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Five years after the JCPOA

'Iran may act more decisively in response to violation of nuclear deal'

©File photo



ARTICLE

Salman Parviz
Journalist

Iran-China evolving strategic partnership

Due to its frugal policies in the past, today China has the largest foreign currency reserves in the world, currently estimated to be around \$3.4 trillion dollars. China has used these funds in the past to invest in infrastructure projects in Central Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. Today China is knocking the Iranian door for a 25-year agreement in which China will be investing in Iranian infrastructure in and have a guaranteed supply of crude.

Pundits believe that this is a very timely deal for Iran which has the fourth largest oil reserves in the world but unable to export crude or build infrastructure because of the "maximum pressure" sanctions imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump, after he pulled out of the JCPOA in 2018 and re-imposed the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran.

"The point that has to be taken into consideration in our foreign policy is the shift in global power (to east)," Zarif argued in justification of the pact known as Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership approved by President Hassan Rouhani's administration in June. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has promoted this approach, vigorously pursued by the Foreign Ministry.

The partnership – first proposed by China's leader, Xi Jinping, during a visit to Iran in 2016 – was approved by President Hassan Rouhani's cabinet in June, Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif last week.

Pundits believe the foundations of this pact was laid during Xi's visit to Tehran and his one-on-one meeting with the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in January 2016, one week after the start of JCPOA's implementation. "The agreement on a 25-year strategic relationship is prudent and wise," the leader was quoted telling the Chinese president.

Plan will be in alignment with China's 'One Belt, One Road' multi-generational project. The final products will be transported through new links planned, financed and managed by China. ➔2

IAEA resolution against Iran 'only makes things more complicated': Ulyanov

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — On June 19, the IAEA Board of Governors passed a resolution critical of Iran, a move that Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, says "only makes things more complicated".

Russian and China voted against the resolution. Some other countries like South Africa, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Niger, Niger and Mongolia abstained to vote. "Russia voted against (IAEA resolution). The bottom line is that the mere fact of adopting any kind of resolution on Iran would not have provided a positive result. On the contrary, it only makes things more complicated," Ulyanov tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

The resolution was submitted to the board by the European troika (the United Kingdom, France, and Germany). It calls on Tehran to provide IAEA inspectors access to two sites in Iran in order to verify

possible traces of unauthorized and undeclared nuclear material and nuclear activity.

Iran said the European trio drafted the resolution under pressure from Israel, a fierce opponent of the 2015 nuclear deal, and the Donald Trump administration.

Abbas Mousavi, the spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dismissed the resolution as unconstructive and strongly condemned the measure.

"While the Islamic Republic of Iran has been working at the highest level of cooperation with the Agency (IAEA), the resolution issued by the Board of Governors is a totally unconstructive and disappointing measure," said Mousavi.

Ulyanov says, "Resolution was prompted by the fact that Iran had difficulties in providing access to the IAEA inspectors to two locations where nuclear activities could have taken place about 20 years ago." ➔7

More protests in U.S. after new video emerges of police officer kneeling on man's neck during arrest

Video posted on social media that shows a Pennsylvania police officer with his knee on a man's neck while trying to restrain him has prompted protests and a demand from the local Black Lives Matter group to suspend the officers involved.

The video shot Saturday night from a passerby's vehicle shows Allentown officers restraining a man on the ground outside the emergency room of the Sacred Heart Campus of St. Luke's Hospital.

An officer has his elbow on the man's neck before switching to a knee to hold him down while other officers restrained his arms.

The man does not appear to be resisting during the video.

Allentown Police released a statement today saying the interaction is being investigated and additional videos are being reviewed.

The department released its use of force policy earlier this month, five weeks after a

white Minneapolis police officer put his knee on George Floyd's neck for several minutes, even after he stopped responding.

Floyd's death has sparked protests around the world calling for an end to police brutality and systemic racism.

The policy prohibits neck restraints and chokeholds. It says that officers should only use the amount of force necessary to control the situation.

According to the police statement, officers were outside the hospital for an unrelated matter when they saw a man staggering in the street, vomiting and stopping in the driveway of the ER.

The officers and hospital staff interacted with the man, who began to yell and spit at them, police said. The statement said the man was "non-compliant which required officers to restrain" him. It's unclear from the video how long the officer had his knee of the man's neck. ➔10

"Siraf: History, Topography and Environment" appears in Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN — British archaeologist's book "Siraf: History, Topography and Environment", which turns the spotlight on seasons of archaeological surveys in the ancient Iranian port, has been published in Persian recently.

The 2009 book, written by David Bryn Whitehouse (15 October 1941 – 17 February 2013) synthesizes the written evidence of the history of Siraf, and outlines what we know about the character of the city, the ways in which its inhabitants exploited the hinterland and its role in the maritime trade

of the Indian Ocean. Translated by Alireza Anisi, the Persian edition hit Iranian bookstores in close collaboration with the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, CHTN reported.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa

between 800 CE and 1050.

The book introduces the excavations carried out at the site and the range of finds that were recovered (Chapter 1), the written evidence that relates to Siraf (Chapter 2), the cities' urban topography (Chapter 3), its hinterland (Chapter 4), the nature of settlement in the neighboring high valleys (Chapter 5) and Siraf's place in the wider historical and geographical contexts (Chapter 6). The volume also includes digital versions of the original maps of the site produced in the 1970s. ➔8



©File photo

In memory of Maryam Mirzakhani

TEHRAN — July 14 marks the third anniversary of the death of Maryam Mirzakhani, a prominent Iranian mathematician and the first woman to receive the Fields medal.

Her husband, Jan Vondrák, a Czech computer scientist at Stanford, has written in memoriam for the first time in three years after her death.

"Maryam Mirzakhani was much more for me than her public persona—a phenomenal mathematician, an icon for women in science, and a source of pride for her country. It is still hard to come to terms with what happened and to write about her in a way that reconciles my personal memories with the image she acquired on the world stage. ➔9

Enemies miserable over Iran-China partnership: Tehran

TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi has announced that Iran's relations with China are entering a new stage, which has made the enemies miserable that their plots have failed.

"Iran as an important country in West Asia and China as an important country in East Asia have always had good relations," Mousavi said during a press conference on Monday.

He explained that President Hassan Rouhani made a trip to China five years ago, during which the two sides agreed to push bilateral relations toward strategic partnership and to sign a comprehensive bilateral deal.

"Since that time, several task forces worked on this issue, which eventually led to a draft that is paving the way for the final round of talks," he explained. ➔3

ICCIMA offers solutions to increase re-injection of export revenue into NIMA

TEHRAN — The Foreign Currency Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has offered 13 solutions for increasing the exporters' compliance with the Central Bank of Iran (CBI)'s directive regarding the reinjection of their revenues into the economy.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, the members of the newly established committee gathered on Sunday to discuss the

issues that CBI has risen regarding some exporters' lack of commitment for re-injection of their foreign revenues into the country's Forex Management Integrated System (locally known as NIMA).

In this meeting, the private sector representatives offered their solutions for addressing the mentioned issues including the extension of the deadline announced for returning the foreign currency revenues. ➔4

Iran to organize Intl. Storytelling Festival 2020 online

TEHRAN — The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) announced on Monday that the 23rd edition of the International Storytelling Festival will be held online.

"Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the possibility of continuation of this situation by autumn, the IIDCYA has decided to organize the festival online with making some modifications to its programs," said

festival director Mohammadreza Zomorodian, who is also the IIDCYA Deputy Director for Cultural Affairs.

"With about 17,000 submissions from across the world, the previous edition of the event was warmly welcomed, and it would be a pity if the festival were to be canceled this year," he added. The call for entries will be published during August and the festival will be held during autumn. ➔12

Iran takes new step to identify asymptomatic COVID-19 patients

TEHRAN — Iranian researchers have managed to develop a system which can identify asymptomatic COVID-19 patients through reactive oxygen species (ROS) in inflammation and tissue injury, IRIB news reported.

Reactive oxygen species are key signaling molecules that play an important role in the progression of inflammatory disorders.

The mechanism and basis of this device are based on the amount of ROS (reactive oxygen species) in the respiratory system. Virus replication and activation of the inflammatory system of the intracellular immune system against the virus are detected by a nanostructured sensor.

In addition to lower costs than conventional methods at significant speeds (30 seconds), this method can rank the test results in three suspicious, positive, and negative categories.

The research has been conducted in collaboration with Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, and the Motamed Cancer Institute and the Coronavirus Scientific Committee of the Ministry of Health in 4 months.

Tuberculosis, asthma, and cystic fibrosis can also increase ROS sputum, but due to coronavirus infection and fewer patients with these diseases, it can be useful for the diagnosis of asymptomatic patients.

This paper is published in the journal Bio Sensors and Bio Electronic with Impact Factor 10.5, which is one of the second most prestigious in the field of bioelectrochemical sensors in the world. ➔9

Zarif calls regional co-op a 'permanent necessity'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that cooperation among the countries in the region is a “permanent necessity”.

During a meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Ahmad Nasser Al Mohammad Al Sabah through videoconference, Zarif also called for expansion of Iran-Kuwait cooperation in various areas.

The top officials discussed relations and also latest developments in the region.



In a phone call with Kuwaiti Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on April 21, President Hassan Rouhani said that there is no way but expanding regional cooperation and friendship to boost security and stability in the region.

According to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah received in May a written message from Rouhani to the Kuwaiti Emir.

Trump's Iran policy has isolated U.S.: Sanders advisor

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Matt Duss, a foreign policy advisor to Bernie Sanders, has said that Donald Trump's Iran policy has isolated the United States.

“Bush's Iraq policy isolated the US, massively boosted our adversaries, and caused enormous human suffering.

Trump's Iran policy has isolated the US, massively boosted our adversaries, and caused enormous human suffering.



Maybe it's time to stop letting neocons write policy,” Duss tweeted on Sunday.

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy said in March that Trump's policy has made Iran stronger and the United States weaker.

“Trump's Iran policy has done nothing but make them stronger and America weaker,” Murphy tweeted.

He also noted, “Time to change course.”

Iranian presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi has said that the Trump administration has no way but revising wrong

policies and making up for past mistakes, especially economic and medical terrorism against Iran.

Vaezi, a former deputy foreign minister, predicted that Trump will lose the November election if he insists on his wrong policies.

“Continuation of practicing discriminatory policy and pushing knee on neck and tightening unilateral sanctions and health and economic terrorism against the Iranian people will not end in Trump's victory in elections, and will just make this administration more isolated. The United States has no way but revising wrong policies and making up for the past,” Vaezi tweeted in June.

U.S. not after talks, seeking to impose demands on Iran: Russian envoy

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Russian Ambassador to Iran Levon Dzhagaryan slammed the U.S. government for the policy of imposing its demands on other countries with the threat of sanctions, saying Washington is not pursuing genuine talks with Tehran.

In an interview with Tasnim on the fifth anniversary of achievement of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, the Russian ambassador said the U.S. is not after negotiations with Iran, but wants to impose its own conditions.

“They (Americans) only pursue their own agenda. They don't even want to hold talks and only say ‘either accept our conditions or face sanctions.’ Unfortunately, they do not understand any other word,” Dzhagaryan added.

He also said that the U.S.' stance on the JCPOA is not going to change, no matter which candidate will win the upcoming U.S. presidential election. “I'm not quite optimistic about whoever there is (at the White House).”

The ambassador also voiced Russia's opposition to the U.S. bid to extend a UN arms embargo on Iran which is going to expire in October, adding, “We will definitely oppose it, and the U.S. has no right to comment about this subject.”

The Russian envoy further criticized the European parties' inaction on the U.S. breach of the nuclear deal and their mere expression of regret. “We have told the Europeans that ‘you only express regret.’ Expression of regret alone is not enough.”

Dzhagaryan further said Russia and Iran have gotten used to the U.S. sanctions, saying, “We have expressed readiness to deepen economic cooperation with Iran.”

The ambassador also said the value of Russian exports to Iran during the first five months of 2020 stood at around \$700 million, showing a 30 percent rise compared to the corresponding period last year.

Voicing Russia's readiness to take part in the INSTEX — the financial mechanism that the three European parties to the JCPOA have devised to maintain trade with Iran-, Jagarian said Moscow will find ways to continue cooperation with Tehran, with or without INSTEX.

The ambassador called for efforts to remove the obstacles in the way of banking cooperation between Russia and Iran, adding, “The banking problems still exist. The both countries are hit by sanctions, but we must find a solution to settle the artificial problems created by a third country. After all, we are in the same front with you.”

In a telephone conversation in April, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed ways to maintain and expand trade ties amid the outbreak of the coronavirus and promote mutual cooperation in the fight against the disease.

JCPOA anniversary: JCPOA was product of Iran's openness to engagement

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Five years

after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) about Iran's nuclear program was signed, the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday said the JCPOA was the product of Tehran's openness to engagement.

The JCPOA, commonly referred to as the 2015 nuclear deal, was signed in Vienna on July 14, 2015 between Iran, the European Union and the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany).

“The track record of dialogues on critical issues demonstrates Iran's seriousness, pragmatism on bringing peace & stability to Earth globe europe-africa. #JCPOA is the product of Iran's openness to engagement, but US reckless exit from the Deal has wreaked havoc on this multilateral accomplishment,” the Foreign Ministry tweeted.

In another tweet, the ministry noted that Iran remains committed to diplomatic engagement.

“Despite the setback, Iran remains committed to diplomatic engagement, as it's been & will be a trusted partner to its neighbors & beyond. Iran has long proposed several



inclusive peace plans in MidEast; the latest one is #HOPE. Always believe in dialogue,” the Foreign Ministry said.

The Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE), Iran's proposal for regional security, was unveiled at the United Nations annual summit in New York in September 2019.

“Based upon the historical responsibility

Former British diplomat calls nuclear deal a beacon of hope for multilateralism

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Richard Dalton, a former British ambassador to Tehran, has said that the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, is a beacon of hope for multilateralism and is still essential.

He told IRNA in an interview published on Monday that the deal is still essential despite the fact that it has been prevented from achieving more than a small proportion of its potential.

“Multilateral diplomatic, security and economic engagement, generated primarily from within the region and including Iran, remains the best way to ensure a peaceful cooperative future for the peoples of the Persian Gulf region,” he said.

“It is high time for the suffering of Iranians under unjust unilateral sanctions to be brought to an end, for European countries to carry out their financial and commercial obligations under the JCPOA, for Iran to return to the path mapped out in the JCPOA, and for progress to be resumed towards IAEA verification that Iran's nuclear activities are 100% peaceful,” he added.

He also said, “Let us hope that 2021 will bring changes that will reverse the destructive approach of the U.S. government - an approach which, alongside the nefarious policies of others, has made the U.S. the world's biggest state sponsor of instability and human suffering in the Greater Middle East.”

U.S. President Donald Trump quit the multilateral nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran as part of his administration's



“maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

The U.S. move was in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the JCPOA.

Under the JCPOA, Iran promised to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for the termination of economic and financial sanctions.

Peter Jenkins, a former British ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, has said that the United States has gained no benefit by withdrawing from the JCPOA.

Jenkins told IRNA in an interview published on Saturday that the U.S. lost its soft power after pullout from the international agreement.

Professor Frank N. von Hippel, former assistant director for national security in the White House Office of Science and Technology, has said that Europe's performance on the nuclear deal is “disappointing”.

Von Hippel told IRNA in an interview published on Thursday that Britain, Germany, and France showed a very “disappointing” performance in countering the United States' unilateralism.

Iranian diplomat says there is still chance to save nuclear deal

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, has said that there is still chance to save the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, if the remaining parties have the political will to keep the agreement.

“When the agreement was signed, almost all the parties admitted that it is a win-win deal. However, after five years of harming the JCPOA and implementing it in an unbalanced way, this characteristic of the mentioned document has been annihilated. However, there is still chance to save the JCPOA and political will and practical action of the remaining parties are required,” IRNA quoted him as writing in an article on Monday.

He noted that Russia and China have proved “politically” and “practically” that they are determined to preserve the JCPOA.

But he slammed the Europeans for not being committed to their obligations in practice.

Jalali also noted that the Europeans' financial mechanism known as INSTEX (the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges) has not the necessary efficiency due to the U.S. pressure.

INSTEX has been designed to facilitate legitimate trade with Tehran. It was introduced on January 31, 2019, by France, Germany, and Britain, the three European countries party to the nuclear deal.

INSTEX was supposed to be a financial channel and a special mechanism for transferring money in spite of U.S. sanctions on Iran. Its objective was to facilitate Iran's

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has invited all regional states to join Iran's initiative for securing the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

In a tweet in September 2019, Zarif said the initiative entails “dialogue, confidence-building, freedom of navigation, energy security, non-aggression, and non-intervention”.

In a post on his Twitter account on October 15, Zarif renewed Iran's call to all countries bordering the Persian Gulf to join Tehran's initiative to “forge a blueprint for peace, security, stability, and prosperity” in the region.

■ Iran has always settled challenges through dialogue based on mutual respect'

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in another tweet on Monday that since its foundation, the Islamic Republic has always settled challenges through dialogue based on mutual respect.

