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By Mahnaz Abdi
Head of Economy Desk

NIDC indigenizes know-how for manufacturing highly-used parts

After the U.S. reimposition of sanctions against Iran, indigenizing the know-how for the manufacturing of the parts and equipment applied in different industrial sectors is one of the major strategies that the Islamic Republic has been strongly following up to reach self-reliance and nullify the sanctions.

Oil, gas, and petrochemical industries have outstanding performances in this due, with indigenizing the knowledge for manufacturing many parts and equipment that were previously imported.

Among different sectors of the mentioned industries, drilling could be mentioned as a prominent example in this regard.

National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) managed to indigenize 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).

Before this success, the technology for manufacturing the mentioned equipment was in the possession of a handful of foreign companies.

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.

The company has also managed to indigenize the know-how for manufacturing 242 parts highly-applied in the drilling industry during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

In order to indigenize the technology to manufacture these parts, NIDC inked six research deals with domestic universities and knowledge-based companies.

At the beginning of the current Iranian year, NIDC Managing Director Abdollah Mousavi had said that his company's performance will be more outstanding in this year, which is named the year of surge in production. **→4**

Electoral College thoroughly undemocratic: American professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — An American professor says that Electoral College, which is partly rooted in slavery, is completely undemocratic institution.

"The electoral college, which is partly rooted in slavery, is a thoroughly undemocratic institution and makes a mockery of democracy in America," Robert C. Smith, a professor of political science at San Francisco State University, tells the Tehran Times.

Despite its long history of denying people the right to vote based on race and gender, today America portrays itself as the world's leading democracy.

Americans voted on Tuesday for the presidential election. The incumbent president Donald Trump from the Republican Party was facing Democratic rival vice president Joe Biden.

But it seems that the elections would not

run easily this time given the potential threat to the smooth running of the vote.

Some American believe that antiquated and outdated constitutional institutions like the Electoral College can undermine the voices of ordinary people.

In the 2016 presidential election, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton garnered more national votes, however she lost to Trump due to Electoral College.

Professor Smith believes that such electoral system should have been abolished before.

"It should have long ago been abolished, but it takes an amendment to the Constitution which it makes virtually impossible to abolish, given the supermajorities required in Congress and the states," Smith says, adding, "It may, along with the unrepresentative Senate, pose a major threat to the legitimacy of the democracy and a system crisis in America." **→5**

U.S. election: Minor effect on West Asian policy, major implications for domestic unrest

By Kevin Barrett

Political unrest, riots, and possibly even a collapse into civil war are all real possibilities. Like the secessionists of 1860, today's rebels may react to a Biden win by picking up their guns in support of Trump's efforts to contest the results. Out of the resulting chaos might emerge a series of armed confrontations between various rural (pro-Trump) and urban (pro-Biden) areas, as well as a larger clash between red states and blue states that could conceivably escalate into a Civil War Redux. How the U.S. military (split between pro- and anti-Trump factions) and local and state police (mostly pro-Trump) would react remains to be seen.

But Trump supporters are not the only ones who might react violently to an election loss. If Trump wins, or claims victory, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Antifa protests from last summer will likely flare up into a series

of regional brushfires, if not a nationwide inferno. The dominant liberal faction of the mainstream media (MSM) will echo Biden's June 11 statement that the military should "escort Trump from the White House with dispatch." Militias and Trump sympathizers in the military might mount an armed resistance against Trump's forceful ejection from the White House. The violence could easily spiral out of control.

There is so much polarization in the U.S. political and security structure that it probably won't be able to mount a unified response the way it did after previous crises including the JFK assassination coup of 1963 and the neocon-Zionist coup of September 11, 2001. In those cases the vast majority of people in the political world and the security services believed, or in some cases pretended to believe, the official stories. **→5**

U.S. nationwide unrest: A challenge to the U.S. sham democracy

By Charles Dunaway

The potential for an extended period of political unrest and rioting definitely exists. We could have Trump ahead in the votes cast on Election Day, only to lose if and when the mail-in ballots are counted. That scenario will almost surely cause rioting.

There will be considerable legal wrangling by both sides in order to stop or restart the ballot counting in key states. I expect political unrest and rioting in the weeks ahead. The extent and

duration of that unrest will depend to a great extent on the behavior and tweets of the President. Therefore it's rational to believe the unrest will last several weeks at least.

