to Central Asian countries is an important issue. They have provided them with tactical weapons, hold joint military maneuvers, or build military infrastructures in these countries. However, this military presence, whether in the name of NATO or the European countries, does not make any difference in the result. The important thing is the presence of Western countries around Iran, which is a matter of concern. Iran should be careful not to be surprised in Central Asia, as it was in the Caucasus.

What policy can Tehran adopt against this threat?

After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and its change of government, Western countries have made more diplomatic



● ADAM SCHULTZ/WHITE HOUSE

moves in the region. For example, the German foreign minister came to the region and visited eight countries, except Iran. They are investigating whether they can manage the developments and equations in the region without Iran. In my opinion, an active trilateral diplomacy is needed between Iran, Central Asia and Europe. It can be a new agenda for Iran-Europe dialogues. Iran has capacities which the Europeans cannot ignore.

One of the headaches for European countries is the smuggling of drugs through Central Asia to Europe. They can use Iran's experience in fighting against smugglers. This issue could be an opportunity for Tehran to turn threats into opportunities by setting up trilateral negotiations.

Central Asian countries have been Russia's backyard for decades, and they have had good re-

lations with China. Now, these countries are leaning towards the West. Does it contain a special message?

Three decades after the fall of the Soviet Union and the independence of the Central Asian countries, a new generation of politicians are in charge, who are seeking more independence and wish to extricate their countries from Russian influence. To balance Russia's influ-

ence, the governments of the Central Asian countries have turned to China in the last decade. However, Beijing did not meet their expectations in economic investment. Now it seems that by getting closer to the West, these five countries are trying to provoke Russia and China to have a greater economic presence in their countries. In fact, they seek more concessions from Russia and China.

MP: Iran an emerging military superpower

Any military action against Iran 'doomed to failure'



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

An Iranian lawmaker said Iran is now considered an emerging superpower in the world in terms of military and weapons, stressing that any military action against Iran is doomed to failure.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Morteza Mahmoudvand said at a time when Iran had not come to maturity in the military field, the country fought alone against the world during the Iraqi-im-

posed war. Many countries supported the Iraqi regime, while Iran was actually at war directly with 36 countries, and indirectly with more than 80 countries.

Referring to the war in Syria, he said that many countries sought to occupy the country either directly or indirectly through terrorists. But they did not succeed and only one branch of our ground forces, Quds Ground Force, managed to bring the enemy to its knees in Syria and change the situation in favor of the people of the region.

Today, a military power

such as Russia is stuck in the war in Ukraine, which is supported by the West. During the Iran-Iraq war, these countries also supported Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. However, they did not achieve their goals. Considering that Iran is currently at the peak of its military and security power, the enemy can never take any action against Iran. Mahmoudvand also reacted to repeated claims made by the UAE's representative at the UN General Assembly over the three Iranian islands in the Persian

Gulf, calling it a false and threadbare claim. The enemies of Iran incite the UAE and the Persian Gulf Arab countries every now and then regarding the Iranian islands.

He added, "For the umpteenth time, we are officially telling the UAE and all those who stand behind these false claims that their claims have no historical basis."

Apart from the three islands, we will not even forget Bahrain as part of Iran.

Therefore, they should not brazenly talk about the own-

ership of the three islands. All maps from ancient times until today indicate that these islands have always been part of Iran's territory. Such claims arose during the domination of Britain and foreigners over the Persian Gulf, and have been repeated with falsehoods incited by the West and the Arab League. Britain illegally occupied the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the

Greater and Lesser Tunbs – an occupation that lasted 80 years.

Iran and the UK held negotiations for three years, which finally led to the end of Britain's occupation of the three Iranian islands.

In an operation, the Iranian Navy managed to restore Iran's sovereignty over the islands. The three islands were under British occupation for eight decades before the establishment of the United Arab Emirates in 1971.

When the islands were liberated, Iranian authorities emphasized that they would talk about the issue only to the UK, not

the Arab sheikhs. Secondly, Iran declared that the issue of the islands' sovereignty should be determined before the establishment of the United Arab Emirates.