“In Iran, today is the national day for ‘Dialogue and Constructive Engagement with the World’. Since its foundation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been developing cordial, balanced relationship with the world and settling challenges through dialogues based on mutual respect,” the Foreign Ministry stated.

transactions with European companies.

In late November 2019, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden issued a joint statement announcing becoming shareholders of INSTEX.

“In light of the continuous European support for the agreement and the ongoing efforts to implement the economic part of it and to facilitate legitimate trade between Europe and Iran, we are now in the process of becoming shareholders of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) subject to completion of national procedures. INSTEX was established by France, Germany, and the United Kingdom in January 2019,” read the statement, published by the Foreign Ministry of Finland.

Iran has likened INSTEX to a beautiful car that lacks gasoline.

In a telephone conversation with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in April, President Hassan Rouhani described as “positive but insufficient” the first steps that the three European parties to the nuclear treaty have taken to bring INSTEX into operation.

“This path should not be confined to the medical commodities and foodstuff alone, and we must be able to use it to supply all of our country's demands,” Rouhani underlined.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said in April that the INSTEX is a preliminary step for Europeans to fulfill their obligations and their commitments are not limited to it.

Zarif to visit Iraq on July 19



Iraq in various areas.

In a phone conversation with Iraqi President Barham Salih, Rouhani attached great importance to expansion of economic relations, saying, “Expansion of relations in various areas among the friendly governments and nations can help us pass the problems.”

Elsewhere, he said that Iran attaches great importance to stability in Iraq.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will stand beside the Iraqi government and people and seeks to maintain Iraq's sovereignty and prevent foreign intervention,” the president pointed out.

Salih, for his part, said cooperation of friendly countries, such as Iran, is required to establish stability in Iraq.

Iran-China evolving strategic partnership

25-year deal to increase Chinese influence in the Middle East, could make U.S. sanctions on Iran ineffective

1 → The deal would make Iran a regional keystone of Xi's signature Belt and Road initiative, to which all regional states have subscribed. Iran's strategic position, spanning the Caspian and the Indian Ocean, is evident from the most cursory glance at a map.

While the draft has been in the works for over four years, little has been revealed about the pact so far except that it envisages a \$400 billion Chinese investment in Iranian oil, gas and transport infrastructure projects, with Beijing getting a 32 percent discount in crude purchases in China which will be granted the right to delay payment for up to two years, and will be able to pay in soft currencies that it has accrued from doing business in Africa and former Soviet Union. According to the Telegraph China will pay for the crude in yuan, bypassing the established petro-dollar payment mechanism.

According to a report by Oilprice.com China will invest \$280 billion in developing Iran's oil, gas and petrochemical sectors

during the first five-years of the 25-year deal. Further amounts will be reviewed every five years by both parties. \$120 billion of Chinese investment during the first five-year period for upgrading Iran's transport and manufacturing infrastructure, again subject to increase each subsequent five-year period.

With the current thaw of the U.S.-China trade war, Washington might put the brakes on any final agreement with Beijing based on this 25-year bilateral cooperation deal between Tehran and Beijing.

What has drawn criticism, according to media reports from some outlets, the deal will provide China with permission to dispatch up to 5,000 troops to protect its interests in Iran as well as significant control over Iranian islands in the country's southern business zones. This was denied by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Former President Mahmoud Ahmadi-najad was the first to publicly criticize the government during his trip to the northern province of Gilan for “secretly signing

a deal” and that such an accord “counters the people's will and national interests” suggesting it violated fundamental principles of self-reliance and independence from the Western and Eastern powers. One of the slogans on the people's lips during 1979 Islamic Revolution was “Neither East, Nor West, only Islamic Republic.”

“Basically, there is no such dichotomy as West and East in our foreign policy. The Islamic Republic is not restricting itself to either side. We are ready for similar accords with any country based on mutual trust,” said government Spokesman Ali Rabiee.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi has said that the government's refusal to publicly divulge details is meant to avert sabotage and derailment of the talks, describing the roadmap a win-win situation. Mousavi said the pact will help Iran, “a big power in West Asia” and “China, a soon-to-be global leading economy,” to “resist traditional bullies.” Mousavi dismissed allegations of Chinese military presence and island control

as “illusion” and “misinformation.”

“The preliminary draft of the document has been prepared with the participation of specialized institutions from the two countries and is currently undergoing the negotiation stage,” said Mousavi adding that after finalization the document will be submitted to the representatives of the parliament for legal procedures.

Referring to the reactions from the U.S. State Department as “hostile and nervous”, Mousavi said that the “two countries have enemies who will make every effort for the failure of these negotiations,” and dismissed as ridiculous the claims that a lease on the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf, a monopoly on the sale of oil at low prices, or deployment of armed forces, saying such claims do not even merit a denial.

Last August, Zarif paid a visit to his Chinese counterpart, Wang Li, to present a roadmap on a comprehensive 25-year bilateral partnership that built upon a previous agreement signed in 2016.

U.S. policies destabilize Middle East: Russian envoy

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, has questioned Washington's attempts to extend to UN arms embargo on Iran while at the same time sending enormous arms supplies to West Asia.

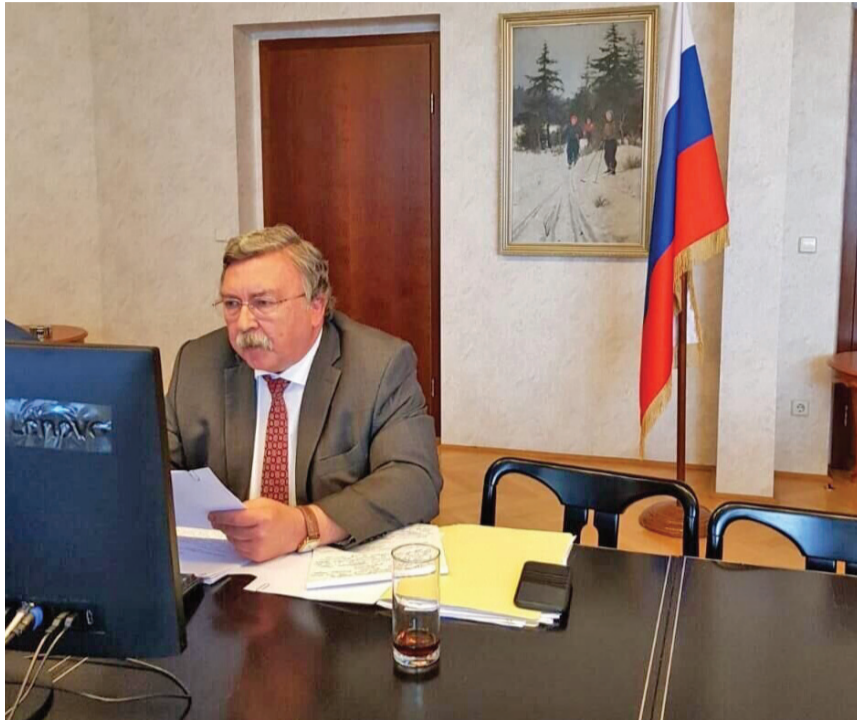
"The #US attempts to make arms #embargo against #Iran indefinite and comprehensive look extremely questionable in the light of US enormous arms supplies to the region," Ulyanov tweeted on Monday.

"Whose policy in fact does lead to destabilisation of the situation in the Middle East?" he asked.

The United States has stepped up calls for an extension of UN arms embargo on Iran since April.

Under the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, the arms embargo against Iran expires in October.

In a letter to the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council circulated on June 8, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the Trump administration of unleashing a politically motivated campaign against Iran and called for "universal condemnation" of the U.S. attempts.



The Russian foreign minister said the United States withdrew from the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six

major powers and now has no legal right to try to use the UN resolution endorsing the deal to indefinitely continue the

arms embargo.

Last week, Ulyanov criticized a tweet by the U.S. State Department on Iran.

The U.S. State Department's tweet read, "The UN has maintained arms restrictions on Iran for 13 years. The resolution the U.S. has circulated would extend restrictions on Iran indefinitely. The restrictions should not be removed until Iran demonstrates a credible change in its behavior."

In response, Ulyanov tweeted, "Would it entail a more responsible and less destabilising US policy of arms supplies to the Middle East amounting to astronomical figures?"

China has also voiced opposition to the anti-Iran move, urging Washington "to stop its illegal unilateral sanctions" on Iran.

In a statement to the UN Security Council, Zhang Jun, China's permanent UN representative, said the root cause of the current crisis is the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the reimposition of unilateral sanctions against Iran, Xinhua reported.

"This has again undermined the joint efforts to preserve the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]," Zhang said, referring to U.S. efforts to extend the arms embargo.

Enemies miserable over Iran-China partnership: Tehran

➔ According to Mousavi, some other countries are miserable that the partnership plan thwarted their tricks.

"All these attacks have roots abroad," he said, pointing to the strong criticisms leveled at the Iran-China partnership plan.

Government spokesman Ali Rabie said on June 23 that Iran and China have drafted a 25-year plan for a comprehensive partnership that proves the failure of the plots to isolate the Islamic Republic.

"This plan proves the failure of the United States' policies to isolate Iran, sever Iran's relations with the international community and also to harm Iran's will to expand relations with other countries," Rabie said during a press conference.

He said that the plan is based on a win-win approach which "heralds long term cooperation".

"Recognizing cultural commonalities, encouraging multilateralism, supporting equal rights of the nations, and insisting on domestic development are parts of this plan," the government spokesman explained.

The 25-year partnership plan has provoked bitter controversy, especially because of rumors that it entails the Chinese control on Iranian islands or the presence of their military forces in Iran.

Mousavi said the plan has not been finalized yet, maintaining that there's an agenda behind the controversy.

"Whenever the document is finalized, it will be announced clearly," he said. "Some [countries] do not want Iran to have good relations with the world."

In similar remarks, the Iranian presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi said on Saturday that the enemies



oppose the deepening of economic and commercial ties between Iran and China.

"The issues that are raised in social media are not true," Vaezi said in a televised interview.

"The reason behind the enemy's anger is that they have failed to reach their goals with regard to Iran," he said, adding that the enemies "were after [fomenting] unrest and isolating the people and Iran and driving a wedge between the people and the establishment."

Vaezi said the Iran-China roadmap does not entail the Chinese control on Iranian islands or the presence of their military forces by any means.

The New York Times reported on Saturday that if put into effect, the partnership would create new and potentially dangerous flash points in the deteriorating relationship between China and the United States.

According to the Times article, it represents a major

blow to the Trump administration's aggressive policy toward Iran since abandoning the nuclear deal reached in 2015 by President Obama and the leaders of six other nations after two years of grueling negotiations.

■ **Zarif rejects rumors over sale of Kish Island to China**

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has denied rumors over the sale of Kish Island to China, saying the enemies are trying to prevent the development of Iran-China relations.

Spokesman for the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Abolfazl Amouei said that during the committee's Sunday meeting, the foreign minister and his deputies presented the latest news and analyses on the 25-year comprehensive Iran-China partnership.

"Zarif said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with China is a strategic relationship based on common interests and mutual respect," Amouei said on Sunday, Mehr reported.

"According to the foreign minister, the process of drafting this document began with Mr. Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran in 2016, and the two countries decided to design a long-term roadmap during that visit, which the parties are still negotiating on," he added.

He went on to say that Zarif "stressed the importance of taking into account the national interest in drafting the document and rejected rumors over the sale of Kish Island, as well as the sale of cheap oil to China, saying that these rumors have been circulated by enemies to prevent the development of Iran-China relations."

China, Iran deal eyes a future decoupled from U.S.

(Excerpt from Asian Times) — In recent weeks, Iran and China have been hammering out the details of a potentially momentous cooperation deal meant to span the next quarter-century and chart a future decoupled from the United States.

Under the terms of a draft viewed by Asia Times, China will invest tens of billions of U.S. dollars in Iran as part of Beijing's ambitious Road and Belt Initiative. The 25-year agreement includes economic, security, and military dimensions.

Such a deal is particularly important for Iran's ailing energy sector, which is in dire need of substantial investment to refurbish an aging oil industry, which requires upwards of \$150 billion for much-needed modernization of wells, refineries and other infrastructure.

The negotiations are ongoing, even as the Donald Trump administration continues to pin hope on Iran's economic strangulation by a unilateral maximum pressure strategy and against the backdrop of growing U.S.-China rivalry.

If approved by the Iranian parliament, the plan represents a major affront to the Trump administration's relentless pursuit of Iran's economic isolation in the international community. As expected, news of the China-Iran agreement has set off a chorus of condemnation in the West.

Some Iranian opponents in exile have branded the plan as the Islamic Republic's "sellout" to China and view it as a testament to China's ability to transform Iran into one of its "satellites." Critics have falsely claimed the plan contains a "monopoly clause", most controversially granting China control over one of Iran's Persian Gulf islands.

Reputed leaked versions of the agreement, clearly aimed to undercut the deal, have been published in Farsi and in English and claim to include provisions that could be perceived as harmful to Iran at China's expense.



Should China undertake such a massive long-term investment in Iran, it is very likely that Beijing will take over the strategic Iranian port of Chahbahar — the country's outlet to the Indian Ocean.

The port enjoys a waiver from U.S. sanctions imposed on Iran, which was granted as a nod to India's ambitions for the port. In Tehran's view, New Delhi has squandered that opportunity by effectively siding with the U.S. on oil sanctions and failing to make adequate investments in the port.

The new Iran-China agreement points to both nations' changing strategic calculus in the current international milieu, where international norms and principles have been eroded largely by the Trump administration's unilateral and aggressive policies vis-a-vis Tehran and Beijing.

Slowly but surely, a triumvirate of China, Iran and neighboring Pakistan is forming. This alliance could also encompass Afghanistan and over time is expected to add Iraq and Syria, strategic anathema to Washington and New Delhi.

A complementary new agreement between Iran and Syria, praised by President Bashar al-Assad, signifies Iran's intent to retain its strategic foothold in that war-torn country, both as a gateway to Lebanon and the Arab world and deterrent to Israel. That has come irrespective of Israeli-Persian Gulf Arab pressures, including recent attacks inside Iran.

Much like responding to "maximum pressure" with "maximum resistance," Iran traditionally exerts counter-pressure to any regional and or extra-regional pressure.

Tehran understands itself to be as a pivotal power in West Asia and the Middle East, and can be expected to retaliate against the culprits behind recent attacks on Natanz nuclear facility and the Parchin military complex at a time and place of its choosing.

A final China-Iran deal would be a win-win serving the national interests of both sides.

For sanctions and pandemic-hit Iran, it will offer important leeway to economically survive at a difficult juncture, when Iran's military and nuclear sites are targeted for destruction, likely by a concerted effort involving Israel and some Arab [Persian] Gulf states.

According to a Tehran-based political scientist who wishes to remain anonymous, "the purpose of these attacks on Iran might be related to the perception that the Trump administration is willing to strike a deal with Iran in the next few months prior to the November elections."

In turn, this raises questions about Trump's real Iran strategy, notwithstanding the major recent setback for the U.S. at the UN Security Council, which flatly rejected a draft U.S. resolution on Iran calling for an indefinite arms embargo.

Moreover, a UN expert denounced the U.S. drone killing in January of Iran's top general Qassem Soleimani and nine other Iranian and Iraqi officials as "unlawful and arbitrary under international law."

According to the UN report, the drone attack violated Iraq's sovereignty and in turn has "institutionalized" Iranian hostility toward the U.S.

Given Iran's post-revolutionary position of "superpower equidistance," the agreement with China reflects a "new look East" approach by Tehran while under Washington's pressure. At the same time, it serves the opposite logic of a "new look West" for the sake of navigating the treacherous currents of a new cold war in favor of equilibrium.

Zarif is a skilled, shrewd diplomat: professor

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is undoubtedly a very skilled and shrewd diplomat, according to a professor of political science.

"Zarif is undoubtedly a very skilled and shrewd diplomat. His reference to Mosaddeq and the 1953 coup plays very well to a domestic audience," Michael J. Butler, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Clark University, said in an interview with ILNA published on Monday.

He was referring to the foreign minister's address to a virtual UN Security Council meeting last month regarding Washington's push to have the Council extend an arms embargo against Iran that will expire in October under a historic nuclear accord endorsed by the council's Resolution 2231.



"I think it is pretty well-documented that the Trump administration — and at this point it appears that there is no one left in the administration that will challenge him, so really it is largely just President Trump himself — is fixated on undoing the JCPOA because it was a signature foreign policy accomplishment of the Obama Administration," the professor said.

He said Trump himself has indicated as much in his incessant tweets on the matter.

Asked to comment on the United States' push to extend the arms embargo on Iran, Butler pointed out that the pretexts U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and others in the administration have provided is that the attacks on the Saudi oil fields as well as in Yemen have been carried out with arms illegally supplied and transferred from Iran.

He said China and Russia certainly can and will veto the U.S. bid within the bounds of the UN Security Council.