Any nationwide unrest that lasts more than a week or so is dangerous to the establishment. The establishment cannot permit the misplaced faith of the American people in the government's integrity and the U.S. sham democracy to be lost. Since Trump will remain in office until January 20, 2021 under any scenario, he is likely

to support demonstrators that are on his side and incite violence against his detractors. It is hard to imagine that this election will pass without significant unrest and the political establishment has few options available to quell it.

Adding to the unrest is the dramatic increase in the spread of COVID-19 in the United States, the inability of the government to regain control over it, and the economic devastation caused by the lack of government support for poor and working people. **→5**

Iranian Air Force holds large-scale aerial drills in Isfahan

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) held the last stage of large-scale drills in central Iran on Tuesday to showcase its military power, using RF-4 military jets with advanced homegrown cameras.

In the annual aerial drill, codenamed Fadayeeyan Harim Velayat, the RF-4 military jets carried out reconnaissance operations in the central province of Isfahan on Monday.

Army Commander Brigadier General Abdolrahim Mousavi attended the Tuesday maneuvers. The war games were held at the electronic warfare of the Martyr Ali Abu Atta operation theater in the Anarak region. The maneuver, the ninth of its kind, began on Monday. **→2**



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Menar Jonban: they really shake!

Visitors flock five times a day to this tiny Islamic monument for the sole purpose of watching as the caretaker ascends to one of the bizarre minarets and gives it a good shake. For some reason, the movement resonates through the whole building causing the other minaret to tremble soon after, to the surprising delight of the crowds who gather to watch.

The centuries-old Menar Jonban, or the "shaking minarets", is situated in Isfahan, which is one of the oldest and most visited cities in Iran by both locals and international tourists. Here, we are going to introduce this monument and talk about its location, history, architecture, and reflect some views by foreign visitors:

Menar Jonban is actually a burial monument surmounted by two brick minarets that can be swung with little pressure. The notable feature of this monument is that when one minaret is shaken by the human force, the other starts to vibrate automatically.

History

Menar Jonban was originally built some 700 years ago as a mausoleum for "Amu Abdullah" who was a mystic figure in the Ilkhanid era. To be more precise, the monument was built in 1316 CE, during the reign of Oljeitu, also known as Muhammad Khodabandeh, was the eighth Ilkhanid dynasty ruler from 1304 to 1316.

Archeological studies suggest that the dual brick minarets were constructed and added to the mausoleum later during the Safavid era (1501–1736).

Architecture

The iwan (portico) is 10 meters (33 foot) high and 10 meters (33 foot) wide. The minarets are 7 meters (23 foot) high and are 4 meters (13 feet) in circumference. The roof above the shrine contains some skilled brickwork. **→6**

Baku thanks Ayatollah Khamenei for backing its stance on Karabakh conflict

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov Aly oglu has thanked Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei for supporting Baku's standing on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



In a phone conversation with Iran's ambassador to Baku on Tuesday, Khalaf Khalafov expressed his country's appreciation for Ayatollah Khamenei's "important and fair" remarks which were based on "friendship and brotherhood" between the two neighboring countries, the Iranian embassy in Baku reported.

He also described as important the Iranian special envoy's trip and Iran's regional initiative to resolve to the crisis.

Ayatollah Khamenei on Tuesday expressed regret over the ongoing war between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Kharabakh, calling it a "bitter incident".

The Leader suggested that the main solution to the problem is a return of all occupied lands of Azerbaijan by Armenia and "this must be done and international borders must be respected."

However, the security of the ethnic Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region must be protected, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out.

Khalaf Khalafov also underlined the importance of immediate implementation of the agreements reached in the meeting between Azerbaijan's president and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Araqchi traveled to Baku on Wednesday on a regional trip to present Iran's initiative for a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and held talks with Azeri President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov during his visit.

Zarif: No difference between Trump, Biden but Biden's words are 'more promising'

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the statements by Joe Biden with regard to Iran have been more promising than those of the incumbent Donald Trump.

"The statements by the Biden camp have been more promising, but we will have to wait and see," Zarif said in an interview with CBS News.

He made the remarks when pushed to pick one of the two U.S. presidential candidates. Zarif initially insisted that Tehran has no preference between Trump or Biden.



He emphasized that it's not what the new administration says during the campaign that counts, but what it does in office.

"What is important for us is how the White House behaves after the election, not what promises are there, what slogans are made. The behavior of the U.S. is important. If the U.S. decides to stop its malign behavior against Iran, then it will be a different story no matter who sits in the White House," the chief Iranian diplomat said.

Tensions soared between Tehran and Washington since Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018. The U.S. president not only exited the deal but has since targeted Iran with a series of harsh economic bans. Trump has called the sanctions his "maximum pressure" campaign aimed at forcing Iran to renegotiate the nuclear deal.