Therefore, on November 30, 1971, the issue of the islands was resolved and they were returned to Iran. The Iranian lawmaker also stressed that media hype is also behind the claims made by the UAE.

The Western media have also launched a campaign over the name of the Persian Gulf. However, they have not been able to provide a historical map proving their claims.



Alvarez beats Charlo to retain undisputed title



AFP

AFP – Saul “Canelo” Alvarez reaffirmed his super middleweight supremacy on Saturday with a devastating unanimous-decision victory over Jermell Charlo to retain his undisputed world title.

In a battle of undisputed champions, Mexico’s Alvarez knocked down Charlo in the seventh round as he defended his WBO, WBC, WBA and IBF belts, becoming the first to defend all four for a third straight time.

Judges Max DeLuca and David Sutherland scored it 118-109 and Steve Weisfeld saw it 119-108 for Alvarez, who was the aggressor from the start. He sent Charlo, the undisputed super welterweight world champion, to the canvas for just the second time in his career in the seventh, rocking him with a right to the temple then following up with an uppercut that had the American sagging to a knee.

“You know, I worked all the fight to go in the body,” Alvarez said. “And then I changed the punch and that’s what happened.” Alvarez said he’d planned to attack Charlo’s body, and he went after it early, digging in from the right and left.

“We worked for that, we worked to work in the body,” Alvarez said. “We know he’s a great fighter. He knows how to move in the ring and we worked that in the gym for three months.

“Three months in the mountains without my family, without everything. But I still love boxing,” the 33-year-old star said. “Boxing made me the person I am today. Boxing is my life.”

Alvarez improved to 60-2-2 with 39 knockouts and backed up his claim that a high-altitude training camp in the California mountains had restored the fitness and strength that seemed to be lacking in two unimpressive victories over Gennady Golovkin and John Ryder since his failed foray at light heavyweight against Dmitry Bivol.

Alvarez, now looking toward a title defence next May to coincide with the Mexican Cinco de Mayo holiday, said it didn’t matter that he didn’t get a knockout.

“I feel great,” he said. “That’s why we fight 12 rounds, right. If I don’t get that knockout I get 12 rounds to show I’m the best, right?”

“I’m the best,” Alvarez said. “Who’s better? Nobody can beat this Canelo.”

Hangzhou Asian Games:

Aqaei wins kurash silver; Alamians finish with precious bronze



Iran's Donya Aqaei is seen in action in the kurash women's -70kg contests at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on October 1, 2023. hangzhou2022.cn

No matter what the final outcome for the Iranian teams and athletes in Hangzhou, the country's table tennis run in the Games will surely go down as a success.

Sports Desk

A quiet day for the Iranians at the Hangzhou Asian Games in China saw Donya Aqaei grab a silver medal in the kurash competitions, while Alamian brothers settled for the men's doubles bronze in the table tennis event.

Representing the country in the women's -70kg contests, Aqaei overcame opponents from the Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan to reach the final showpiece, only to suffer a defeat

against the host's Yu Dan and claim a second kurash silver for the country in Hangzhou.

Majid Vahid Barimanlou had also finished on the second podium after a loss to Uzbekistan's Artyom Shturbabin in the men's -66kg showdown on the preceding night.

Impressive Alamians
Nima and Noshad Alamian rounded off a memorable campaign with a second table tennis bronze for Iran at the Games.