On the prospects of a Biden victory in the November elections, the professor said that a Joe Biden administration would be amenable to restoring the JCPOA, though frankly there are many other more pressing matters from the U.S. perspective that would be a greater priority.

"The polls indicate that Trump is in trouble, but they said the same thing in 2016. There are other indicators of this though, including mounting challenges from some Republicans as well as former (and rather hardline) members of his administration on national security matters."

"Frankly, there are so many weaknesses in, and threats to, the electoral process in the U.S. that to me the outcome seems very murky," he said.

He also speculated that it is an open question as to what Trump will do if Biden gets elected.

Academic: West falsifying definition of resistance in West Asia

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Foad Izadi, a professor of American Studies at the University of Tehran, said the U.S. is busy performing massive media and entertaining activities to falsify the definition of resistance in West Asia.



Speaking to the Resistance International Film Festival, Izadi said Washington's policy puts pressure on the involved countries to represent resistance correctly, as it is the resistance movement that is opposing the U.S. presence in West Asia and the Muslim world.

He said not only the U.S. citizens, but also people of other countries are affected by Washington's such efforts, adding the U.S. battle is not limited to the West Asia region but includes wherever there is a resistance against their activities.

"There is a huge campaign against the resistance movement not only in the Middle East but elsewhere," he said.

Izadi said the universality of the U.S. campaign against resistance is a perfect cause to confront them via resistance both on the real and virtual battlegrounds.

"You see what they are doing to Latin American countries that are resisting U.S. pressure and because of that, those who are in the resistance movement need to be more active in areas that deal with media and entertainment."

Iran's foreign trade expected to improve in Q2: TPO head

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum said the country's foreign trade is expected to improve in the second quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (June 21-September 21), TPO portal reported.



"Given that more borders were closed in the first three months of the year, and now the number of closed borders has decreased, the situation is expected to improve. We have already seen some growth in Tir [the fourth Iranian calendar month June 21-July 21] compared to the first quarter; in other words, in recent weeks, our situation has become better," Hamid Zadboum told Donyaye Eghtesad newspaper.

Of course, since this pandemic has impacted all the countries around the world, it is not possible to make an accurate prediction of the state of future trade; because the conditions depend on the containment of the coronavirus, the flow of goods and services, as well as the travel of passengers between countries. But in any case, if we follow the current path, we will not see much negative impact on our foreign trade, he explained.

Mentioning the situation of Iran's borders with neighbors, Zadboum said the border crossings with the neighboring countries are being opened one by one as the corona-related restrictions ease in the region.

Currently, our land border with Turkmenistan and two or three border crossings with Iraq are still closed, he noted.

He further said that land and rail borders with Turkey are open and the borders with Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia are also active, but in the case of Turkmenistan only the rail border is open and the land border has not yet been reopened. It is also possible to trade with Kazakhstan and Russia by sea.

IMIDRO assesses 490 small mines to be revived this year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has assessed 490 idle small mines in 31 provinces across the country under the framework of a program for reviving, activation and development of small mines.

As reported, currently reviving operations are underway for nine mines despite the limitations created by the pandemic and the U.S. sanctions.

Since the beginning of the mentioned program in last May up to the end Q1 of the current Iranian calendar year (June 20), over 2,620 small mines in 31 provinces have gone through diagnostic procedures for identifying the reasons for their shutting down.

Also during this period, the reviving operations for 155 mines have been finalized and 41 mines are now active and in production.

Last year, out of a total of 2,130 mines monitored in 31 provinces, clinical action was performed on 1,020 mines and practical solutions were offered for 146 mines.

Back in May, IMIDRO Head Khodadad Gharibpour announced that his organization was planning to revive 200 small mines by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

Making the remarks in a meeting to discuss the plan for reviving small mines in the country on May 21, Gharibpour also said, "We had planned to revive 150 small mines in the past year, but due to the coronavirus pandemic the figure fell to 146."

'Iran has capacity to export \$1b of steel pipes, profiles annually'

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Amir Hossein Kaveh, the head of Iranian Syndicate of Steel Pipe and Profile Manufacturers, said the pipe and profile industry has a \$1-billion annual export capacity which could be of great significance for the country's economy in the current situation.



"Iran's pipe and profile industry exports to at least 17 countries around the world, but due to the problems regarding the supply of raw materials and the skyrocketing prices in the market, the export of pipes and profiles is halted," Kaveh told IRNA on Monday.

According to the official, the quota for steel sheets also plays an important role in the downward export trend.

Government should reconsider its policies regarding this industry, he said.

Kaveh also noted that the members of the syndicate exported over 750,000 tons of pipes and profiles to foreign destinations in the Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019).

The exports from this sector also led to a boom in the employment, so stopping exports would firstly hurt the employment.

According to IRNA, Iran exported 809,665 tons of steel during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20).

As reported, the two-month export this year was drastically lower than the figure for the same period of time in the past year, which was 2.041 million tons.

The country's steel export is expected to reach 10 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 2021), of which about 35-45 percent would be steel products, including steel sheets.

In its outlook plan for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025-2026) Iran has envisaged production of 55 million tons of steel per annum.

ICCIMA offers solutions to increase re-injection of export revenue into NIMA

1 → According to members of the committee, the total foreign currency that has not been returned to the country's economic cycle is about \$8.7 billion, of which only \$2.5 billion is related to the private sector.

Speaking in the meeting, ICCIMA Deputy Head Mohammadreza Ansari noted that CBI should follow an incentive-supportive policy toward the private sector to help the government.

"Certainly, as a result of such a policy, the private sector would come to the aid of the government," Ansari stressed.

When the NIMA system was launched, it was meant to be a vessel through which the export revenues would enter the economy, so the misconduct of some people should not make the government to choose the punishment approach for all instead of encouraging the committed exporters.

■ Directive package on re-injection of export revenues into NIMA approved

On Monday, CBI portal reported that the directive package on the return of foreign currency revenues from the exports in the current Iranian calendar year 1399 (started on



March 20) was approved by the ministers of Oil, Economic Affairs and Finance, Industry, Mining and Trade, as well as the head of the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) and the CBI governor.

According to CBI public relations office, exporters are required to return at least 80 percent of their export revenues in the form

of foreign currency remittance into the NIMA system and a maximum of 20 percent in the form of banknotes into the SANA system.

Also, the exporters must return their revenues back to the country's economic cycle no later than four months after the issuance of their export license by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration.

Payam Airport absorbs over \$238m of investment in a year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Iran's Payam International Airport announced that over 10 trillion rials (about \$238.09 million) has been invested in Payam Special Economic Zone during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), IRNA reported.

Mentioning the rise of the number of flights from this airport, Nader Sanagou Motlaq said as new flight paths were added, some good amount of investment was also made, in a way that many investors were attracted to this port last year.

The capacities existing in Payam Zone have encouraged the Iranian and foreign investors to make more investment in this zone, he noted.

The official mentioned reviving the production units in Payam Special Zone as one of their programs and said, "We are planning to reactivate 12 companies in the zone".

Sanagou Motlaq further referred to job creation as another program they have on the agenda in this year and said, "Through the fourth development phase of the zone, 2,000 new jobs are expected to be created this year, and the figure is anticipated to be 10,000 in the next five years".



Providing necessary facilities for the presence of companies and renowned brands in the fourth phase is one of the major underway measures, the official underscored and mentioned the establishment of the country's first communication and information technology park and setting up a permanent communication and

information technology exhibition as some other programs of this phase.

Last week, Sanagou Motlaq had announced that an aircraft engine repair center is going to be established in this airport.

According to the official, as the country's biggest aircraft overhaul center, the unit

will be established in cooperation with MAPNA Group.

He made the remarks in a meeting with MAPNA Group's Head Abbas Aliabadi, saying that establishing this center is going to neutralize the negative impacts of the U.S. sanctions in this sector.

Located in Alborz Province, Payam is the closest special economic zone to Iran's capital city Tehran, which has attracted a multitude of companies with significant investments in a wide range of areas, including ICT, pharmaceuticals, health, oil, and gas.

Payam International Airport, located at the heart of this zone, is owned by Iran's Information and Communication Technology Ministry.

The airport was established in 1997 as a cargo-only airport.

Payam Special Economic Zone's fourth development phase was launched in April on an area of 165 hectares.

According to Sanagou Motlaq, it was its biggest development phase as it covers an area of 165 hectares, while the three previous development phases covered an area of 114 hectares.

The new phase will see the development of the zone's information and communication technology sector.

TEDPIX may surpass 2m points next week: expert

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Taking the recent trend of trades at the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), the exchange's main index, TEDPIX, is expected to surpass two million points in the next Iranian calendar week (July 18-July 24), Erfan Hoodi, a capital market expert told IRNA on Monday.

On June 30, the index hit the record high of 1.5 million points.

TEDPIX went up eight percent during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index gained 141,000 points to 1.753 in the previous week, IRNA reported.

It has also climbed 28.77 percent in the past Iranian calendar month (April 21-June 20) from its preceding month.

While the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) was full of success for the TSE, the market is also preserving its successful performance in the current year, and the noticeable point in this due is that the other economic sectors are experiencing some declining trend due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We have been witnessing new record highs continuously posted by the exchange since the year start, and climbing to the peak of one million points, something almost unbelievable just some time ago, came true in early May.

In a press conference on June 22, the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) announced that the amount of liquidity absorbed by Iran's capital market has reached 500 trillion rials (about \$12 billion) during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

Hasan Qalibaf-Asl also said, "It is while the total amount of liquidity entered into this market stood at 300

trillion rials (about \$7.14 billion) during the past year."

The official further noted that the high amount of liquidity that is entering the capital market has provided some good opportunity for this market, as it's being developed and flourished, for the enterprises, as they're securing their required funds, and also for the government.

■ Making investment via investment funds suggested

During the Monday interview, Erfan Hoodi advised the investors, especially the new comers to the stock market, not to buy the shares directly and make investment through the investment funds.

On May 2, Tehran Stock Exchange listed the first exchange-traded fund (ETF) from a series of three ETFs, through them shares of some state-owned organizations and companies are planned to be offered.

An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, much like stocks. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, commodities, or bonds and generally operates with an arbitrage mechanism designed to keep it trading close to its net asset value, although deviations can occasionally occur.

The shares to be offered via the above mentioned Iranian ETFs belong to those governmental bodies defined in Iran's privatization program, a comprehensive plan seriously followed up by the government to downsize and reduce its role in the economy.

The three ETFs are planned to offer 550 trillion rials (about \$13 billion) worth of the governmental stakes, of which 165 trillion rials (about \$3.9 billion) is to be offered via the first fund.

The first ETF, established by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, comprises government shares



in three banks, including Bank Mellat, Tejarat Bank, and Bank Saderat, as well as the shares of two insurance companies, i.e. Iranian Reinsurance Company and Alborz Company.

The government has a 17-percent stake in Bank Mellat, a 17-percent stake in Tejarat Bank, and an 18-percent stake in Bank Saderat.

On June 23, deputy finance and economic affairs minister said that offering of shares through the country's second exchange-traded fund would be started during the current Iranian calendar month (June 21-July 21).

Abbas Memarnejad told ILNA that the first ETF had already witnessed a noticeable growth of value, as the value of each unit of this fund had increased from 100,000 rials (\$2.3) to 220,000 rials (\$5.2).

Sponge iron output rises 12% in a quarter on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Production of sponge iron in Iran rose 12 percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

As reported by IRNA, over 8.213 tons of sponge iron has been produced in the first quarter of the present year.

Sponge iron output also increased 16 percent to 661,466 tons in the third Iranian calendar month Khordad (May 21-June 20) compared to the third month in the past year.

Iran's production of sponge iron has climbed six percent to 27.907 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), from 26.359 million tons in its preceding year, according to the data released by Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

The country's export of sponge iron has also risen 77 percent in the past year.



Meanwhile, sponge iron consumption in the country increased four percent to 26.965 million tons from 25.826 million tons on an annual basis.

Three projects each with a capacity of 800,000 tons were launched in the country during the past Iranian year.

The projects were put into operation in the southeastern province of Kerman, South Khorasan Province in east and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province in the southwest of the country.

Iran is only second to India globally in terms of the volume of sponge iron production. The country is the 10th largest steel producer in the world.

Sponge iron is a metallic product produced through the direct reduction of iron ore in the strong state. It is a substitute for scrap and therefore is mostly applicable in making steel through the secondary route. The procedure of sponge iron making aims to expel the oxygen from iron ore.

Water, wastewater projects inaugurated, started in Tehran

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian inaugurated and started three water and wastewater projects in Tehran Province on Monday, in the 11th week of the ministry's A-B-Iran scheme, based on which every week several energy projects are going to be inaugurated across Iran.

As reported by the Energy Ministry's news portal Paven, the projects include a water supply pipeline from Mamlu Dam to Pishva City, the start of construction of phases 7 and 8 of a wastewater treatment plant in the south of Tehran City, and a 20,000 cubic meter concrete storage tank with a total investment of 6.86 trillion rials (about \$163 million) provided from government funds.

The water supply pipeline project which was completed with 300 billion rials (about \$7 million) of investment is going to create direct jobs for 100 people while providing another 250 people employments indirectly.

The executive operations of the two projects of phases 7 and 8 of the wastewater treatment plant in the south of Tehran and



the concrete storage tank of Mahmoudabad are also scheduled to be put into operation in the Iranian calendar years of 1403 (starts on March 20, 2024) and 1400 (starts on March

21, 2021), respectively.

These projects will also create 460 direct job opportunities as well as 2900 indirect ones. A-B-Iran scheme [the acronyms A and B

stand for water, electricity in Persian] was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), during which the minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

Earlier this year, Ardakanian said in the second phase of the program the ministry is going to inaugurate 250 major energy projects worth 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

According to the official, in the water sector, the mentioned projects include nine major dams, implementation of modern irrigation systems in 54,000 hectares of land, 20 water, and wastewater treatment plants and supplying drinkable water through a pipeline to more than 1400 rural areas across the country.

Since the beginning of the second phase of the scheme in the current Iranian calendar year, every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

DCI redesigns, upgrades drilling control, protection system



E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — Iran's Drilling Company International (DCI) managed to redesign and upgrade the DCI-1 drilling control and protection system by the company's experts, the managing director announced.

Hamidreza Saqafi told Shana that the Rack Phase Difference (RPD) protection and control system to compensate for the weakness in the control and protection system of the drilling rigs was redesigned and upgraded by the company's experts for the first time in Iran.

The system has been installed on the DCI-1 offshore rig and has been tested.

He continued: "The RPD control system allows offshore drilling rigs to have proper control over the forces applied to each side of the rig bases and significantly prevents damage to the bases."

Following the country's approach of achieving self-reliance as the main strategy to nullify the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian Oil Ministry's all subsidiaries including the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) and its affiliated companies have been seriously pursuing the objective of indigenizing technology for production as well as services.

As previously announced by the head of NIDC's Technology and Engineering Department, the company has indigenized the knowledge for manufacturing 6,000 drilling equipment in collaboration with domestic manufacturers and engineers in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Behnoud Mansournejad, before this success, the technology for manufacturing the mentioned equipment was in the possession of a handful of foreign companies.

Among this equipment, the parts related to the rotary Blow out Preventers (BOP) used in air drilling operations have been tested in operation and approved by the operational units for optimal performance.

Mansournejad said that the use of the domestically-made parts and equipment saved the country 45 billion rials (about \$107 million) in the previous year.

For the current year, a list of basic equipment needs of the country have been identified in collaboration with NIDC's operational and support departments to be indigenized by local companies and knowledge-based firms for the first time, he added.

Earlier in 2019, Mansournejad had announced that almost 80 percent of the oil and gas industry's drilling equipment needs have been indigenized by NIDC in the past decade.

According to the official, the equipment indigenized by NIDC includes drilling mud pumps, blowout preventers, traction motors, draw-works, drilling fluid recycling systems, mission centrifugal pumps, top drives, and drilling rig slow circulation rate pressure systems.

Oil market tightens but covid-19 could spoil the rally

By Nick Cunningham

Global oil demand has rebounded somewhat faster than previously thought, although the spread of the coronavirus in the United States and Latin America is "casting a shadow over the outlook," the International Energy Agency (IEA) wrote in its latest Oil Market Report. The last few weeks have seen crude oil prices trade in a "remarkably stable" trading range, and according to the futures market, traders anticipate that the historic surplus seen in the second quarter will give way to a deficit in the second half of the year.

Global oil demand declined by 10.75 million barrels per day (mb/d) in the second quarter, the IEA confirmed. That should improve to down only 5.1 mb/d in the second half of the year as large parts of the globe bounce back from lockdowns. In fact, the IEA revised up its forecast for full-year demand to 92.1 mb/d, which is roughly 0.4 mb/d higher than last month's report.

The reason? The sharp drop in demand during the second quarter wasn't quite as bad as previously thought.

The market may also tighten a bit more than expected because of the declines in supply. OPEC+ stepped up compliance last month with the production cut agreement, achieving a 108 percent compliance rate. That contributed to a 2.4-mb/d global supply reduction in June compared to a month earlier, pushing global oil production down to 86.9 mb/d, a nine-year low. The market is thought to be in a supply deficit, albeit with a massive inventory overhang.