The Biden campaign has signaled that if he becomes president his administration would try to renegotiate the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was struck when he was vice president.

Zarif, on the other hand, insisted that "under no circumstances" would Tehran consider renegotiating the terms of the deal which was adopted as a UN Security Council Resolution.

"If we wanted to do that [renegotiate], we would have done it with President Trump four years ago," Zarif told CBS News.

He was categorical that Iran would, instead, like to see the U.S. re-join the JCPOA.

"We can find a way to re-engage, obviously. But reengagement does not mean renegotiation," he said. "It means the U.S. coming back to the negotiating table."

Zarif also said that the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign has failed.

"It has hurt Iran," he said. "But it hasn't brought the type of political change that the U.S. desired — be it regime change, which was the desire of a certain segment of the current U.S. administration, or what President Trump wanted, which was to bring Iran to its knees so that he could dictate his terms of negotiations."

"I know that Vice President Biden understands that that won't happen [renegotiate the terms of the nuclear deal], and may act differently," said the foreign minister.

He expressed hope, however, that Trump, too, "is capable of acting differently."

Zarif also addressed assertions from U.S. intelligence agencies that his country obtained U.S. voter registration information and used it to try to erode confidence in the American election process.

He categorically denied any interference by Iran, and called Trump "the single person who is making the most important and effective affront against the U.S. electoral system."

Anyone interested in undermining U.S. democracy, Zarif suggested, "will just ask President Trump to continue talking about forgeries and inconsistencies in mail-in ballots and all sorts of other stuff."

Zarif said the Iranian government received a letter from the Trump administration, warning Tehran not to take action around the election, and that the U.S. would not tolerate any interference.

IRGC marks anniversary of uprooting U.S. influence in Iran

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has marked the 41st anniversary of ending the U.S. presence in Iran, saying relying on the domestic power and capacities of the country guarantees the Iranian nation's victory against the U.S. economic war.

In a statement on Monday, the IRGC said the enmity of the U.S. toward the Iranian nation dates back to 60 years ago, a reference to the 1953 U.S.-backed coup against the democratic government of Mohammad Mosaddegh.

It emphasized that since then both Democratic and Republican presidents have pursued the same hostile policies against Iran, Mehr reported.

The statement also refuted the idea of linking foreign developments to solutions to address domestic problems.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian revolutionaries occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran, which was dubbed "the den of spies" by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic. American diplomats and citizens were held hostage for 444 days from November 4, 1979, to January 20, 1981.

The day is marked in Iran as the National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance.

According to the IRGC, November 4



is characterized by three momentous incidents in the history of the U.S. regime and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It added that the treacherous, vicious and criminal hand of the United States in the incidents of the massacre of 56 Iranian students in the University of Tehran (4

Nov. 1943), the exile of Imam Khomeini to Turkey (4 Nov. 1964), and the seizure of Den of Espionage (4 Nov. 1979) reveals the arrogant approach of the rulers of the White House against the Islamic Revolution.

The notion of "fight against global ar-

rogance" has a root in the principles and foundations of the Islamic Revolution, the IRGC said, stressing that it won't be influenced by any psychological operations, media propaganda, and the shift of power between the Republicans and Democrats.

IRGC's statement described strategies such as active resistance, relying on the internal capacities of the country and strengthening the country's economy as important elements to fight off the U.S. sanctions.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history against Iran.

According to the nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was obliged to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

Trump described the JCPOA as "the worst deal in history".

Iranian officials have denounced the U.S. sanctions as "economic terrorism", with the aim of bringing about the collapse of the Iranian economy. President Hassan Rouhani has also said the U.S. sanctions were aimed at causing the economic collapse of Iran but failed to do so.

Leader: No change in Iran's policy with change of president in U.S.

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced on Tuesday that Iran's policy toward the United States will not undergo changes with a change of president in the White House.

The Leader made such a remarks as the Americans will vote today to either reelect Donald Trump or his

rival candidate Joe Biden.

The Leader also pointed to the sacrilegious caricature of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in France, saying a caricaturist has made a serious mistake but the French president has expressed support for such a wrong act.

Ayatollah Khamenei said this is not just a deviation

by a person, rather there is systematic organization behind such a profane act.

The Leader said it is true that somebody has been killed for this caricature but the French president "can express sympathy for the killing of this person" but why does this cartoon is republished in large numbers and the French government supports it?