Iran's Noshad (L) and Nima Alamian collected the men's team and doubles bronze medals of the table tennis event at the Hangzhou Asian Games. MOHAMMADAMIN.ANSARI/ISNA

The two brothers defeated Japan, against all odds, for a place in the men's doubles semifinals but their journey came to an end on Sunday after a 4-0 (11-4, 11-3, 11-3, 11-6) setback against the reigning world doubles champions and home favorites Fan Zhendong and Wang Chuqin in a full-packed GSP Gymnasium. “You might have a chance against them in a one-on-one battle but when it comes to the doubles competitions they are simply invincible across the whole

world, not to mention they had 6,000 fans cheering them today,” elder brother Noshad said of Fan and Wang, who are the top two in the latest ITTF world singles ranking. Nima and Noshad were part of the Iranian trio, alongside Mirhossein Hodaei, who beat Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Japan before a last-four defeat against South Korea to win the men's team bronze – Iran's first table tennis medal in the Asian Games in 65 years. No matter what the final

outcome for the Iranian teams and athletes in Hangzhou, the country's table tennis run in the Games will surely go down as a success. Elsewhere on Day 8 of the event, Iranian girl Hiva Afzali clocked 52.623 seconds to finish second to Japan's Mio Kobayashi and book a place in Tuesday's canoe single 200m final. In handball, a 25-24 defeat against South Korea saw Iran finish fourth in the Group I of the main round and fail to progress to the last four.



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp reacts during a defeat against Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, Britain, on September 30, 2023. PETER.CZIBORRA/REUTERS

'A bit strange': Liverpool's Klopp baffled by disallowed goal against Spurs

THE GUARDIAN – Jürgen Klopp was left bewildered after a glaring error from the match officials denied his Liverpool team what would have been an opening goal in their eventual 2-1 defeat at Tottenham. Liverpool finished with nine men after the dismissals of Curtis Jones and the substitute Diogo Jota, which ought to have been controversy enough. Yet the decision to rule out Luis Díaz's effort in the 34th minute trumped even that. Díaz looked onside when he ran through to finish only for a flag to go up. But rather than overrule the onfield decision, the VAR, Darren England, did not intervene, calling “check complete” because he had not noticed the goal had been disallowed. It prompted Professional Game Match Officials Limited to issue an embarrassing apology. The referees' body said in a statement: “The PGMOL acknowledge a significant human error occurred during the first half of Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool. The goal by Luis Díaz was disallowed for offside by the

onfield team of match officials. This was a clear and obvious factual error and should have resulted in the goal being awarded through VAR intervention. However, the VAR failed to intervene. PGMOL will conduct a full review into the circumstances which led to the error.” Klopp said: “I don't think there is anything to say about the offside goal – I knew about it at half-time. In the first moment I thought it was clearly onside but you think they have a better view. I am pretty sure whoever made the decision didn't do it on purpose. It didn't take extremely long to come to the conclusion. That's a bit strange but someone else has to explain. “The linesman thought it was worth watching again – that's why he raised the flag. In the good old times, the linesman should have seen it was not offside because we had these situations quite frequently and when you see it back it is pretty clear.” Jones was sent off for a heavy tackle on Yves Bis-

souma midway through the first half – a decision Klopp disputed. Spurs scored on 36 minutes through Son Heung-min, although Liverpool hit back in first-half stoppage-time through Cody Gakpo, who did not reappear for the second half. He left the stadium in a protective brace, Klopp suggesting the injury was serious. Jota's dismissal for two yellow cards – the second on 69 minutes – meant Liverpool have now had four red cards in the Premier League. Spurs won in the final minute of stoppage-time thanks to a Joël Matip own goal. Klopp said: “Probably everyone in the room sees it as a red card for Curtis – I see it different. He put full power on the ball, rolls over it and then hits the leg [of Bissouma]. When you see it in slow motion, it looks horrendous. See it in real time and it's not even close to be that bad. Jota's first yellow card is clearly not a yellow card. The killer of the game was the second red card and a lot of other decisions.”