Tightening demand and falling supply help explain the rally in oil prices from negative territory in April to a more solid trading range around \$40 per barrel by late



June and into the middle of July.

For now, the fundamentals still point in this tightening direction. The IEA warned that U.S. supply could bottom out and resume growth, which would prevent prices from rising too much. But a record low rig count and steep decline rates from shale wells may yet translate into a further drop in output later this year. If shale rebounds, that could cap the rally, but if shale disappoints, that points to tightening.

A more immediate threat to \$40 oil is the return of some 2 mb/d of OPEC+ production cuts beginning as soon as August. Libya may also return some oil to the market after lifting force majeure on its oil exports. The one-month extension expires and the cartel has hinted that it would ease cuts next month, although nothing is for certain, and the group could still decide to extend again.

In fact, despite the obvious desire from some producers to lift production again, the very downside risks that the IEA is warning about may cause the OPEC+ coalition to think

twice. "For the time being...OPEC's strategy for controlling the market appears to be working," Commerzbank wrote in a note. "An official letter has been received from Angola in which it commits to complying with the agreed production quotas and to implementing an additional cut to compensate for the recent overproduction."

With all producers stepping up compliance and stability returning to the market, OPEC+ would risk undoing those gains by loosening the cuts. More will be revealed in the coming days and weeks.

Commerzbank cautioned about downside risks, but struck a bullish note, arguing that "the oil market is likely to tighten in the second half of the year thanks to the massive production restrictions and further recovering demand."

Ultimately, however, so much is unknown because of pandemic. Gasoline demand continues to edge up in the U.S., although it remains below pre-pandemic levels for this time of year. "The resurgence of the virus could trigger a more intensive use of cars to avoid public transportation and more home deliveries to avoid crowded shops. This would be supportive for fuel demand," the IEA said. "On the other hand, the resurgence could simply reduce mobility. The impact of the recent tightening is just starting to appear in mobility data for some countries, while mobility indices elsewhere show a gradual return to pre-Covid-19 levels."

It's a mixed bag, but the IEA warned that the coronavirus could spoil the rally. "While the oil market has undoubtedly made progress since 'Black April', the large, and in some countries, accelerating number of Covid-19 cases is a disturbing reminder that the pandemic is not under control and the risk to our market outlook is almost certainly to the downside," the agency said.

Wind is emerging as a leader in the renewable race

Good news is in short supply during any crisis, and this one has been no exception. The energy industry is being pummeled to the ground by low oil and gas prices, crippled demand for hydrocarbons, and unfriendly banks. But there is one part of this space generating good news: renewables. And, more specifically, wind power. Often in the shadow of cheap solar, which can be slapped up on a rooftop to generate electricity, wind power is now coming to the fore. Costs, as for solar, have fallen substantially over the years, and businesses who want to polish their social and environmental responsibility reputation are inking long-term electricity supply contracts with wind power producers. Wind is on its way to becoming the new darling of corporate America.

According to oilprice.com, a big part of this increasing popularity of wind among businesses is the fact that wind turbines produce energy cheaply, writes Sarah Golden, senior energy analyst at GreenBiz Group in a recent analysis

on the topic.

She notes that the cost of producing energy from wind has fallen by as much as 70 percent since 2009. And last year, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency, wind, along with solar, beat the cheapest coal on cost. Renewable power is getting increasingly cheaper than any new power generation capacity running on fossil fuels, IRENA said in a new report recently. As a result, it said, "more than half of the renewable capacity added in 2019 achieved lower power costs than the cheapest new coal plants."

No wonder then that businesses are picking renewable power over fossil fuels. But when it comes to wind versus solar, wind has one other advantage, according to Sarah Golden. It makes a lot of energy that companies can now sell via virtual power purchase agreements, which appeared on the market in 2013. These, unlike regular PPAs, do not require the buyer of renewable energy to buy the power directly.

They can instead take the revenue generated by selling this electricity on the open market. As a result, writes Golden, virtual PPAs to state account for as much as 85 percent of wind power procurement from the corporate world.

Meanwhile, costs continue to fall. According to the abovementioned IRENA report, costs for onshore wind generation last year fell by 39 percent, and for offshore wind, they fell by 29 percent. While this is less than the cost reduction in utility-scale solar, which registered an 82-percent cost decline last year, it is still an impressive reduction that will further enhance the popularity of wind energy among businesses.

These trends are driving not just larger but also wider adoption of wind power, Golden notes in her analysis. While initially, it was mostly information technology companies that bought wind-generated electricity, now there are all sorts of industries eager to buy clean power: retail, consumer goods, automotive,

healthcare, even entertainment companies are choosing wind power.

No wonder, then, with all these features, that wind power accounted for the biggest chunk of renewable energy production last year, according to the latest edition of BP's annual Statistical Review of World Energy. At 1,429.6 TWh, electricity produced from wind accounted for a little over half of the total renewable power generation in 2019.

This will continue to increase. In the United States alone, some 25 GW could be added in wind power generation capacity by the end of the decade offshore alone, according to Wood Mackenzie. Currently, the United States has no offshore wind power capacity, but in 10 years, it could come to account for half of the new capacity additions, according to the energy consultancy. The first, Vineyard Wind I, should come on stream in 2023, effectively marking the start of offshore wind in the U.S.

Gas supply to urban, rural areas ongoing despite pandemic

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) continues its gas supply operations in rural and urban regions of various provinces despite the limitations created by the outbreak of the coronavirus, Shana reported.

According to the NIGC Head Hassan Montazer Torbati, currently, 95 percent of the country's urban and rural areas are connected to the national gas network.

As reported, in the past few years, every year more than 3,000 villages have been connected to the national gas network.

In early May, NIGC's former dispatching director said that the transmission capacity of the national gas network has risen to one billion cubic meters per day (bcm/d).



Noting that several projects were carried out last calendar year (ended on March 19) to increase the country's gas network capacity, Mehdi Jamshidi-Dana said: "Most of the mentioned projects were implemented in the ninth national line, most of which will be operational this year."

The official mentioned the South Pars gas field's new platforms going operational in the current year and noted that with the increase of the national gas network's capacity the new production capacity from the South Pars platforms won't be idle.

Shale boss says U.S. has passed peak oil

U.S. crude production has already peaked, according to one of the country's leading shale executives, as producers battered by the price crash shun new output growth and start trying to become profitable.

According to Financial Times, Matt Gallagher, chief executive of Parsley Energy, one of Texas's biggest independent oil producers, said the record output level struck earlier this year would be the high-water mark.

"I don't think I'll see 13m [barrels a day] again in my lifetime," the 37-year-old Gallagher told the Financial Times.

"It is really dejecting, because drilling our first well in 2009 we saw the wave of energy independence at our fingertips for the U.S., and it was very rewarding?...?to be a part of it."

American oil output plunged by as much as a quarter this spring, as crude prices crashed in the wake of a Saudi-Russia price war and the coronavirus outbreak, prompting several operators, including Parsley, to shut wells and slash planned spending.

Soaring shale production helped the U.S. become a net exporter of petroleum in November last year — a stunning reversal for a country that imported more than 10m b/d a decade earlier. Since May, however, that has reversed and net imports have trended upwards.

U.S. oil briefly traded below zero in April, but a recovery to around \$40 a barrel since then still leaves it beneath the break-even price for many shale producers.



It was "hands down" the worst oil-price crash in recent history, Gallagher said, and would have a lasting impact on the sector. "Our industry is the industry of mobility and comfort," he said — referring to fuel for car and air travel and for heating and air conditioning — "and mobility is being drastically rethought and there will be new innovations on comfort."

The Parsley chief has earned a reputation as a progressive voice within Texas's oil industry. He took to LinkedIn with his thoughts on George Floyd's killing, and recently bought a Ford electric car. In his interview with the FT he spoke of his admiration for the European oil supermajors that recently announced net-zero emissions goals.

He also called for an end to flaring in the shale patch. Parsley was among the top 20 natural gas flares by volume in Texas, according to a report this year from the state's oil and gas regulator. But Gallagher said it had reduced the practice — a huge source of carbon emissions — to less than 1 per cent.

"From that perspective, some healthy regulation would, over time, probably benefit the industry's reputation," he added, potentially helping to lure environment-focused investors back to the sector.

"You want to be behind a company that makes this a priority," he said. Capital markets have largely closed to shale producers in the past year as investors fled a sector that became famous for world-beating production growth but an inability to repay debt.

The shale sector had "not been gifted with discipline," Mr Gallagher acknowledged, and has often been led by management teams who "put up very little personal risk and had very lopsided upside reward based on growth". But new capital restraint was now "trickling into the industry".

Parsley is among companies that have restarted the wells they shut during the worst phase of the price crash. But the company has no plans to increase production with new drilling this year or next.

Only 223 horizontal rigs — a proxy for US shale drilling activity — were operating on July 9, according to data provider Enverus, compared with 853 a year ago.

U.S. oil production would eventually stabilize at around 11m b/d, Gallagher said, as producers focused on maintaining output, not increasing it. That is in line with current production, according to consultancy Rystad Energy, but about 15 per cent below this year's peak.

The oilfield services sector that carries out the bulk of the work for oil production companies would suffer most, Gallagher said. Hundreds of thousands of jobs depended on activity in the shale patch, he said, "and those activity levels are just going to be dramatically lower for a long time".



Handicraft Expert: Iranian handicrafts suffer from poor branding

As one of the most original arts and crafts in the world, Iranian handicrafts suffer from poor branding.

Ehsan Mohammadi, an economic activist and designer of luxury handicrafts, added: "Iran has the highest rank in many branches of handicrafts in the world, but our country's products are offered in the target markets without a name or logo."

He explained that the lack of a specific brand and it has led other countries to confiscate Iranian handicrafts in their own names. In addition to financial gain, the registration of their brand will also take over the intellectual property of these products. Ehsan Mohammadi continued: "This situation has caused many people to copy the pure designs and ideas of Iranian handicrafts and use them in their products without paying a fee, and it is interesting to know that even big and well-known brands behave in this way."

He said that we must prevent the continuation of these conditions and to stop them as soon as possible, he said: In the current situation, Iranian artists do not benefit financially from their efforts, nor the results of their efforts are recorded in their names and market.

The economic activist added: "We have to brand our country's handicrafts in order to have both its intellectual property and to benefit from the economic benefits of exporting these products." He said that in the design of many products of reputable brands, traces of Iranian handicrafts can be seen.

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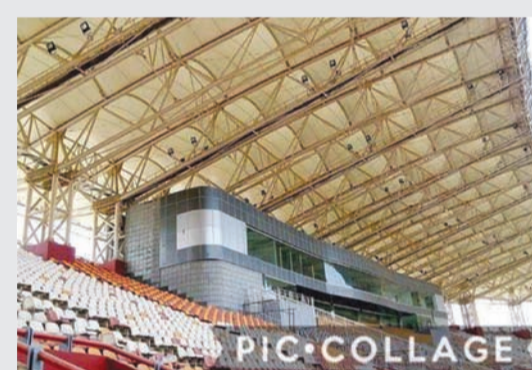
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Iran may act more decisively in response to violation of nuclear deal: Russian expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — If Iran comes under more sanctions pressure, it may take more decisive actions, predicts a senior Russian expert.

“Harder anti-Iran pushes become, more decisively, Iran may act,” Stanislav Mitrakhovich from the National Energy Security Fund and the Financial University in Russia tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

“For example, it can use its military advantages near the Strait of Hormuz,” says Mitrakhovich.

The 2015 nuclear deal entails termination of economic and financial sanctions against Iran in exchange for ensuring that Iran limits its nuclear activities.

The agreement was signed on July 14, 2015, in Vienna between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (the United States, China, Russia, France, and Britain), in addition to Germany.

But on May 8, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump officially announced his country's unilateral withdrawal from the agreement, which he considered “disastrous” and reimposed the worst sanctions in history on Iran.

The expert from the National Energy Security Fund and the Financial University says the decision by Trump was “hawkish”.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ How do you evaluate the nuclear agreement? Was it a successful agreement, or was it born dead?

A: Definitely, it was a success for a time, backed by a major part of the international community. Still, many countries



commit to the agreement and could be reborn with the changes in some governments, including the one in Washington.

■ Why did the U.S. withdraw from the nuclear deal? Were U.S. exit from the nuclear deal and other international treaties merely a decision made by the Trump administration?

A: It was a hawkish decision, and definitely, it could be amended with the new hypothetical Biden administration. The American attitude towards deals with Russia is more or less the same both for democrats and for republicans. Both parties called for the withdrawal from The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and The Treaty on Open Skies. THE new START agreement

will also be in this row. As for deals with Iran, democratic administrations could behave differently. Obama's administration proposed a nuclear agreement with Iran exactly at the time of hardening U.S. sanctions against Russia.

■ Do you think that Europe was able to prevent the U.S. pullout from the nuclear agreement?

A: No way could E.U. or Europe in general pressure the U.S. in such cases. European companies even agreed to pay high penalties for trading with Iran, EU or European national governments were not able to protect their companies. BNP Paribas alone has agreed to a record \$9bn settlement with U.S. prosecutors over allegations of sanctions violations.

■ What Iran is expected to do while the U.S. has quit the agreement and Europe is not honoring its obligations in lifting sanctions on Iran?

A: Iran has the knowledge and a profound tradition of survival in harsh circumstances. There are many ways to trade while dodging sanctions. At the same time, harder anti-Iran pushes become, more decisively, Iran may act. For example, it can use its military advantages near the Strait of Hormuz.

■ Don't you expect U.S. violation of the nuclear deal and Europeans' inaction lead to the collapse of international agreements?

A: It's obvious that now we face a period when agreements, both military and commercial, lose their meaning and importance. We tend to go to international relations with much less level of trust between actors. American course toward Iran is one of the drivers of this transformation, although many other countries add their own contribution to such processes.

World has lost confidence in U.S. to live up to its international commitments: Lebanese academic

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — The world has lost confidence in the U.S. to live up to its international commitments, especially after Donald Trump decided to withdraw from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, says dean of the Faculty of Law, Political, and Administrative Sciences at Lebanese University.

Camille Habib believes that Trump is afraid of Iran's increasing influence in West Asia and that is why he tries to prevent Tehran from developing its nuclear program and gaining more allies on the international scene.

“Trump is concerned that Iran would, through its nuclear program, gain more allies on the international scene,” the Lebanese academic tells the Tehran Times.

“What happened when Trump decided to withdraw from the nuclear deal is that the world has lost the confidence of the U.S. to live up to its international commitments,” he adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ How do you assess Trump's decision in quitting the 2015 nuclear deal?

A: The Trump administration announced its withdrawal from the deal on 8 May 2018. Such a decision was taken for merely a political reason.

Iran had announced many times that its nuclear program would be used for peaceful means. I do not think that Washington is concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Trump is concerned that Iran would, through its nuclear program, gain more allies on the international scene.

Most of those allies, Arabs, and non-Arabs are developing countries and hence, look at Iran to foster up their developing programs in all fields; agricultural, industrial, and electrical.

Trump is a businessman, and he perceives international relations as a fiasco that can bring him more money, and nothing else. Furthermore, Trump is a production of the “deeply conservative state” that is controlled by lobbies, including the Zionist lobby.

Hence, any kind of betting on Trump to come back to the negotiation table before the upcoming American presidential election remains sheer wishful thinking. Thus, it is important for Tehran to conduct a wait and see approach before answering to Trump's demands.

The nuclear deal has become international law, and any modification of it will take a long time to be enacted. In the meantime, Trump is awaiting Iran to surrender; he would be disappointed.

■ Some experts have said that the nuclear deal was



born dead. What is your comment?

A: The agreement was a successful one due to the fact that Iran and 5+1, together with the European Union, signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. This means that the so-called Iran nuclear deal is now an international law by the power of those who signed it on 14 July 2015.

The agreement was reached because all parties to it had made some concessions, and all emerged satisfied with the provisions of the deal.

For Iran, the deal was a good one because, in return for its consent, Tehran would benefit from freeing up tens of billions of dollars in oil revenues and frozen assets.

■ Is there any guarantee for the enactment of international agreements? Is it possible to prosecute a country for violating international treaties?

A: Unfortunately, there is no mechanism in international law to punish any state for violating international law. The only means to do so is to bring the issue of America's withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Iran to the Security Council.

However, the United States has a veto power that can bring the discussion to a halt.

Furthermore, take, for example, the issue of human rights; most states are pledged to promote human rights in the future but are not committed to do so promptly.

Sadly speaking, we are living in a world of might and not right.

It is essential for all peace-loving nations, like Iran, to depend on their economic and technological power to

defend themselves against all the odds. It is true that the right to struggle is the right to progress.

■ Do you think Europe could have prevented the U.S. from withdrawing from the nuclear deal?

A: Europe has neither the power nor the means to prevent Washington from withdrawing from the nuclear deal. Europe today lacks the necessary leadership that has the guts to exert pressure on the Trump administration to re-join the nuclear deal.