UN envoy, Iranian diplomat meet to discuss Syria developments

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The UN secretary-general's special envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen, and the Iranian foreign minister's special assistant for political affairs met on Monday to discuss the latest developments in Syria.

During the meeting, Pedersen informed Ali-Asghar Khaji of the results of his recent talks on Syria in a number of regional countries, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

The two sides also talked about the latest progress in holding the next meeting of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, hoping that the fourth session of the committee would convene in the near future.

They discussed the issues surrounding a conference on the return of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, due to be held in Damascus later this month.

In the Monday talks, Khaji emphasized the necessity of addressing the problems of Syrian refugees and displaced persons as a humanitarian issue that would build trust among the Syrian sides.

Highlighting the positive impacts that the upcoming conference would have on the political settlement of the crisis in Syria, the Iranian diplomat called for an active participation of countries in the conference.

Iran, Russia, and Turkey have been leading

a peace initiative to bring the Syrian crisis to an end. The initiative is known as the Astana process, because Kazakhstan's capital, Nur-Sultan, formerly called Astana, originally hosted the meetings.

The Astana process has so far resulted in two agreements. The first deal was signed in Nur-Sultan, arranging for the creation of de-escalation zones across Syria, including in parts of Idlib.

The second deal was signed in the Russian resort city of Sochi, allowing Ankara to bring in a small number of forces to man the observation posts to reinforce de-escalation.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed



Pedersen

Khaji

militancy since March 2011. However, the conflict has been winding down as the Syrian government reasserts control over parts formerly held by terrorist groups.

Iranian Air Force holds large-scale aerial drills in Isfahan

1 → Speaking to reporters, the spokesperson for the war game said Iranian experts have equipped the RF-4 reconnaissance aircraft with "Samat" cameras, an advanced optical device manufactured by the Air Force, Tasnim reported.

Brigadier General Farhad Goodarzi said the RF-4 planes and "Kaman-12" drones sortied over the mock enemy's positions for reconnaissance, aerial imaging and electronic eavesdropping.

Goodarzi said various military aircraft, including the homegrown Sa'eq fighter jets, detonated the targets with Iranian rockets, smart bombs, missiles with pinpoint accuracy, standoff missiles, and air-to-surface rockets.

The general further said the military drill offered a message of peace, stability and friendship to regional countries.

He also warned the enemies that the Islamic Republic is

ready to give a "crushing response" to any miscalculation

On Sunday, IRIAF Commander Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh said the drilling squadrons would be flying Sukho-24 strategic bombers as well as F-4, F-5, F-7, F-14, MIG-29.

Nasirzadeh said the maneuvers are aimed at "practicing the implementation of operational plans and establishing the right model that would suit real-life battle."

He said "modern warfare operations that are aimed at confronting the enemies' emerging threats" will be practiced during the event.

The engaged fighters, the commander said, would also be sent on "long-range operations outside their defensive spheres," while precision ammunition would be tested in surgical strikes and air-to-air missiles fired to test their high destructive power.

The maneuvers come on the 40th anniversary of the

imposed war, the name given to Iraq's 1980-88 warfare against the Islamic Republic under the Arab country's former dictator Saddam Hussein.

The commander said young servicemen would be fielding their prowess during the exercise under the directions of the eight-year war veterans.

Nasirzadeh, meanwhile, hailed that the country was undertaking the maneuvers in the face of the enemies' efforts to adversely affect its operations, including in the defensive area.

"Such readiness and capability bespeak the ineffectuality of the sanctions in the military area. We have been experiencing these sanctions for years and have managed to stand on our own feet," Nasirzadeh said, noting that it would make no difference for the Islamic Republic's defensive capability whether the bans were to be lifted or retained.

Iranian lawmakers give green light to urgent motion to thwart sanctions

MPs oblige the Atomic Energy Organization to annually produce 120kg of uranium enriched to 20%

TEHRAN (Press TV) — The majority of Iranian lawmakers have given green light to an urgent strategic motion, which aims to counteract unilateral sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic by Western countries, topped by the United States.

The plan, approved during the Monday session of the Iranian Parliament, is in response to unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the country by the West, especially the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, and was passed with 196 votes in favor, six votes against and four abstentions.

It obliges the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to produce at least 120 kg of 20-percent enriched uranium annually and store it inside the country within two months after the adoption of the law.

According to the motion, the AEOI should start the installation, gas injection, enrichment and storage of nuclear materials up to an appropriate enrichment degree within a period of three months using at least 1,000 IR-2m centrifuges.