Jafar, the generous Kebab seller



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

There is a little restaurant called Haj-Hossein Kebab in Namaz Square in Shahr-e-Ray, southern Tehran. If you ever walk past it, you'll come across the restaurant with an eye-catching banner, informing the passers-by of free kebab for pregnant women who cannot afford the delicious meal with its ravishing smell. In addition to poor, pregnant women, the restaurant serves impoverished Afghan migrants. The owner of Haj Hossein Kebab, Jafar Zeynali, has been working in the restaurant for about twenty years. He is really content to donate food to the destitute and believes that his restaurant should do so, since grilling kebab spreads a whole lot of smoke and aroma in the vi-

city. It would come as no shock, then, that any hungry soul in the area would like to taste the specially grilled meat. "So, if they don't have can't afford the food, it would make me feel really miserable," says Jafar. Once a pregnant woman entered Haj-Hossein Kebab and asked for free food. The way she was craving food created a spark in Jafar's mind. He thought that maybe several other pregnant women pass by his shop every day who could not afford to buy a portion of kebab with rice. "So, I decided to install a banner in front of my shop informing everyone that, here, pregnant women who cannot afford it, would be given free food," said the restaurateur. He went on to say, "I know the people who live in Shahr-e-Ray like the back of my hand, and I'm aware

of their living conditions." Every day he thinks about the ways in which he can help the people in the area. "Several needy, hungry people come for free food every single day, and among them are a lot of poor people who are Afghan immigrants living around here. My workers and I are always happy and satisfied to provide them with free food." Jafar was born in Shahr-e-Ray. His family is considered old natives of the city,

and his father was an employee of Chit-e-Ray Company, besides working in the kebab shop. "It was last year when some young people came to have dinner in the restaurant and ordered a lot of food. As they came to pay their bills, they paid more than what they were billed. When I asked what the reason was for their overpaying, they said, 'This is our share to help those in need.'" "I can trust anyone who

comes and claims to be poor or homeless. Everyone is welcome in our restaurant. Most of my friends cannot do the same and they are surprised at how I can trust people so easily." Nevertheless, Jafar believes that anyone who comes to his shop and claims to be poor is not pretending at all. In all probability, poverty and hunger has pushed them to do so. Therefore, no hungry person is re-

jected in Haj-Hossein Kebab. Jafar believes that helping people has affected his life and has brought positive energy to his career and his family. It has even made him hopeful to do things better than before and make more progress in his job. Jafar's wife and children have always been encouraging him to help the needy, and most of his friends have been supporting him.

IRAN DAILY



West's complicity in using chemical bombs during the Iran-Iraq War



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The Iran-Iraq War, one of the most devastating conflicts of the 20th century, resulted in the deaths of over one million people. During this war, Saddam Hussein's army violated international law by freely using chemical weapons. In February 1979, after the establishment of a democratic Islamic system of government in Iran under the leadership of Imam

Khomeini, Saddam Hussein launched a full-scale war against Iran, using a long-standing border dispute as a pretext. Meanwhile, Iran was transitioning from a monarchy to an experimental democratic government, bringing to justice those who had committed atrocities during the reign of the Shah of Iran. Unfortunately, the Iranian army was weak, which Saddam Hussein exploited by occupying major cities from 1980 to 1982, marking the first phase of the war. Fueled by encouragement from the United States and

Arab kingdoms, Saddam Hussein escalated his aggression during the second phase of the war when Iranian forces gained an advantage. He resorted to chemical attacks on his own people and targeted urban areas in Iran as well. This phase lasted from May 1982 to the ceasefire in 1988, during which the Iranian army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps not only liberated Iranian territory but also advanced into Iraqi territories. At the time, international defense observers believed that Iranian forces were

capable of overthrowing Saddam Hussein. However, Iran's increasing military power alarmed Western countries. They supported Saddam Hussein's army by providing prohibited weapons, including the most dangerous chemical weapons. Saddam Hussein's army utilized these chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds and border cities in Iran, causing severe consequences felt not only in Western countries but also by the international community. Despite the United Nations taking notice, Saddam Hussein continued committing

serious crimes against humanity with no intervention from Germany, the country that supplied him with chemical weapons. The Iraqi dictator employed various chemical agents, particularly mustard gas, which contained Tabun and Sarin. These chemical weapons targeted both Iranian military and civilian targets, leading to devastating consequences. A UN report revealed that Saddam's army used mustard gas on the Iranian city of Sardasht in 1987, resulting in the deaths of more than 100 people and

thousands injured. The long-term health problems caused by exposure to chemical weapons included cancer, respiratory issues, and neurological disorders. Despite the disastrous impact of chemical weapons on the Iranian people and military, the international community, particularly the Western world, continued to encourage Saddam Hussein's hostility towards Iran. This complicity suggests that the United States and European countries share responsibility for these crimes against humanity.