Moreover, Europeans are witnessing of how Trump deals with the international crisis. His idiosyncrasies and perception of world politics do not allow him to give-in on anything.

Trump is someone who is still living in a unipolar system when the U.S. was the only superpower on the international scene. He does not believe and does not want to believe that the globe has been changing drastically since 2008, when the U.S., due to its economy, had retreated from many of its commitments worldwide.

Finally, Trump can no longer usurp the role of the United Nations. Thank the emergence of Russia and China as great powers and their willingness to exercise their roles in compliance with international law and with their unequivocal support of the right of the people for self-determination.

On the other hand, Trump defines America's interest, not in terms of its ability to work with others in the international community (i.e., Europe), but in terms of Washington's ability to achieve or maintain dominance over others.

Q: Don't you think that U.S. violation of the nuclear deal and Europeans' silence would lead to collapse of international agreements?

A: Not necessarily. Treaties between states can be made with or without American sponsorship.

When Trump decided to withdraw from the nuclear deal, the world has lost the confidence of the U.S. to live up to its international commitments. Even the World Health Organization is suffering from Trump's temperament. Trump had imposed sanctions on Iran, China, Russia, and most recently Lebanon and Syria in order to help the Zionist entity annex more Palestinian land and eventually destroy the Palestinian cause under The Caesar Act.

International relations are indeed defined in terms of power, but Trump a long time ago has forgotten that the responsibilities of any great power are to maintain international peace and security in accordance with international law.

At any rate, Iran, Syria, and international resistance in Lebanon and Palestine are ready to face all kinds of challenges.

Arms embargo is just a pretext for U.S. to build political support to return UN sanctions on Iran: Kimball

By Hamid Bayati

Daryl G. Kimball, the executive director at U.S. Arms Control Association, tells the Tehran Times that a move by the Trump administration to extend arms embargo is just “a pretext for building sufficient political support for snapping back UN sanctions under the terms of UNSCR 2231.”

Here is the text of the interview with Kimball:

■ UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which enshrined the 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Tehran, envisages lifting arms embargo on Iran starting this October. However, the U.S. proposed a draft resolution to the UN Security Council to “indefinitely” extend the arms embargo against Iran. What are the main motives of the U.S. for such an approach?

A: Based on my reading of the Trump administration's goals, they are not only concerned about constraining Iran's ability to acquire advanced weapons, but they are looking for a pretext for building sufficient political support for snapping back UN sanctions under the terms of UNSC 2231.

■ Britain, France and Germany say they will not back U.S. efforts to extend UN arms embargo on Iran. In view of such a position, how is it possible that the U.S. succeed?

A: The recent UN Security Council meet-

ing at which these issues were debated it was underscored that the E3 and the EU as a whole believe that the JCPOA is a win-win solution and that both the United States and Iran need to return to compliance with its terms and requirements. They also have made it clear that they do not recognize the United States assertion that it still has the power, as a party to the JCPOA, to trigger the snap back of sanctions because the United States has publicly announced repeatedly and publicly that it is no longer party to the JCPOA and has not participated in recent meetings of the Joint Commission that is responsible for JCPOA implementation.

■ Germany, France, and the UK have repeatedly underlined their commitment to the 2015 deal but they do not make ef-

forts to save the deal and this approach has convinced Iran that the JCPOA does not serve Tehran's interests. So how is it possible to save the deal from total collapse?

A: Germany, France, the UK, Russia, and China, and many other states, have all said repeatedly that they support the JCPOA and the have made significant efforts to try to ensure that Iran continues to get the main benefits of the deal — sanctions relief — but these governments are not omnipotent and they do not have total control over the market choices of businesses and banks in their countries. Unfortunately and regrettably, the Trump administration has reimposed secondary sanctions that make it difficult and in some cases impossible for companies and banks outside the United

The executive director at the U.S. Arms Control Association says the European trio has “made it clear that they do not recognize the United States assertion that it still has the power, as a party to the JCPOA, to trigger the snap back of sanctions because the United States has publicly announced repeatedly and publicly that it is no longer party to the JCPOA.”



States to engage in business in and with Iran.

The way forward is for Iran to exercise restraint with respect to its nuclear program, fully cooperate with the IAEA's inspection and monitoring responsibilities, and to return to full compliance with the original terms of the JCPOA if and when the United States waives the key nuclear-related sanctions that have been put in place by the Trump administration. There is an election in November in the United States and there is a good possibility that the current “maximum pressure” policy of Donald Trump will not last and the JCPOA can be revived in a way that serves the best interests of all parties.

IAEA resolution against Iran ‘only makes things more complicated’: Ulyanov

1 → In the interview, the Russian diplomat says, “The IAEA Director-General reported this issue to the Board of Governors in March and in June. In reaction, the E3 presented their elements of a draft resolution on Iran, which were awful and could have had serious and long-standing negative impacts on the future of IAEA's cooperation with Tehran.”



When the resolution was adopted, Russia and China, while stressing the need for Tehran and the IAEA to settle the issue, said the resolution could be counterproductive.

“On the Russian part, we voiced those sentiments with our European colleagues and provided them with substantial comments to their draft. Certain vital ideas were taken on Board,” notes Ulyanov.

In response to a question regarding his evaluation of the resolution's content, Ulyanov says, “As a result, the final text of the resolution is not confrontational or insulting to Iran. It simply calls on Iran to cooperate with the IAEA in accordance with the Additional Protocol, and provide access to locations specified by the Agency.”

In a tweet on July 5, Ulyanov had called the European troika and Iran for “thinking together how to preserve the nuclear deal which is in very bad shape.” At the time, he also noted “E3 and Iran try to launch from different perspectives Dispute Resolution Mechanism is not a good idea.”

In his interview with the Tehran Times, the Russian diplomat says, “We are of the view that the professional dialogue and cooperation between Iran and the Agency should continue in accordance with standard practices, and taking into account the concerns of both parties.”

On June 20, he had tweeted, “If you want to know why Russia voted against IAEA Board of Governors resolution on Iran We do believe that reaction of the Board to the current problems in the form of resolution can be counterproductive.”

In his interview with the Tehran Times, the top Russian diplomat to the IAEA says the board “should not have been involved in this dialogue” raised by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi.

“The Board of Governors should not have been involved in this dialogue by the Director-General in the first place. The consequences of this resolution could be directly opposite to the declared intentions,” Ulyanov asserts.

Trump wants to totally kill JCPOA so that it cannot be revived: American foreign policy expert

By Hamid Bayati

TEHRAN — Barbara Slavin, an American foreign policy expert, is of the opinion that the Trump administration is seeking to “further undermine the JCPOA” so that the international nuclear agreement cannot be revived by a future government in the United States.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Slavin, who is acting director of Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center, also says claims by the Trump administration that the U.S. is still a party to the nuclear deal is “a controversial interpretation that even U.S. allies reject”.

This is the text of the interview:

■ UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which enshrined the 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Tehran, envisages lifting arms embargo on Iran starting this October. However, the U.S. proposed a draft resolution to the UN Security Council to “indefinitely” extend the arms embargo against Iran. What are the main motives of the U.S. for such an approach?

A: The Trump administration points to Iranian violations of the embargo — providing missiles to the Houthis and Hezbollah for example — and says that allowing the embargo to end would lead to more aggressive Iranian policies in the region. However, I believe the Trump administration also seeks to further undermine the JCPOA so that it cannot be easily revived by a future U.S. government.

■ Britain, France and Germany say they will not back U.S. efforts to extend UN arms embargo on Iran. In view of such a position by E3, how is it possible that the U.S. succeed?

A: The Trump administration interprets Resolution 2231 in such a way that it can claim to still be a “participant” for the purpose of snapback even though the U.S. left the deal in 2018. It is a controversial interpretation that even U.S. allies reject.

■ Germany, France, and the UK have repeatedly underlined their commitment to the 2015 deal but they do not make efforts to save the moribund deal and this approach has convinced Tehran that the JCPOA does not serve Iran's interests. In view of such a situation, how is it possible to save the deal from a total collapse?

A: If Joe Biden is elected president, he has said he would return the U.S. to compliance if Iran also returns to compliance. This is the best path to control Iran's nuclear program and provide sanctions to relief to Iranians.

“Siraf: History, Topography and Environment” appears in Iranian bookstores

→ 1 “Siraf: History, Topography and Environment” has been the first volume in a new series that has been established by the British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) in conjunction with Oxbow Books, which will publish archaeological research in Iran that has been sponsored by BIPS.



At one time, the port had been one of the major centers for marketing pearls and silk in the region, but it was gradually submerged over the centuries.

According to some historians, Siraf had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small area.

Veteran tour guide donates Seleucid coins to museum

TOURISM TEHRAN — A veteran Iranian tour guide has donated seven ancient coins, minted by Seleucids, to the Khorasan Great Museum, the museum director announced on Monday.



The coins will be put on show after being cleaned, studied, and documented, Mohammad Rokni added, ILNA reported. “Hassan Rouzrokh, the donor of these historical coins, is one of the pioneer tour guides both in the Khorasan region and Afghanistan and he is fluent in English and French,” Rokni said.

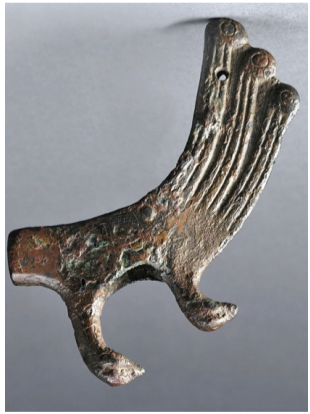
The Seleucid Empire was a Hellenistic state ruled by the Seleucid dynasty, which existed from 312 to 63 BC. At the height of its power, it included central Anatolia, Persia, the Levant, Mesopotamia, and what is now Kuwait, Afghanistan, and parts of Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

Ancient Iranian relics: Hammer decorated with heads of two birds and feathers

(**Louvre museum**) — This votive bronze weapon is characteristic of Iranian metalwork, of which many examples have been found at the Susa site. Decorated with birds' heads and feathers, this hammer carries an inscription in Sumerian referring to King Shulgi: “Powerful hero, king of Ur, king of Sumer and Akkad.”

■ **A work inscribed with the name of a Mesopotamian king**

Shulgi, second king of the 3rd Ur Dynasty, is one of the sovereigns who marked the Neo-Sumerian period, half of which was covered by his long forty-eight-year reign.



During this period, Susa and Elam were returned to Mesopotamia. Shulgi took control of Mesopotamia and conquered Susa, thus putting an end to the attempts of the Elamite sovereign Puzur-Inshushinak to achieve autonomy.

Epigraphic figurines and foundation tablets in the name of Shulgi (Louvre Museum, Sb 2879 and Sb 2880) record the king's building of the temples of Ninhursag and Inshushinak on the acropolis at Susa.

The inscription on this bronze hammer dedicated to him is in Sumerian, once more the official language in the Neo-Sumerian period, and uses the official title adopted by Shulgi's predecessor: “King of Sumer and Akkad.”

■ **A ceremonial weapon in the Iranian tradition**
This ceremonial bronze hammer is decorated with the heads of two birds on either side of the hammer collar and curled plumage on the heel. This model has not been found in Mesopotamia, but is well documented in Luristan. A similar example (Louvre Museum, AO 24794) from this region dates from the early years of the 2nd millennium BC. Though animal motifs are a very ancient form of decoration in Iran, it was in the late 3rd and the 2nd millenniums BC that Iranian metalworkers excelled in this type of weapon, often decorated with animals.

These bronze hammers and axes featuring animal motifs were often ceremonial weapons presented by Elamite sovereigns to their dignitaries. An illustration of this custom can be seen on the seal of Kuk-Simut, an official under Idadu II, an Elamite prince in the early years of the 2nd millennium BC (Louvre Museum, Sb 2294). This votive weapon was thus preserved for eternity in its owner's grave.

Aqueduct heritage in west-central Iran ‘very complex and interesting’, senior archaeologist says

HERITAGE TEHRAN — The ruins of some 100 qanats (subterranean aqueducts), which are stretched beneath the Buin Zahra plain, west-central Iran, along with their associated cultural heritage are “very complex and interesting”, a senior Iranian archaeologist has said.

Over 100 separate qanats have so far been identified across Buin Zahra plain [in Qazvin province] many of which being placed among prehistorical human settlements that date from the first millennium BC, Mostafa Dehpahlavan, the director of the archaeology institute of the University of Tehran told in an interview with IRNA released on Saturday.

“Five watermills and some kilns for producing specific clay work are amongst parts of qanat's heritage in the region that exists in limited numbers across the country And this heritage should be preserved [for the coming generations],” the expert noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks Dehpahlavan pointed to the cylinder seals recently being discovered in a nearby prehistorical cemetery at Tepe Sagzabad. The relics are estimated to once belonging to Assyria, the kingdom of northern Mesopotamia that became the center of one of the great empires in West Asia.

“Based on research on the spheres of physical anthropology, genetic, ancient zoology, and rare burial traditions, we obtained ample evidence that suggests cultural, political, and economic interactions of the inhabitants with remote areas of the western edge of the Iranian plateau,” the archaeologist explained.

A select of eleven qanats is collectively been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of Persian Qanat. Each of them epitomizes many others in terms of geographic



Qanat is a gently sloping subterranean canal, which taps a water-bearing zone at a higher elevation than cultivated lands.

scopes, architectural designs, and other motives. Such subterranean tunnels provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

Generally, each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel for collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the

appropriate level of the aquifer.

UNESCO has it that “The qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.”

Throughout the arid regions of Iran, agricultural and permanent settlements are supported by the ancient qanat system

of tapping alluvial aquifers at the heads of valleys and conducting the water along underground tunnels by gravity, often over many kilometers.

Some 37,000 out of a total of 120,000 ancient subsurface water supply systems, qanats, are still in use in Iran in arid and semi-arid regions of the country.

Oshtormel to be named national city of Golriz woodcarving

TOURISM TEHRAN — Oshtormel, a village in Tuyserkan county, west-central province of Hamedan, is planned to be named as the national city of Golriz (literally meaning small flowers) woodcarving, provincial tourism chief has said.

Golriz woodcarving, which is known for its patterns' delicacy, is the main profession of the inhabitants of the village, CHTN quoted Hashem Mazaheri as saying on Monday.

Currently, some 730 woodcarvers are practicing this field of handicrafts in over 520 workshops in the village, the official added.

Various Iranian cities and villages have been named as national hubs of handicrafts.

Malayer, another city located in Hamedan province, has long been a hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture as well.

Back in January, Malayer was named a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture by the World Crafts Council - Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR).



The ancient city is home to over 4,000 furniture workshops in which more than

8,000 wood masters and some 25,000 crafters are engaged.

Online meeting held on branding hand-woven Iranian carpets



TOURISM TEHRAN — The Carpet Museum of Iran hosted on Monday an online meeting on branding hand-woven Iranian carpets, ILNA reported.

Iranians have long been known for their hand-woven carpets, and carpets are one of the indicators of the culture of Iran, the museum's director Parisa Beyzaei said.

The international brand recognition of Iranian carpets could lead to the competitiveness in the global market as well as prevent the valuable carpets from being

looted, stolen or smuggled, she added. Carpet expert Mehdi Ebrahimi Alavijeh also delivered speeches during the meeting.

Weaving rugs and carpets based on traditional patterns is widely practiced across many Iranian villages as home jobs or at small workshops with know-how passed down from generation to generation.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and high quality. Official figures show handmade carpets have a significant share in Iran's non-oil exports.

Some \$24,000 allocated to restore historic bazaar of Naragh



TOURISM TEHRAN — A budget of one billion rials (some \$24,000) has been allocated to the restoration project of Shams al-Saltaneh Bazaar in the city of Naragh, the central province of Markazi.

The project includes repairing and strengthening the rooftop of the covered bazaar as well as changing the worn-out bricks and repairing gutters, CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Parvin Sadat Tayyebi as saying on Monday.

The Qajar-era (1789–1925) bazaar was

built by Haj Mohammad Naraghi, one of the city's merchants, and then was inherited to his daughter Shams al-Saltaneh.

The historic bazaar, which is considered as one of the main tourist attractions of Naragh, was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1983.

In the Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in the Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activities in the urban life meanwhile their extended activities can be traced to social, cultural, political, and religious roles.

Safavid-era shrine in Markazi province under restoration

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Parts of the historical holy shrine of Imamzadeh Seyyed Mansur in central Markazi province are being rehabilitated, a local official has said.

The Safavid-era (1501–1736) holy shrine has an octagonal plan, which is decorated with plasterwork and paintings on plasters.

With a budget of 480 million rials (about \$11,500), the restoration project aims to repair and strengthen the holy shrine's dome, ceiling, and walls, which have been damaged by

winter and spring's heavy rains as well as protect the pilgrims of the shrine, Zahra Ranjbar said on Monday, CHTN reported.

The shrine was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1975.

Markazi province is considered the industrial capital of the country. It is rich in natural, historical, cultural and religious attractions.