The motion also requires the government to stop any regulatory access beyond the Additional Protocol within two months of its enactment in line with Articles 36 and 37 of a multilateral nuclear deal -- officially



known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) -- signed between Iran and major world powers in 2015.

Within three months after the motion is made into law, the government will have to stop voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if Iran's banking relations with Europe and the volume of the Iranian oil purchased by the European countries do not return to normal and satisfactory conditions, it added.

Based on the motion, if the European parties to the JCPOA start observing their obligations within three months following approval of this law, the Iranian administration should submit a proposal to the parliament on Iran's reciprocal measures for

restoring full implementation of its JCPOA obligations.

Trump, a stern critic of the JCPOA, unilaterally pulled Washington out of the historic deal in May 2018, and unleashed the "toughest ever" sanctions against the Islamic Republic in defiance of global criticism in an attempt to strangle the Iranian economy, particularly in the oil sector.

Following its much-criticized exit, Washington has been attempting to prevent the remaining signatories from abiding by their commitments and thus kill the JCPOA, which is widely viewed as a fruit of international diplomacy.

In response to the U.S.'s unilateral move, Tehran has so far rowed back on its nuclear commitments five times in compliance, but stressed that its retaliatory measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the mutual trade from the U.S. sanctions.

As a first step, Iran increased its enriched uranium stockpile to beyond the 300 kilograms set by the JCPOA.

In the second step, Tehran began enriching uranium to purity rates beyond the JCPOA limit of 3.76 percent.

In the third phase, after the Europeans

failed to meet a 60-day deadline to meet Iran's demands and fulfill their commitments under the deal, Iran started up advanced centrifuges to boost the country's stockpile of enriched uranium and activated 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6 centrifuges for research and development purposes.

In November 2019, Iran began injecting gas into centrifuges at the Fordow plant as part of its fourth step away from the JCPOA under the supervision of the IAEA.

Back in January, the Iranian government issued a statement announcing its decision to take the fifth and final step in reducing its commitments under the JCPOA.

In a tweet on October 15, Iran's top atomic authority said Iranian scientists will confront the United States' bullying targeting the Islamic Republic's right to peaceful nuclear energy, asserting that the country will never give up this right in the face of Washington's one-upmanship.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran nuclear scientists, following the guidelines of the Supreme Leader (of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei), are ready to face the coercion and unilateralism of the U.S. government relating to the use of the nuclear energy," the AEOI said.

U.S. regime will collapse

Ayatollah Khamenei calls U.S. election a sign of decline

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — As the American people were preparing to cast their votes on Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei outlined Iran's strategy to make the country impervious to any change in the U.S. leadership.

The Leader addressed the nation on the occasion of the anniversary of the births of Prophet Mohammad and Imam Sadiq (PBUT), and also the occasion of the 13th of Aban, which marks the 41st anniversary of the takeover of the United States embassy in Tehran by the revolutionary students on November 4, 1979.

In a televised speech, the Leader said Iran's policies will not change with the change in the U.S. leadership, thus rebuffing any speculation that Tehran and Washington could repair the damage the Trump presidency has done to Iran-U.S. relations over the past four years.

"Some imagine that if a government succumbs to U.S. demands and policies, it will benefit from that. This is while governments that have surrendered to the U.S. bullying, have borne the brunt the most and their troubles have increased," said the Leader, warning that the U.S. hostilities toward the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue regardless of who will win the U.S. presidential election.

The Leader's warning came hours before Americans go to the polling places in an election that is widely predicted to result in a Biden victory. Opinion polls have now put Democratic candidate Joe Biden ahead of Republican candidate Donald Trump for months, although some recent polls put the two candidates neck and neck in a few battleground states.

The lead that Biden has been enjoying over Trump in recent months prompted many analysts and experts to speculate about what a Biden win would mean to the White House position on a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, and in general to the troubled Iran-U.S. relations. Biden himself has chosen to exacerbate the debate over his Iran policy by publishing an opinion peace on CNN website.

Biden said if he wins the November 3rd election, he will rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations. With our allies, we



will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern," Biden wrote in September.

Now that Biden is heading into the election with a remarkable lead over Trump, his Iran policy is once again reviving debate over whether a President Biden would revive the Obama Iran policy or he will pursue a different policy to deescalate tensions with Iran. Of course, even if he wins the election, the damage is done. It will be difficult for him to repair the damage Trump has done to the Iran-U.S. relations.

The least damage that Trump did to these relations is that he made it crystal clear for Iranians across the political spectrum that there is no difference between the policies of the Republican and Democratic parties toward Iran as they both seek to put pressure on Iran.