IRNA

Iran's elderly population projected to double in two decades

Social Desk

On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, Iran's Deputy Minister of Health issued a warning about the expected doubling of the elderly population in our country over the next 20 years.

"This increase is happening much faster than what has been observed in many developed countries around the world, where the elderly population took more than a hundred years to double," said Hossein Farshidi, according to ISNA.

The Deputy Minister emphasized the significance of the elderly population in our country, considering them a national treasure that plays a vital role in preserving and passing on our Iranian-Islamic culture and strengthening solidarity between generations.

Farshidi's message conveyed well wishes for their health during the celebration of the International Day and Iran's National Week of Honoring Older Persons.

An increase in life expectancy and a decline in overall fertility rates worldwide during the 20th century have led to a phenomenon known as 'aging population'. Iran has also experienced similar demographic changes, and if the current trend continues, the growth of the aging population will accelerate significantly.

"In the next 20 years, the proportion of elderly people will double, going from 10 percent to 20 percent of the total population," the official warned.

The Ministry of Health takes demographic changes into account when formulating macro-policies.

"One approach to addressing these changes is to focus on maintaining and promoting the youth of the population, aiming for a balanced population structure. This policy has a positive consequence of ensuring an adequate number of young individuals to support and care for the increasing elderly population," Farshidi said.

The health sector's actions concerning the elderly focus on maintaining and improving their physical health, delaying dependency and disability, promoting their psychological well-being, and encouraging their participation in society.

"However, it is important to recognize that optimal health care should begin before birth and continue throughout all stages of life. By aging in a healthy manner, individuals can actively engage with family and society, leading to a higher quality of life," he said.

6k-year-old sandals found in Spanish cave



New analysis has identified the oldest shoes ever discovered in Europe, according to a study published in the journal *Science Advances*.

The 22 woven sandals date from 6,000 years ago, radiocarbon analysis found in the study led by researchers at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and Alcalá University in Spain, CNN reported.

The ancient footwear, along with Mesolithic baskets and other tools, was first discovered back in 1857, when a cave in southern Spain was looted by miners. However, when the artifacts were first dated, in the 1970s, they were identified as being about 1,000 years more recent than this latest analysis found.

The very dry conditions within the cave were ideal for preserving perishable materials, the researchers said, and allowed the preservation of a prehistoric burial site complete with partially mummified corpses, accompanied by baskets, wooden tools, sandals and other goods.

The objects are "the oldest and best-preserved set of plant fiber materials in southern Europe so far known," María Herrero Otal, one of the study's authors, said in a statement, adding that they demonstrate "the ability of prehistoric communities to master this type of craftsmanship."

When Spanish archaeologist Manuel de Góngora y Martínez visited the cave in 1867, 10 years after the looting, he gathered the remaining artifacts, including the sandals, and gave them to museums in Madrid and Granada, where they have been studied by researchers, the study added.

The sandals were made of grasses as well as other materials, including leather, lime and ramie bast, a type of natural fiber.

Using the descriptions provided by Góngora, the study hypothesizes that the bodies were buried wearing the sandals.

Some sandals had clear signs of wear, while others appeared never to have been worn, suggesting that some people had clothing made especially for their burial. The researchers also studied several baskets and other wooden artifacts in the collection. These objects "open up groundbreaking perspectives on the complexity of Early-Middle Holocene populations in Europe," they said, adding that most knowledge of past societies is drawn from durable artifacts rather than perishable ones such as baskets. The Holocene is the current geological epoch, which began 11,700 years ago.

Both the baskets and sandals suggest that the makers had an extended knowledge of the plant resources in the local environment as well as a high level of expertise, the researchers noted.