Hand-woven carpets and kilims, made in its cities including Farahan, Sarugh, Liliwan, Senejan, and Vafs are known internationally.



Pistachio hull is a source of health benefits, Iranian researches find

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Pistachio hull (external soft shell of pistachio) is the major part of pistachio by-product that has a high content of bio-active compounds (such as polyphenols, tocopherols, dietary fibers, essential oils, and unsaturated fatty acid) with antioxidant properties and health-promoting effects, according to an article published by Iranian researchers.

The article entitled “bio-active compounds and functional properties of pistachio hull: A review” was conducted by two Iranian and foreign researchers and published in Trends in Food Science and Technology journal.

The article presents the chemical composition, traditional and modern extraction methods, and the reported functional effects of pistachio green hull, aiming to find potential uses for this valuable natural resource.

Studies have demonstrated how pistachio extract acts as antioxidant, cytoprotective, and photoprotective and shows antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti-melanogenic, and



anti-mutagenicity activities.

Several studies evaluated the use of pistachio hull as a source of healthy and technological compounds that could be used in food and pharmaceutical industries to improve their product stability and nutritional characteristics. However, it is considered a waste and can lead to environmental problems.

Iran is globally known for its unrivaled varieties of pistachio. Over a long period, consumers around the world have shown a preference for the taste of Iranian pistachios. All four commercial varieties of Iranian pistachios (Fandoghi, Kalleh-Ghouchi, Akbari, and Ahmad-Aghaei) each have a rich, unique and distinctive flavor. In this regard, Iranian pistachios offer a combination of unparalleled flavors which gives the consumer choice and variety. In the 2019 crop year, the country produced some 205,000 tons of pistachio, according to the Iran Pistachio Association.

Coronavirus pandemic prompts record drop in global emissions, study finds

The coronavirus pandemic has led to the largest drop in heat-trapping emissions in human history, according to a new study.

Lockdowns, travel bans and closed manufacturing sites have caused global emissions to drop by 4.6%, or 2.5 gigatonnes, according to a University of Sydney review of 38 regions and 26 sectors published in the journal Plos One. Fine particle pollution decreased by 3.8% and two other types of air pollution declined 2.9%: sulfur dioxide – which is linked to a number of respiratory issues, and nitrogen oxide, which leads to smog.

The largest emissions drops occurred in the United States and China, largely due to grounded air travel and a decrease in power, water and gas use, but they come with a large economic cost.

From late February to May, the study found the pandemic caused 147 million people, or 4.2% of the global workforce, to lose full-time jobs and triggered a \$3.8tn drop in consumption, making it the worst economic shock since the Great Depression, according to co-author Arunima Malik.

Europe also saw a significant economic dip, but it lagged in emissions reductions because its economy is less reliant on fossil fuels.

The dramatic decline still falls short of the efforts needed to limit global heating to 1.5C by 2050, however. Even if global greenhouse gas emissions were to sustain the



4.6% decline each year, emissions would need to drop another 3% every year between 2020 and 2030 to be on track to limit global warming and avoid the most extreme outcomes of the climate crisis. And emissions will rebound as countries reopen.

The last time the globe experienced a dramatic drop in emissions was during the 2009 financial crisis, which

decreased carbon dioxide emissions by 0.46 gigatonnes.

The economic downturn of the last three months will deepen socioeconomic vulnerabilities, widen wealth gaps and overburden healthcare systems, especially in lower-income countries, according to the study.

“This is the dilemma of the social, environmental and economic systems – the fact that these systems are so interconnected and you can’t really address one system in isolation,” Malik said. “So there’s an economic downturn that results in reduction of emissions. But so many people have lost their jobs, and the environment might not be the top priority for them.”

A separate new analysis from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale and Northwestern universities found that pushing back investments in renewable power for one year could outweigh the emissions reductions and deaths avoided from the reductions in pollution that have been seen since March.

Malik said the reductions necessary would require a complete redesign of the economic systems.

“When it comes to the post-pandemic world, I would like to think that perhaps this is an opportunity for us to redesign the systems in a way that they are sustainable and inclusive,” Malik said. “I don’t have a perfect answer to this and I don’t think most people do – it’s a dilemma in our systems.”

Socio-economic, environmental impacts of COVID-19 quantified

The first comprehensive study of the pandemic shows consumption losses amount to more than US\$3.8 trillion, triggering full-time equivalent job losses of 147 million and the biggest-ever drop in greenhouse gas emissions.

The international group of researchers, using a global and highly detailed model, found that most directly hit was the travel sector and regions of Asia, Europe, the United States, with cascading multiplier effects across the entire world economy because of globalization.

The loss of connectivity imposed to prevent the virus spreading triggers an economic ‘contagion’, causing major disruptions to trade, tourism, energy and finance sectors, while easing environmental pressures most in some of the hardest-hit areas.

This study focuses on ‘live’ data to 22 May (with the exception of air travel, for which only a 12-month forecast exists), differing from most assessments of the economic impacts of the pandemic based on scenario analyses and/or projections -- and it is the first to provide an overview of the combined economic, social and environmental impacts, including indirect effects, of the coronavirus.

The findings publish today in the international scientific journal PLOS ONE.

■ Key Reductions

* Consumption: US\$3.8 trillion (4.2 percent ~ GDP of Germany)

* Jobs: 147m (4.2 percent of the global workforce)

* Income from wages and salaries: \$2.1 trillion (6 percent)

* Most directly hit: US, China (mainland), air transport and related tourism

* Greenhouse gas emissions: 2.5Gt (4.6 percent) -- larger than any drop in human history*

* Other atmospheric emissions -- PM_{2.5}: Dangerously fine particulate matter emissions fall 0.6 Mt (3.8 percent); SO₂ & NO_x: Sulfur dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels -- which has been linked to asthma and chest tightness -- and emissions from nitrogen oxide -- from fuel combustion, for example, driving cars -- fall 5.1 Mt (2.9 percent).

Corresponding author Dr Arunima Malik, from Integrated Sustainability Analysis (ISA) and University of Sydney Business School, said the experience of previous financial shocks showed that, without structural change, environmental gains were unlikely to be sustained during economic recovery.

“We are experiencing the worst economic shock since the Great Depression, while at the same time we have experienced the greatest drop in greenhouse gas emissions since the burning of fossil fuels began,” Dr Malik said.

“In addition to the sudden drop in climate-change inducing greenhouse gasses, prevented deaths from air pollution are of major significance.

“The contrast between the socio-economic and the environmental variables reveals the dilemma of the global socio-economic system -- our study highlights the interconnected nature of international supply chains, with observable global spillover effects across a range of industry sectors, such as manufacturing, tourism and transport.”

The University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence said it was wonderful to see significant applications come to life through a collaborative platform seeded a decade ago with University of Sydney funding.

“Thanks to pioneering work here at Sydney in collaboration with other world leaders in footprinting, it’s now possible to simulate the world economy quickly and accurately to see how society and the environment are impacted by changes in our consumption,” Dr Spence said.

“This research was conducted in the cloud-based Global MRIO Lab and it is these sorts of global, multidisciplinary collaborations that will help us tackle the complex issues of our time.”

Research Using the Global MRIO Lab

To chart the world economy and post-disaster impacts using global multi-regional input-output (MRIO) analysis or GM-RIO, researchers worked in the open-source Global MRIO Lab. This customisable database is an extension of the Australian Industrial Ecology Lab (IE Lab) led by the University of Sydney.

The advancement of GMRIO has underpinned the increasing popularity and uptake of so-called consumption-based accounting, or footprinting, which avoids loopholes such as ‘carbon leakage’ where pollution is externalised to the producers, rather than consumers of goods and services. The Global MRIO Lab includes data from statistical agencies, including National Accounts and Eurostat and international trade data such as UN Comtrade. The lab is powered by supercomputers calculating the impacts of international trade along billions of supply chains extending to 221 countries.

Input-output (I-O) models were developed in the 1930s by Nobel Prize Laureate Wassily Leontief to analyse the relationships between consumption and production in the economy; I-O or multi-regional input-output (MRIO) models take account of actual data, from I-O records worldwide. Global MRIO or GMRIO models now not only extend to global value chains (GVCs) incorporating all orders of production but are also able to answer flexible and complex questions to a high degree of accuracy within a relatively short time lag. Once assembled, tables can be quickly updated, limited only by the timeliness of the data to hand.

Lead author Professor Manfred Lenzen, also from ISA and a recent co-author of the “Scientists’ warning on affluence,” said that the Australian-funded and University of Sydney-led innovation of the IO Labs had really catalysed new research efficiency in Australia. “Whilst the Labs were initially developed by a dedicated team from eight Universities and the CSIRO, supported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there are now hundreds of users, answering questions ranging from building sustainable cities, avoiding food waste, and carbon-footprinting tourism, to hedging against major disasters such as tropical cyclones,” said Professor Lenzen.

For this study into COVID-19, 38 regions in the world were analysed and 26 sectors. In order to incorporate as much information as possible, co-authors were allocated countries with which they had language skills and familiarity, with data translated from sources in 12 languages ranging from Arabic to Hindi and Spanish.

The international team of researchers are from: University of Sydney; Edinburgh Napier University; University of Queensland; UNSW Sydney; Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia; National Institute for Environmental Studies & Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan; Yachay Tech University, Ecuador; Duke University; Beijing Normal University.

In memory of Maryam Mirzakhani, a phenomenal mathematician and an icon for women in science

1 → Maryam often said that it is hard to appreciate when everything goes well. Happiness and success depend on many moving pieces falling into place, a lot of effort and a bit of luck, and you can tell yourself many times that you should be grateful, yet it is a natural feeling that things must have happened this way and will remain like this—until life tells you otherwise.

Maryam was the first woman in history to receive the Fields Medal in 2014. But her joy was already marred by a diagnosis that she received one year earlier. What followed was a nightmare of clinging to hope after hope, all of them crushed one by one. Maryam still worked as much as she was able, but towards the end, she was concerned about Anahita’s future more than anything else. She wanted to see her go to school and she was there on Anahita’s first day. She passed away surrounded by family, two weeks after Anahita’s 6th birthday,” he wrote.

Maryam was born in Tehran in 1977. She won a place at Farzanegan secondary school, for exceptionally talented students, where she found inspiring teachers and friends. Supported by her headteacher, Maryam entered mathematical competitions previously reserved for boys and represented Iran at the International Mathematical Olympiad, winning gold medals in 1994 and 1995, the second with a perfect score.

She gained her bachelor’s degree at Sharif University in Tehran, and in 1999 she moved to Harvard, where she earned her Ph.D. and was a leading scholar on the dynamics and geometry of complex surfaces. In 2014, she became the first female winner of the Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics.

Although Mirzakhani passed away in 2017, her invaluable contributions to the field of mathematics endure, and her trailblazing career has paved the way forward for many women mathematicians to come.

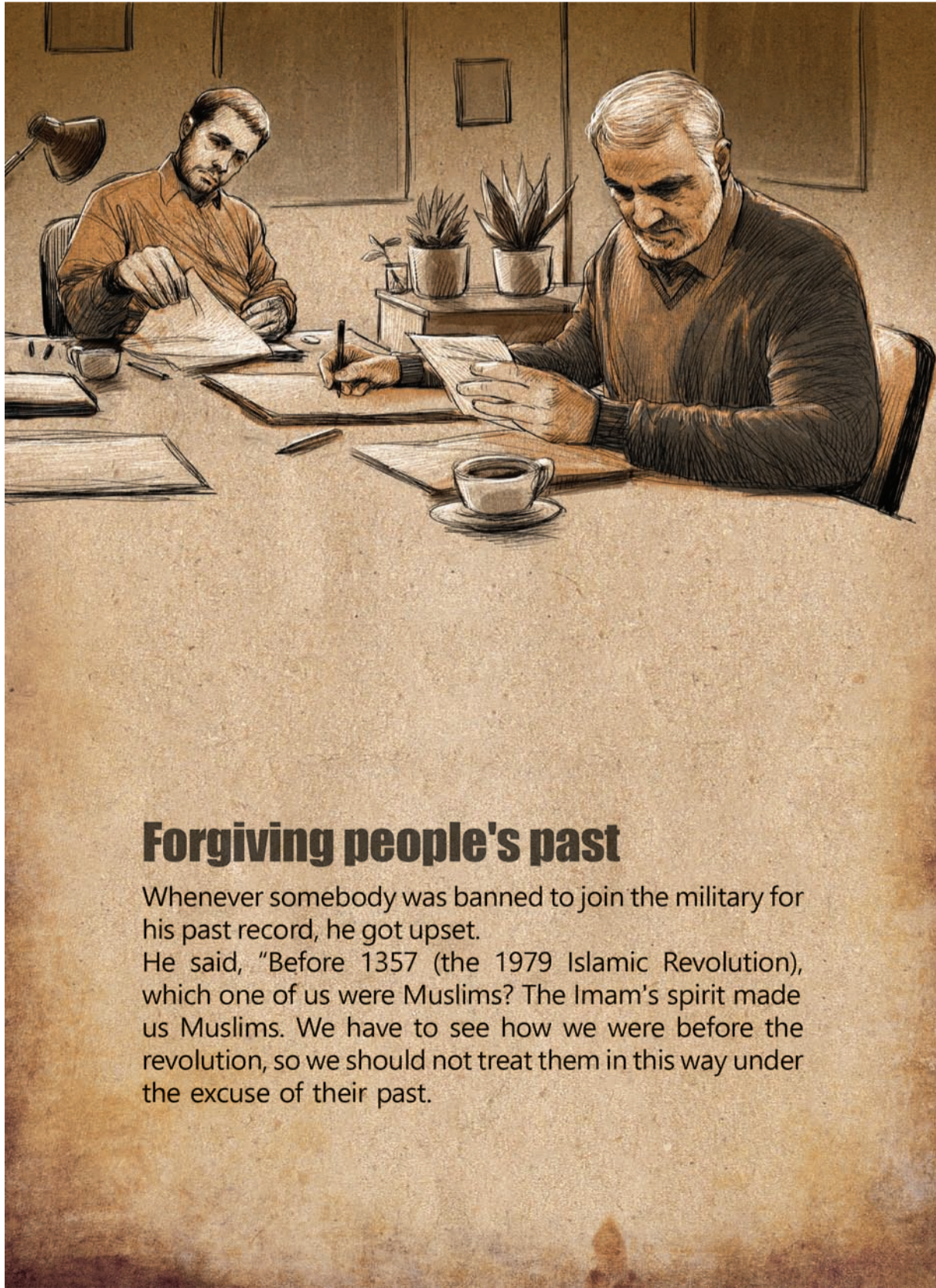
Iran takes new step to identify asymptomatic COVID-19 patients

1 → This project has been supported by the Nano Headquarters, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology in the form of a knowledge-based company with the cooperation of professors and specialists of Imam Khomeini Hospital, Shohada Tajrish Hospital, Motamed Research Institute, and Coronavirus Scientific Committee.

Over the past 24 hours, 2,349 new cases of COVID-19 were identified in Iran, of whom 1,581 were hospitalized, the total number of patients in the country reached 259,652, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Monday.

The number of daily COVID-19 mortalities in the country reported 203 on Sunday and the total number of deaths reached 13,032.

Currently, 3,375 patients with coronavirus are in critical condition. So far, 222,539 patients have recovered or been discharged from hospitals.



Forgiving people's past

Whenever somebody was banned to join the military for his past record, he got upset.

He said, “Before 1357 (the 1979 Islamic Revolution), which one of us were Muslims? The Imam’s spirit made us Muslims. We have to see how we were before the revolution, so we should not treat them in this way under the excuse of their past.

Kashmir Martyrs’ Day: A historical perspective

The Kashmir Martyrs’ Day is observed on July 13, every year to commemorate the sacrifice of the 21 Kashmiris, who were killed outside the Srinagar Central Jail by the troops of Dogra Maharaja in 1931 during a revolt. There is a background to this painful event, which continues to be memorialized.

Kashmiris have been oppressed since 1846, when the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was created and despite having an over 95pc Muslim population, the state was sold by the British East India Company to Hindu Maharaja Gulab Singh for Rs7,500,000. The Hindu monarch treated the Kashmiri Muslims as serfs and unleashed a reign of terror to tyrannize them.

According to News International, a number of incidents, which occurred in quick succession, sparked the revolt. In the first incident, a leading land-holder in Udhampur Jammu had converted to Islam. The Hindu Tehsildar sanctioned a fresh mutation of his lands, eliminated his name and mutated the same in the name of his brother. The land-holder filed a suit that was dismissed with the remarks that unless he re-entered the Hindu faith, he was not entitled to any property. This was done in accordance with a decree issued by the Dogra Government on 31 December 1882.

More protests in U.S. after new video emerges of police officer kneeling on man’s neck during arrest

➔ 1 The man was treated at the hospital and released. Police have not released the name or race of any individuals seen in the video.

The video was posted to social media where people on the Black Lives Matter to Lehigh Valley Facebook page demanded answers from police.

The group formed a protest late Saturday in front of the police station, and is planning another march to City Hall on Monday evening with community leaders slated as speakers.