In light of these facts, Iran has decided to move forward without pinning hope on any rapprochement with the U.S.

The Leader said Iran has devised measured policies that will not be affected by the outcome of the U.S. election.

"No matter who wins the U.S. election, it won't affect our policy toward the U.S. Some people talk about what will happen if this or that one is elected. Yes, certain events may happen but they don't concern us. Our policy is calculated and clear," Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out.

The Leader also addressed the U.S. internal developments, especially the U.S.

presidential election, which he described as a sign of the U.S. decline.

"The current president [of the U.S.], who is supposed to hold the election, says this is 'the most rigged election' in America. And his rival says Trump seeks a massive voter fraud," said the Leader, noting that the current situation in the U.S. is "spectacular".

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that this situation is an example of the "ugly face of liberal democracy".

He added, "Regardless of who will assume office, the current situation is indicative of severe civil, political, moral decline in America. And this is an issue that is being acknowledged by thinkers in America."

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, the U.S. suffers from many malaises that will inevitably lead to the U.S. dissolution and collapse. He pointed out that the U.S. November election may hasten the destruction of the U.S. regime.

"The U.S. regime suffers from severe political, civil, and moral deviations. This is what their own analysts say. Such a regime won't last long. Of course, if certain people hold office, they speed up its destruction, while with others it may take a little longer," the Leader said in what appeared to be a hint that a Trump win would accelerate the destruction of the U.S. regime.

He said the main reason behind the U.S. hostility toward Iran is that the Islamic system in Iran keeps refusing to accept the U.S. "cruel policies" and recognize their domination.

"This enmity will continue. And the only way to end it, is that the other side should be disappointed that it cannot deliver a major blow to the people and government of Iran," the Leader remarked.

He underlined that the U.S. regime is a regime of arrogance.

"That regime of arrogance is a collection of harms, mischief and evils. The regime of arrogance is warmongering, a terrorist and breeds terrorism. It is interfering, corrupt and monopolistic. This means that the arrogant regime is an embodiment of indecency, evils and mischief. Therefore, confronting such arrogance and such a phenomenon is synonymous with rationality," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has said on many occasions that the U.S. is heading toward decline.

"Those who are our enemies and against us, admit that they are weak and yet do not forget the arrogant temperament; that is to say, the same arrogant spirit that they have learned during the last two or three centuries, the last three or four centuries, to always speak to the world and to everyone from a high position, they still have do so, and with all these scandals and backwardness, they have not given up this arrogant spirit; but the fact is that they are in decline in various ways, as they say," Ayatollah Khamenei said in late September 2019.

In the same year, the Leader described the Trump election in 2016 as a sign on the U.S. decline. According to Ayatollah Khamenei, there are a lot of doubts about the mental balance of Trump in the U.S., and when such a person becomes president in a country, it is indicative of the decline of that country.

"Dear brothers and sisters! Let me tell you this: The political decline of America is enough even if it does not have more than one reason - which I say now - and that reason is the election of a person with the characteristics of Mr. Donald Trump in America. This election per se is a sign of America's political decline," the Leader said in early June 2019.

He added, "That the fate of hundreds of millions of people are at the hands of a man with these characteristics is a sign of America's political decline. Someone who in America itself there are a lot of speculation about his mental balance, his intellectual balance, his moral balance. When he becomes the head of a country, it indicates the decline of that country; political decline, moral decline."

Rouhani congratulates Muslim leaders on birthday of Prophet Mohammad

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has sent separate messages to the leaders of Islamic countries, congratulating them on the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

The president emphasized that the life of the Holy Prophet of Islam (PBUH) has always been illuminating the path of mankind in the dark and guiding it to the high spiritual and luminous horizons of humanity, according to the official website of the president.

"Following the path and tradition of the Holy Prophet

(PBUH) and the use of the Qur'an and his heavenly miracles, can be a way for human beings to face all kinds of problems, differences, and misfortunes in the world," Rouhani said in his congratulatory messages.

He added, "The Holy Prophet of Islam is a model of morality and mercy for the worlds, and insulting such a noble person is an insult to values, morality, and freedom, and support for the insulters, support for vileness and desecration will mean supporting extremism. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns such an act, and we expect Islamic

countries to condemn such foolish acts."

President Rouhani also expressed hope that thanks to this blessed birthday, "we would be able to accelerate the fight against COVID-19 and witness the eradication and treatment of coronavirus worldwide."

"I am confident that with each other's help, the difficult days that this devastating disease has befallen the world will soon be over and the health and prosperity of life will return to all humanity, especially the people of Islamic countries," the president noted.