- License Holder: Managing Director
- Editor-in-chief
- Int'l & National Desk
- Economy Desk
- Sports Desk
- Iranica Desk
- Arts & Culture Desk
- Social Desk
- Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ali Kakadezfuli
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari
Reza Abesh Ahmadi, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imeni
Hamideh Hosseini
Ali Amiri
Ali Mehran

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
● Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir
newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Tourism industry could replace oil revenues: *Minister*

MoUs signed on ecotourism projects

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami is of the opinion that the tourism industry could help the country replace oil revenues.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark World Tourism Day in Tehran on Sunday, the minister said if tourism income takes the place of petrodollars, the Ministry of Oil will definitely enjoy better conditions, CHTN reported.

Also present at the ceremony were the head of the Department of the Environment, Ali Salajeqeh, deputy oil, energy and agriculture ministers, as well as the heads of guilds of the tourism sector.

"I would like to thank the Ministry of Oil for its support in the field of tourism," Zarghami added. "Regarding the importance of tourism, Minister of Oil Javad Owji has done everything we asked him urgently."

The minister noted that by the incorporation of the private sector and state-run organizations of the country, a greater prosperity of the tourism sector will be achieved.

He also expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Ministry of Energy and the Water and Waste Water Management Organization, and the Ministry of Agriculture for their good cooperation with his ministry.



On the sidelines of the ceremony, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts inked three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on the development of ecotourism. The first MoU was signed with the Water and Waste Water Manage-

ment Organization, as a trilateral agreement was inked with the Iran National Environmental Fund and Iranian Hoteliers Association. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), Union of Ecotourism Residences of Iran and Alavi Foundation signed a

memorandum of understanding with the ministry on ecotourism projects. Two books on tourist guides and green investment as well as a digital book on sustainability in ecotourism houses were unveiled at the ceremony.

Iran, Uzbekistan sign MoU on cinematic affairs

The head of Iranian Organization of Cinema and Audiovisual Affairs, Mohammad Khazaei, and director general of Uzbekistan's cinema agency, Ferdavus Abdul Khalikov, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on boosting cooperation in fields related to cinema. The Iran-Uzbekistan agreement on cooperation was signed regarding deep cultural relations based on mutual respect and national interests between the two countries, the public relations office of the

Iranian cinema body said on Sunday, IRNA reported. The agreement includes exchange of films, participation in film festivals in the two countries, facilitation of the presence of filmmakers in the two countries for filmmaking, etc. According to the report, the two countries have agreed to form a committee to pursue the implementation of the memorandum of understanding and remove obstacles to this end.



Puzzling archeological discoveries in north-eastern Iran

Arts & Culture Desk

Archeologists started their first explorations in Kalekoob in South Khorasan Province; they found several artefacts dating back to 6,000 years ago, and were left with the question of when urbanization had started in this area.

This is the fourth phase of archaeologists' explorations in this region, and based on what the director of the research team says, this is one of the rare prehistorical monuments in South Khorasan that reflects cultural transition from the Copper Age (5th millennium BC) to the Bronze Age (2nd millennium BC). Researchers in the area discovered

a cultural transition from prehistory in eastern Iran, which is a considerable achievement since the beginning of this research in 2018. Azizi Kharanaqi, member of Scientific Institute of Archeology, said the discovery of cultural items which belong to the beginning of the urbanization era (4th millennium BC), or the beginning of the Elamite culture, is the most important accomplishment of this process.

Archeologists have discovered the remarkable works of pottery belonging to this era, which proves the presence of a civilization in Iran's Central Plateau and Kerman. He said that the discovery shows how widespread this culture was

in the eastern part of Iran in the 4th millennium BC, adding that the exact cultural layer of this finding is yet to be determined with the help of Tokyo University. The fourth phase of the archeolog-

ical work in Kalekoob is predicted to be about identifying the remaining layers of the beginning of the urbanization era and getting more details on the prehistorical cultures in that location.