Allentown Mayor Ray O’Connell and police Chief Glenn Grantiz Jr. showed up to the protest. Both said the police need to investigate the matter further. O’Connell called the video “disturbing.”

Police said in their statement that they plan on releasing more videos later this week.

Taliban attack on Afghan government compound kills 10, wounds dozens

Taliban militants clashed with security forces following a car bomb blast at a government compound in northern Afghanistan on Monday, killing ten people and wounding dozens more, officials said.

The attack took place at a government facility in Samangan province’s capital Aybak close to an office of the National Security Directorate, the main intelligence agency. “It’s a complex attack that started with a car bomb,” said Mohammad Sediq Azizi, a spokesman for the provincial government.

According to Reuters, the attack ended after four gunmen died following clashes with Afghan security forces, he added.

Abdul Latif Ibrahim, Samangan’s governor, said ten security members were killed and 54 people, including civilians, were wounded.

In a statement, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which comes at a sensitive time as violence increases even as the United States tries to usher the government and militants towards peace talks to end more than 18 years of war.

The violence threatens to hamper progress on the talks, which have not started due to a separate disagreement over the release of 600 Taliban prisoners from 5,000 the group has demanded.

Local officials also accused the Taliban of attacking security force checkpoints around the country overnight, killing seven personnel in the northeastern province of Badakhshan, 14 in northern Kunduz, and four in the central province of Parwan.

The Taliban said in statements they had carried out attacks killing nine in Kunduz and eight in Badakhshan.

Resistance News

Erdogan blames int’l silence for Israel’s growing insolence

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN**— Turkish President Recep Erdogan has reiterated his condemnation of Israel’s ongoing blockade on the Gaza Strip and its illegal practices in Palestine, blaming the international community for not taking action to curb “Israel’s growing insolence.”

In press remarks on Sunday, Erdogan said that the Palestinian lands under Israeli occupation top the list of the regions most exposed to injustice in the world.

“However, the Palestinians who were brutally murdered by Israeli police have been ignored by international media,” the Turkish president said.

He underlined that the international silence on Israel’s practices is the most important reason behind the increase in Israel’s insolence and its disregard for the law further.

“Israel’s announcement of the annexation plan of Palestinian settlements in the West Bank and Jordan Valley is a new step in the policy of occupation and oppression,” he said, stressing the need for the world to prevent such illegal steps by Israel.

“Although all the lands belonged to Palestine in 1947, Palestine has shrunk and Israel has got bigger over the years. With the invasion of Jerusalem in 1967, a new phase began. Today, unfortunately, there is no longer a place called Palestine on the map. Almost all of Palestine’s lands have been swallowed by Israel. Now, Israel wants to occupy the remaining land. The annexation plan aims for this goal.”

Yemeni forces strike strategic positions in Saudi Arabia with drones, missiles

Yemeni forces have carried out a major military operation against military and strategic positions in southwestern Saudi Arabia, a military spokesman says.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesman for Yemen’s Armed Forces, said in a statement on Monday that many drones and high-precision ballistic missiles were used in the operation.

He said the operation targeted “military aircraft, pilot accommodation and Patriot systems” in the city of Khamis Mushait in the southwestern region of Asir.

Military targets at Abha, Jizan and Najran airports were also hit in the reprisal attacks, according to the statement.

The «giant oil facility in the Jizan industrial zone” was also targeted, Saree said, adding the strike war accurate.

Saudi Arabia’s state-run oil company Aramco operates a 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Jizan, which lies nearly 60 km (40 miles) from the Yemeni border.

Elsewhere in his statement, Saree said Yemeni forces targeted Tadawin military camp in Yemen’s Ma’rib Province where senior Saudi military commanders and mercenaries were meeting, leaving dozens of them dead and injured.

The spokesman stressed that the attacks were conducted in retaliation for the Saudi airstrikes that hit Yemen’s northwestern province of Hajjah on Sunday.

Saudi fighter jets carried out an airstrike on a neighborhood in the Washhah district of Hajjah on Sunday afternoon, killing nearly a dozen civilians, mostly women and children.

Saree warned that Yemeni forces would continue to conduct retaliatory attacks against the kingdom until the end of the Saudi aggression and blockade on Yemen.

Earlier, Saudi Arabia claimed that it had intercepted and destroyed four missiles and six explosive drones that were launched from Sana’a, without giving details on where they were intercepted or whether any target was hit.

Zindzi Mandela, daughter of Nelson Mandela, has died

Zindzi Mandela, daughter of former South African president and liberation hero Nelson Mandela, has died, the spokesman of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) said on Monday.

Zindzi Mandela, whose mother was anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, rose to international prominence when she read out Nelson Mandela’s rejection of then-president P.W. Botha’s offer for freedom in 1985.

According to Reuters, state broadcaster SABC said the 59-year-old, who was serving as South Africa’s ambassador to Denmark, died in a hospital in Johannesburg. It did not say why she had died.

“This is untimely. She still had a role to play in the transformation of our own society and a bigger role to play even in the African National Congress,” said ANC spokesman Pule Mabe.

21 injured after an explosion and fire on a naval ship in San Diego

Twenty-one people were injured after an explosion and fire on board a ship at the U.S. Naval Base in San Diego, U.S. Navy officials said.

“Seventeen Sailors and four civilians are being treated for non-life threatening injuries at a local hospital,” the U.S. Navy said in a statement.

The sailors on the USS Bonhomme Richard had “minor injuries” from the fire and were taken to a hospital, Lt. Cmdr. Patricia Kreuzberger told CNN earlier Sunday.

The sailors are in stable condition, Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck told journalists Sunday evening.

All of the crew is off the ship and accounted for, according to a tweet from the U.S. Pacific Fleet Naval Surface Forces Sunday afternoon.

Firefighters battled a three-alarm fire on the ship Sunday morning, SDFD’s Mónica Muñoz said. Several different agencies worked to fight the blaze.

Two fires crews were still on board the ship Sunday afternoon, Federal Fire San Diego Division Chief Rob Bondurant said in a statement.

“Federal Fire is rotating their crews aboard the ship with U.S. Navy firefighting crews from the waterfront to fight the fire in order to find the seat of the fire and extinguish it,” Bondurant said. “Navy Region Southwest tugs are also continuously combating the fire from the bay.”

As of Sunday evening, firefighters were “at the seat of the fire, if you will,” Sobeck said. The firefighters are clearing compartment spaces in order to close in on the fire,



Late last month, Yemeni missiles reached the capital Riyadh. On June 23, Saree said Yemeni Armed Forces had conducted large-scale attacks on the headquarters of the Saudi Defense Ministry, general intelligence agency and King Salman Air Base in the capital Riyadh, Najran and Jizan.

According to Press TV, Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to subdue an uprising that

toppled a regime friendly to Riyadh.

The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the war has claimed more than 100,000 lives over the past five years.

More than half of Yemen’s hospitals and clinics have been destroyed or closed during the war by the Saudi-led coalition, which is supported militarily by the UK, the U.S. and other Western countries.

China to Sanction U.S. Senators Rubio, Cruz Over Xinjiang

China announced sanctions against U.S. officials including Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, in a largely symbolic retaliation over legislation intended to punish Beijing for its treatment of ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said “sanctions” against the four officials would begin Monday, without elaborating. Hua listed Rubio and Cruz -- both Republicans and high-profile critics of China -- as targets of the unspecified measures, in addition

to Sam Brownback, Representative Chris Smith and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

The moves come three days after the U.S. sanctioned a top member of China’s ruling Communist Party and three other officials over alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang, located in the country’s far west. Beijing has repeatedly vowed retaliation over U.S. actions intended to support residents of Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan, accusing Washington of inappropriately interfering in China’s internal affairs.



Sobeck said.

“Sailors across this waterfront are absolutely doing a magnificent job,” Sobeck said, “They are saving their ship. We’re seeing just incredible results.”

It’s unclear what started the fire. When the fire was first reported Sunday morning, it was said to be in the lower vehicle storage area, Sobeck said, a “huge, open area where you store a lot of marine equipment and everything else.”

There is no ordnance on board, Sobeck said, “which was our initial concern” in ensuring safety on and around the ship. A safety zone has been set up around the ship, he said. It’s unclear what caused the explosion, Sobeck said. Initial

reports indicated a “sort of a backdraft,” or over-pressurization as the compartment started heating up.

The ship had about a million gallons of fuel, but it’s “well below” many of the heat sources, Sobeck said.

The ship could burn for days, “down to the water line,” San Diego Fire Chief Colin Stowell told CNN’s Erica Hill Sunday afternoon.

Sobeck, though, said the ship will probably be salvageable.

“We’re absolutely going to make sure it sails again,” he said.

“She was in a stage of repair anyway,” Sobeck said. “So we’re just gonna get right back at it once we get this thing contained and put out.”

There was an explosion just as personnel were leaving the ship, Stowell said.

■ **Other ships moved away from the burning vessel** The Navy has moved two nearby ships away from the scene, it said in a statement.

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has been briefed on the situation, according to a defense official.

Officials called for San Diego Fire Department’s assistance about 9 a.m. local time, Muñoz told CNN.

A second alarm was called at 9:09 a.m. and a third at 9:51 a.m., according to SDFD tweets.

The USS Bonhomme Richard is an amphibious assault ship, according to the U.S. Navy.

There were 160 people on board when the fire started, according to the Naval Surface Forces. The ship, which has a crew of 1,000, was undergoing maintenance.

Dozens of U.S. universities support challenge to Trump’s order on foreign students

About 60 US universities filed a brief Sunday supporting a lawsuit by two others, seeking to block a Trump administration rule barring foreign students from remaining in the country if educational institutions don’t hold in-person classes this fall.

The lawsuit was filed by Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Wednesday in a federal court in Boston, Daily Star reported.

The so-called amicus brief - a supporting document submitted by interested

parties - was filed by 59 US universities Sunday, including seven other Ivy League schools.

The universities said they relied on federal guidance, which was to remain “in effect for the duration of the emergency,” allowing international students to attend all-online courses during the pandemic, according to the amicus brief. “The emergency persists, yet the government’s policy has suddenly and drastically changed, throwing amici’s preparations into disarray and causing significant harm and turmoil,” they added.

Israeli court dismisses Amnesty’s petition against spyware firm NSO

An Israeli court has dismissed Amnesty International’s legal bid to stop NSO Group from exporting surveillance software, saying the rights organization did not prove NSO’s technology had been used to spy on its members.

Amnesty alleged that governments around the world have used the Israeli company’s cellphone-hacking software, Pegasus, to crack down on activists, and petitioned to get NSO’s export license revoked, Reuters reported.

A Tel Aviv District Court judge, however, found Amnesty did not present evidence to

back up the claim that there had been an attempt to spy by hacking a human rights activist’s phone, nor that such an attempt had been carried out by NSO, according to a court document.

The judge also ruled that Israel’s Defense Ministry has enough safeguards in place to protect human rights in its export licensing process.

Amnesty’s Israel branch said a “mountain of evidence was ignored” and called the court “a rubber stamp to the Defense Ministry’s impunity to human rights violations”.

UK has 100,000 modern slaves but most go undetected, study says

Britain is home to at least 100,000 modern slaves according to a new study, 10 times more than the official estimate, as activists warned 90 percent of victims may be going undetected.

Anti-slavery charity Justice and Care and think tank The Centre for Social Justice said the real number could be even higher, and warned that the coronavirus pandemic was likely to push more people into forced labor at car washes and brothels.

The study comes in the wake of media and campaigner reports that online fashion firm Boohoo’s suppliers underpaid garment workers in Leicester, central England, and failed to protect them from COVID-19. Boohoo last week said it was investigating, Reuters reported.

Justice and Care said political leadership to tackle modern slavery had waned in recent years, and that a landmark 2015 anti-slavery law may have created a “false sense of security”.

“Whilst Britain has made progress fighting modern slavery, not least in the passing of the Modern Slavery Act five years ago, so much more work is needed to combat the issue,” the charity’s chief executive, Christian Guy, said in a statement.

The world-first law has been subjected to reviews following criticism that it is not being used fully to jail traffickers, drive companies to tackle forced labor, or help enough victims.

“Ninety percent of victims may be going undetected and thousands of traffickers are running riot,” Guy added.

A record 10,627 suspected victims were identified last year in Britain - up 52 percent from 2018. Most were victims of labor abuse and many came from nations such as Albania, Nigeria and Vietnam.

Britain’s home secretary (interior minister) Priti Patel said her department would look closely at the report’s findings.

“While the Modern Slavery Act was ground-breaking in tackling this heinous crime, we are just getting started in the fight to rid this evil from the United Kingdom,” Patel said.

Government research in 2018 said the crime sets Britain back by up to 4.3 billion pounds (\$5.6 billion) annually, based on an earlier estimate of 10,000 - 13,000 slaves living in the nation.

Iranian para athletes join ‘I Wear a Mask’ campaign

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian para athletes have joined “I Wear A Mask” camping.

Iranian authorities have launched a campaign urging residents to wear masks in order to protect themselves from the on-going coronavirus outbreak.

Nayerh Akef, the first Iranian woman to win a medal at the Paralympic Games in Sydney 2000, is among the para athletes who joined the campaign.

Currently, in the WHO advisory, it was said that if you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected COVID-19 infection, or if you’re coughing and sneezing. Otherwise, you should give the medical masks to those who need it more, like frontliners.

It’s time to put on the mask, since the second wave of the noble virus has killed so many people around the world.

Iran’s Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said the coronavirus has taken the lives of 203 patients during the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 13,032.

The total number of people tested positive for COVID-19 in Iran has risen to 259,652 following the detection of 2,349 new cases since yesterday, she added.

Of the new cases detected over the past 24 hours, 1,581 patients have been admitted to the hospital, the spokeswoman said.

At least 222,539 patients have recovered from the coronavirus infection so far or have been discharged from hospitals across Iran, she said.



Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Teymourian out of coma

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Serjik Teymourian has emerged from a medically induced coma and is slowly progressing after a car accident.

The 46-year-old player was left in coma on Saturday but he has reportedly emerged from his coma in Tehran’s Shohaday-e Tajrish Hospital.

Teymourian, the older brother of ex-national team

player Andranik, previously played for Esteghlal in Iran and the German side Mainz 05 between 1998 to 2000 as a defensive midfielder.

He was hospitalized in intensive care unit after the accident but Andranik says that his brother is suffering from acute kidney injury at the moment.

Andranik has shared a post on his Instagram account, saying his brother is in need of prayers.

UK Sport denies risking athletes’ health in 2012 nutritional program

UK Sport has denied putting athletes’ welfare at risk after a national newspaper claimed British Olympians had been given an experimental substance ahead of London 2012.

The Mail on Sunday reported public money was used to provide a select band of athletes with an energy drink called DeltaG, claiming there were no guarantees the product did not cause side-effects nor was it certain to be cleared by WADA (the World Anti-doping Agency).

But, in a statement issued in response to the story, UK Sport said it had consulted with both WADA and the UK Anti-Doping before using the product to make sure it complied with guidelines - and that the health of athletes would not be put on the line for the sake of an improved medal haul.

“UK Sport does not fund research projects aimed at giving our national teams a performance advantage at the expense of athlete welfare,” the statement read.

“As the nation’s high-performance sports agency, UK Sport invests in expert institutes who deliver research and innovation projects to support the success of our national sports teams.

“These projects range from designing world-class technical equipment for our athletes, to supporting athlete health and performance.

“These research and innovation projects are conducted in line with the highest ethical standards, within the rules of international



sport and are assessed by an expert independent Research Advisory Group.

“Consultation takes place with UK Anti-Doping and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) wherever necessary to ensure projects comply with international anti-doping regulations.”

The DeltaG drink is a ketone ester and, while the newspaper report claimed UK Sport introduced waivers and non-disclosure forms for those on the trial, the agency said this was standard practice for such an event.

“Additionally, UK Anti-Doping confirmed in writing, after seeking clarification from the World Anti-Doping Agency, that WADA had ‘no reason to consider such substances as banned under the 2011 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods’.

“By its very nature, any performance innovation project is at the cutting edge of science and emerging technology, as any advantage for Great Britain is only possible before it is widely available - as was the case for the ketone ester which became commercially available in 2018.

(Source: RTE)

Footballer Serge Aurier’s brother shot dead in Toulouse

Tottenham star Serge Aurier’s brother, Christopher, was shot dead at 5am this morning and his killer is still on the run.

Christopher Aurier, 26, was fatally wounded in the early hours after being shot in Toulouse outside a nightclub and he was pronounced dead in hospital, according to Le Point and Europe 1.

The Ivorian right back’s brother was ‘known to police for small crimes’, local media sources said. In 2017, he was arrested on suspicion of attacking a prostitute in Lille in northern France.

Local residents called the police after finding a man lying on the ground with a gunshot wound to his stomach outside Kin’s nightclub.

The victim’s brother, Serge, had played in Tottenham’s 2-1 north London derby win over Arsenal only hours earlier.

The French authorities have launched an investigation with the perpetrator still at large after fleeing the scene.