Iran does not interfere in Yemen's internal affairs: Yemeni FM

1→ we carry out these attacks ourselves, relying on our own weapons depots. Iran, God willing, will be one of the parties to peace. I emphasize again that Iran will be one of the parties to this peace. A peace that all the people of Yemen will enjoy. There is no Iranian interference in our internal affairs," the Yemeni foreign minister asserted.

Sharaf's comments came at a time when Saudi Arabia keeps accusing Iran of interfering in Yemen's internal affairs.

Iran has recently appointed a new ambassador to Yemen. The ambassador, Hassan Irlou, has submitted his credentials to the Yemen foreign minister.

Iran has said the appointment of Irlou will open a new chapter in Iran-Yemen relations. "Yemen is not a playground for aggressors. We consider the future of Yemen to all Yemenis. The beginning of the mission

of Mr. Hassan Irlou, a diplomat of good manners, expert and professional, as our country's new ambassador in Sanaa, will be a new chapter in the constructive relations between Iran and Yemen," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, said in a tweet, shortly after the appointment of Irlou.

Irlou has said Iran will work with the Yemeni government to achieve peace in Yemen.

"We will cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish security and peace and uproot terrorism," tweeted the new ambassador while strongly condemning the assassination of Hassan Zaid, Yemen's minister of sports and the youth.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has outlined the main contours of Irlou's mission



in Yemen.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Irlou's agenda in Yemen includes strengthening national reconciliation, ending the war in Yemen through cooperation among Yemeni and international players, weakening the blockade on Yemen, and encouraging Yemeni tribes and political groups to resolve their internal problems through

Yemeni-Yemeni talks.

Irlou published a tweet shortly after arriving in Sanaa, but Twitter blocked the ambassador's Twitter account without providing any explanation. Irlou said he did not make any remarks in violation of Twitter rules, adding that Twitter moved to delete his account under the pressure of the Saudi lobby. The ambassador created a new account on Twitter after his previous account was deleted.

"Unfortunately, my first Twitter account was blocked without any justification, and while I did not make any mistake. According to the threats and information that I received from Saudi Arabia, the Saudi lobby has bought Twitter to suppress the voice of righteousness and the voice of their opponents," tweeted Irlou, using his new Twitter account.

On Monday evening, gunmen opened fire at six different locations in the Austrian capital, Vienna, killing at least four people and seriously injuring several others.

Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said one of the attackers who was shot dead by police, was an "Islamist terrorist." According to the minister, the 20-year-old gunman had been released early from jail last December, after he was convicted of trying to join the Daesh terrorist group in Syria.

Iran condemns terrorist attack in Austria

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, condemned on Tuesday the terrorist attack in Austria, expressing sympathy with the families of the victims of the attack.

"Terrorism should be condemned in all its forms. The deplorable incident in Vienna once again shows that terrorism and extremism know no borders, and replacing rationality with hatred and incitement creates

a vicious cycle that will only pave the way for the spread of extremist and violent tendencies," Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Tuesday morning.

The spokesman also called on the international community to cooperate on the eradication of terrorism, calling this cooperation an "essential" move to uproot terrorism.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will always be part of these efforts," Khatibzadeh asserted.

Zarif to embark on tour of Latin America

Zarif will leave Cuba for Venezuela.

"Cuba and Venezuela are among the political partners of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Latin American region, which have long had extensive political cooperation in bilateral, regional and international sectors," said Khatibzadeh, adding, "Venezuela is one of our country's main destinations for the export of tech-

nical and engineering services, and the Iranian private sector has implemented or is implementing various projects in this country."

According to the spokesman, Iran and Venezuela have built "good cooperation" in the energy sector.

He added, "During Dr. Zarif's visit to the two countries, in addition to consulting with

senior officials of these countries on important regional and international issues and informing these friendly countries about the positions and views of our country, extensive cooperation in various economic and trade sectors will be discussed."

Zarif will also visit Bolivia and take part in the inauguration of the country's new president.

SPORTS

Ali Karimi thanks Esteghlal fans

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal iconic midfielder **d e s k** Ali Karimi, who has officially joined Qatar Sports Club, has sent a note of gratitude to the Esteghlal fans.

The 26-year-old midfielder has been handed No. 9 jersey in the Qatari football club.

Karimi started his playing career at Sepahan in 2012 and has also played in Croatian clubs Dinamo Zagreb and Lokomotiva.

Karimi joined football club Esteghlal in 2018 and scored eight goals in 52 matches for the Blues.