A Tottenham statement read: ‘The Club is deeply saddened to confirm media reports that Serge Aurier’s brother passed away in the early hours of this morning.

‘Everybody at the Club sends their sincerest condolences to Serge and his family. Our thoughts are with them all.’

Christopher was also a footballer, in the French fifth division with Toulouse Rodeo. He had a trial with Championship side Brentford back in 2011 but was not signed.

Like Serge, he came through the ranks at



RC Lens but did not make the breakthrough to the highest level.

In 2017 Lille cops arrested him after a 20-year-old local sex worker claimed two men had stolen her phone and credit card in December of the previous year.

The two men were reported to have threatened the woman in her flat with a fake handgun and tear-gassed her when she refused to hand over money.

Of his trial at Brentford, Christopher said in 2017: ‘Brentford were in League One at the time. Everything went well with my trial, but I could not speak English at the time.

“The coach [Uwe Rosler] told me: ‘It’s a shame you can’t understand my instructions. I’d have signed you otherwise.’”

Serge, 27, progressed at Lens before signing for Toulouse. The Ivory Coast international then secured his big move to Paris Saint-Germain.

From there he signed for Tottenham in 2017 and his future at the club looked in doubt earlier this year after falling out of favor under Mauricio Pochettino.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Brazilian “Babu” joins Shahdab Yazd volleyball club

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Brazilian player Victor Babugia Araujo “Babu”, who arrived in Iran Saturday morning, successfully passed his medical examination.



The 24-year-old middle blocker is the first foreign player in the Iranian Super Volleyball League this season.

Babu started his playing career at Brazilian club São Bernardo Vôlei and has also played at Super Vôlei Santo André, Maringá Vôlei, Climed/Atibaia and Apan Vôlei/Blumenau.

The 2020–21 Iranian Volleyball Super League will be the 33rd season of the Iranian Volleyball Super League, the highest professional volleyball league in the country.

Persepolis midfielder Rabikhah misses reminder of season

Tasnim — Persepolis midfielder Mohsen Rabikhah has missed the reminder of the Iran Professional League (IPL) season due to a metatarsal fracture.

Persepolis has six games left in the season to make sure it will win IPL title for the fourth time in a row.

It will have to do so without one of their midfielders.

Rabikhah will miss the remainder of the regular season due to a metatarsal fracture in his foot.

According to the club, he will be sidelined for a month.

Alireza Beiranvand travels to Belgium

IRNA — Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand finally traveled to Belgium to join Antwerp.

He will have to participate at the club’s medical exam.

Beiranvand will officially join the Belgian football team if he successfully passes the medical examination.

He had been already prevented from travel to Belgium in mid-June for the measures taken by the European Union (EU) due to coronavirus pandemic.

Beiranvand has been a key player for Persepolis in the last three years, helping the Reds win the Iran Professional League three times.

Persepolis forward Barzegar tests positive for coronavirus

Tasnim — Persepolis football team striker Arya Barzegar has tested positive for COVID-19.

The Iranian football club have reported that the player was accompanying Persepolis in Tabriz but returned to Tehran as soon as he was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Esteghlal and Foolad players have previously tested positive for the virus.

The death toll from the novel coronavirus in Iran over the past 24 hours was 194, the Health Ministry’s spokeswoman said Sunday.

Sima Sadat Lari put the death toll from COVID-19 in Iran at 12,829.

Mehdi Taremi linked with Werder Bremen

German football club Werder Bremen is reportedly trying to sign Mehdi Taremi.

The Iranian international forward, who currently plays for Portuguese football team Rio Ave, has been linked with a move to Werder Bremen.



The 27-year-old striker has already scored 14 goals in 27 games this season. Taremi’s contract only has a year to run.

Numerous clubs in Europe, including St. Etienne from France, are said to be interested in signing the player. Taremi’s market value is estimated four million euros at transfermarkt.de.

It is very unlikely that Werder Bremen will sign a center forward like Taremi for the coming season, because Niclas Füllkrug and Davie Selke are two players for this position.

(Source: deichstube.de)

Manchester City’s ban from European football overturned

Manchester City’s two-year suspension from European football was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday, allowing the club to compete in next season’s elite Champions League competition.

CAS ruled that City did not breach Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules by disguising equity funding as sponsorship. Sport’s highest court also reduced a fine for failing to cooperate with UEFA to 10 million euros from 30 million euros.

“Most of the alleged breaches reported by the (UEFA) Adjudicatory Chamber of the CFCB (Club Financial Control Body) were either not established or time-barred,” CAS said in a statement.

European soccer’s governing body UEFA ruled in February that City had committed serious FFP breaches and failed to cooperate with its investigation.

Missing out on the Champions League would have cost City, who have denied any wrongdoing, as much as 100 million pounds in prize money and broadcast revenue, as well as matchday and other revenues.

The FFP regulations are designed to stop clubs running up big losses through spending on players. They also ensure sponsorship deals are based on their real market value and



are genuine commercial agreements — and not ways for owners to pump cash into a club to get around the rules.

CAS said its full legal ruling, with details of the case and the decision, would be published in the coming days.

“Whilst Manchester City and its legal advisors are yet to review the full ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the Club welcomes the implications of today’s ruling as a validation of the Club’s position and the body of evidence that it was able to present,”

City said in a statement.

“The Club wishes to thank the panel members for their diligence and the due process that they administered,” the Premier League club added.

UEFA had said City had committed “serious breaches” of the FFP rule in information submitted to them between 2012 and 2016.

However, Article 37 of UEFA’s own procedural rules covering the CFCB states that “Prosecution is barred after five years for all breaches of the UEFA Club Licensing and FFP Rules”.

UEFA said it remained committed to FFP.

“UEFA notes that the CAS panel found that there was insufficient conclusive evidence to uphold all of the CFCB’s conclusions in this specific case and that many of the alleged breaches were time-barred due to the 5-year time period foreseen in the UEFA regulations.

“Over the last few years, Financial Fair Play has played a significant role in protecting clubs and helping them become financially sustainable and UEFA and ECA (European Club Association) remain committed to its principles.”

(Source: Reuters)

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The most worthless knowledge is one which comes only on the tongue, and the loftiest is one that manifests itself in the significant parts of the body, such as the head and heart.

Imam Ali (AS)

Iran to organize Intl. Storytelling Festival 2020 online

→1 Zomorrodian said that IIDCYA's Storytelling Association has regularly held its educational courses over the past few months, and numerous students have attended the courses, which have held online.



A poster for the 23rd International Storytelling Festival.

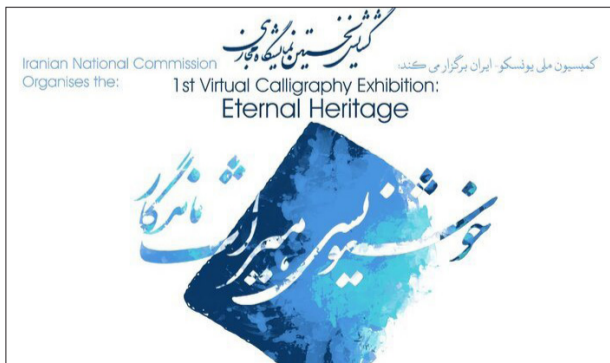
Sara Kasir, an experienced storyteller from Lebanon, and Iranian storyteller Mehdi Mohammadian shared first prize during the 22nd International Storytelling Festival, which took place in Tehran in December 2019.

The jury did not announce a winner for second place in the international competition, while third prize was shared by Iranian storytellers Maryam Fahimpur, Kimia Yaqubi and Solmaz Sadeqzadeh.

National Commission for UNESCO opens virtual exhibit of Persian calligraphy

A R T TEHRAN — The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO has organized "Eternal Heritage", a virtual exhibit of Persian calligraphy by members of its policymaking council.

Nasrollah Afjei, Elaheh Khatami, Fereshteh Hosseini, Ali Shirazi, Yadollah Kaboli and Gholamhossein Khani are among the members of the council whose works are available at www.gallery.iunesco.org.



A poster for "Eternal Heritage", a virtual exhibit of Persian calligraphy at the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

"We are passing hard days. Being together and not seeing one another have been our life protocols these days. But art has the identity of being together and in these days of distancing, we are seeking peace in art," reads part of the letter written by the director of the commission Hojjatollah Ayyubi for the exhibit.

"We invite everybody to view calligraphy works by brilliant masters of the Persian calligraphy. They are the significant ambassadors of our culture. The exhibition by the members is only the beginning. There is a home here for all art lovers and for whoever is seeking thoughts and wisdom," it adds.

"We will upload a part of the art of Iranian and foreign artists in other virtual exhibits for Iranian and intentional art lovers, and we believe that art will conquer the coronavirus," the letter concludes.

"Lift-up" to chronicle life story of Iran's history-making woman weightlifter

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Reza Surani is making the documentary "Lift-up" about the life story of Poupak Basami, who is the first woman from post-revolution Iran to compete in an international weightlifting tournament.

A chapter of the film is dedicated to showing the practices Basami follows to preserve her physical readiness during the COVID-19 era.

Another chapter of the documentary also depicts the 28-year-old athlete wearing a nurse uniform to help patients with coronavirus in a Tehran clinic. She spends six hours every day helping the patients at the clinic.

Basami wrote her name into the history books as the first Iranian woman who participated in the Asian Weightlifting Championships in April 2019.

She took part in the 55 kilograms weight category but failed to win anything in the tournament.

She also made history by becoming the first Iranian woman to compete in the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships in September 2019 and finished sixth in the 55 kilograms D session.

"Lift-up" is being produced at the Documentary and Experimental Film Center, which has previously made several documentaries about Iranian sportswomen.

"Zero to Platform" directed by Sahar Mosayyebi is one of the documentaries that chronicles the concerted efforts of



A scene from "Lift-up" by Reza Surani.

the Mansurian sisters, Elaheh, Shahrbanu and Soheila, who chose wushu martial art to achieve success in life despite all

the hardship they have faced throughout their lives. Filmmaker Sam Kalantari's acclaimed

film "No Place for Angels" about the national Iranian women's hockey team is another documentary produced at the DEFC.

Iranian academy to hold online course on Shahnameh



A statue of Ferdowsi set up near his tomb in Tus.

C U L T U R E TEHRAN — Elm d e s k Academy, a virtual educational center based in Tehran, plans to hold an online course on Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece Shahnameh by the renowned expert in this field, Mir Jaleleddin Kazzazi.

Interested applicants outside the country can also register for the online course that will begin on July 27.

Myths and history, myth and dreams, myth and epic, as well as myth and art are among the topics to be discussed during the 10-session course.

Kazzazi is a poet, scholar and expert on Shahnameh. He is one of the Iranian Eternal Figures who was honored in 2005.

The Shahnameh millennium was accepted on UNESCO's 2010 calendar

of events.

The Shahnameh, in which the Persian national epic found its final and enduring form, was completed in 1010.

It was written for Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna. However, he didn't welcome it because of the Shia religion of Ferdowsi.

According to some historical sources on Persian literature, Ferdowsi spent 30 years writing the Shahnameh, which is comprised of nearly 60,000 verses.

Also known as "Book of Kings" in English, the Shahnameh is based mainly on the Khwatey-namak, a history of the kings of Persia in Pahlavi (Middle Persian) from mythical times down to the 7th century.

For nearly 1000 years, Shahnameh has remained one of the most popular works in the Persian-speaking world.

"Butterfly Swimming" premiere canceled in support of healthcare staff

A R T TEHRAN — Rasul Sadr-Ameli, the producer of "Butterfly Swimming", has said that he has canceled the premiere of the film in support of the medical staff serving COVID19 patients in hospitals across the country.

"Based on the talks we had with members of the Screening Council of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the decision to stop the screening of the film was agreed upon," Sadr-Ameli said.

"We were negotiating with the Health Ministry to screen the film for health care staff in hospitals dealing with the coronavirus to watch the film for free. However, due to the increasing death toll and the current situation we decided to stop the screening, and hope that in rescreening the movie at some future time the staff will have more free time to watch the film in peace and with less anxiety," he said.

"When the movie theaters resumed activities and the film went on screen three weeks ago, the death toll numbers were low and we did not think they would increase in less than two weeks. We are waiting this virus to be controlled so the rescreening can begin," he added.

Mohammad Kart's directorial debut, "Butterfly Swimming" tells the story of Hashem, a gang member whose wife's swimming video goes viral. Now Hashem and his brother-in-law Hojjat



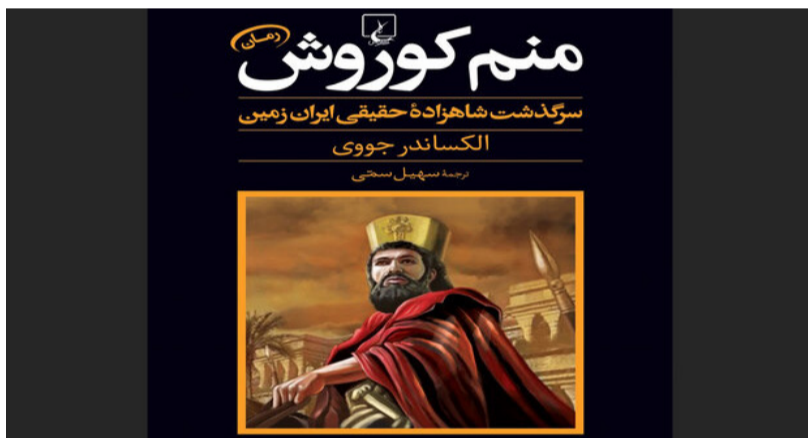
A scene from Mohammad Kart's directorial debut, "Butterfly Swimming".

are looking for the person who uploaded the video on the net.

In addition, the Secretary of the council, Morteza Shayesteh, said that the film "There at the Same Time" by director Sirus Alvand, which was due to go on screen this Wednesday, will have a one week delay and will hit the silver screens next week.

Shayesteh said that those films whose screenings were canceled will face a six-month penalty, but due to the current

Persian translation of Alexander Jovy's "I Am Cyrus" goes bestseller



Front cover of the Persian translation of Alexander Jovy's novel "I Am Cyrus: The Story of the Real Prince of Persia".

C U L T U R E TEHRAN — A d e s k Persian translation of Alexander Jovy's novel "I Am Cyrus: The Story of the Real Prince of Persia" has turned out to be a bestselling book in Iran.

The fifth edition of the Persian translation of the book has recently been published by Qoqun Publications in Tehran. It has been translated into Persian by Soheil Sommi.

This stunning novel brings ancient Persia to life, and reveals the captivating story of Cyrus himself, a courageous leader whose passion won the hearts of his subjects and lovers alike.

The book features an emotional love story and riveting battle scenes, and is written with an energy and

passion that infuse every page. "I Am Cyrus" brings history alive as few other novels do. It is full of action, passion, comedy, tragedy and inspiration. Its theme that true cooperation between people is only won through tolerance, is profoundly relevant to our own times.

"I Am Cyrus" is a story that has been close to Jovy's heart for many years and he recalls his father telling him about ancient Persia and the mysteries it holds: "I was fascinated even then how such an early civilization could have achieved so much and be so unknown to our modern world."

Born in Berlin, Jovy is an Academy Award nominated film director and producer of "Holiday Romance".

situation, this might not be a problem.

However, the film "Women Are Angels 2" by Arash Moayerian will go on screen this week alongside the onscreen movie "Good, Bad, Garish 2: The Secret Army" by Peyman Qasemkhani.

Last week, producer Ahmad Ahmadi canceled the Iranian premiere of his latest film "Pishi Mishi" after a massive rise in the death toll from coronavirus in the country over the past few days.

He had said, "All the movie theaters were due to reopen after the coronavirus death toll had decreased, but in the recent days with the rapid spread of the new virus and the closure of some movie theaters, especially in other cities, we have no choice but to cancel the film screening."

"The film has been made without the help of a public loan and is an independent movie, and being from the private sector, it is difficult to screen this film; canceling it will surely lead to its demise. This is a comedy for children and families, and in these hard days of coronavirus, the health of the audience is much more important," he had said.

"Pishi Mishi" is a children's comedy about Farhad's love of Maloos.

The movie stars Reza Shafi-Jam, Bahareh Rahnama, Saed Hedayati and Mohammad Shiri.

Persian music ensemble Aseman to perform in Germany

A R T TEHRAN — The Persian music ensemble Aseman will give a concert at Eli-ja Church in Saarbrücken, Germany on August 8.

The concert is scheduled to be performed before an empty auditorium due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the

performance will be available online.

Tar-virtuoso Majid Derakhshani, who has worked with great Iranian singers such as Mohammadreza Shajarian, is the leader of the ensemble.

He has established the group, which is composed of 15 Iranian and European

musicians, to promote Iranian music. Brazilian bassist Alexandre Ari Piazza and German cellist Bea M. Sallaberger are among the members of the group.

The ensemble also is planning to support female vocalists. It plans to organize online concerts across Europe this year.



A poster for Aseman's concert at Eli-ja Church in Saarbrücken, Germany.