"I have nothing to say but thank you for supporting me all the time," Karimi wrote on his Instagram account.

Qatar Sports Club are a sports club based in Doha, Qatar. They are best known for their football team which compete in the Qatar Stars League.

Qatar SC play their home games in the fourth largest stadium in Qatar, Qatar SC Stadium, which has a capacity of 12,000.



Persepolis move up at Club Asia Rankings

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Persepolis of Iran have climbed **d e s k** one spot to fourth in the Club Asia Ranking.

Persepolis, who won 2020 AFC Champions League (West) on Oct. 3, have moved up one place with 1623 points, footballdatabase.com reported.

Saudi Arabian giants Al Hilal lead the standing, followed by Japanese Kawasaki Frontale and Jeonbuk from South Korea.

Bayern Munich remain top spot of the Club World Ranking with 2101 points, followed by Liverpool and PSG.

Al Rayyan part way with Farhad Ghaemi

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Qatari volleyball club Al Rayyan **d e s k** parted company with Iranian outside spiker Farhad Ghaemi.

The 31-year-old player had joined Al Rayyan in April but failed to meet the team's expectations.

Qatari daily Al Raya has reported that Al Rayyan have parted company with the Iranian international player.

Al Rayyan lost to Al Arabi at the Amir Cup semifinals and now the Qatari club are going to strengthen their team for the new season which will kick off on Friday.

Al Rayyan will start the league with a match against Qatar Sports Club on Saturday.

The best international achievement for Al Rayyan volleyball team was in 2014 when they finished in second place in the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Azmoun out against Lazio: UCL Matchday 3

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Zenit St Petersburg striker **d e s k** Sardar Azmoun missed the match against Lazio at the UEFA Champions League Matchday 3.

The Russian champions will host Italian Lazio on Wednesday in Group F.

Zenit are in danger of being cut adrift at the bottom of the Group.

The Russian outfit have lost to Club Brugge and Borussia Dortmund and Lazio match will be a must-win game for them.

Azmoun had also missed the match against Dortmund due to the injury.

Furthermore, Lazio three players Ciro Immobile, Lucas Leiva and Thomas Strakosha won't travel to Russia for match against Zenit St Petersburg.

Marouf, Iran's shining star

Masterminding Iran's play for well over a decade and helping bring the country's national team amongst the world's elite, setter Saeid Marouf has long been a shining star in Iranian, Asian and world volleyball.

Hailing from a family deeply involved with volleyball, the now 35-year-old progressed through all stages of Iran's age-group national teams, guiding his sides to silver medals at the U19 Asian Championship in 2003 and the U20 Asian Championship in 2004, capping these with a bronze at the 2004 FIVB Volleyball U19 World Championship.

But by 2005 he was already establishing himself within Iran's senior team and was part of the squads that won gold medals at the Asian Cups of 2008 in Nakhon Ratchasima and in 2010 in his hometown of Urmia.

Marouf has also won gold medals at the 2013 and 2019 Asian Championships, as well as at the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games.

In the wider world, Marouf led Iran to bronze at the 2017 FIVB Volleyball World Grand Champions Cup.

At club level, Marouf has rarely ventured outside Iran's borders, though he has moved about a fair bit within the country, winning national titles with Sanam Tehran, Kalleh Mazandaran and Matin Varamin.

His first stint abroad was in 2015 for practically half a season with Russia's mighty Zenit Kazan - but during that time he did get to pick up a title in the Russian Superleague and the most coveted gold medal of the European Champions League.

Marouf returned to Iran for another three years, before joining Italy's Emma Villas Siena in their only season in the country's A1 League

When Siena were again relegated to the A2 division after the 2018-19 season, Marouf moved on to join China's Beijing BAIC Motor in 2019, where he's been playing since.

(Source: FIVB)

NIDC indigenizes know-how for manufacturing highly-used parts

1 → The official’s saying has already come true, as his company managed to indigenize the know-how for manufacturing some significant parts, and also in completing the digging operations sooner than the schedule.

The latest report released by the NIDC shows that the company has dug and completed the digging operation of 72 oil and gas wells during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) some 233 days sooner than the planned time.



Holding 70 onshore and offshore drilling rigs as well as equipment and facilities for offering integrated technical and engineering services, the National Iranian Drilling Company accounts for a major part of drilling exploration as well as appraisal/development wells in Iran.

As previously announced, the company has dug over 240 oil and gas wells across the country in the past two years.

Commodities worth \$983m traded at IME in October

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Over 2.462 million tons of commodities worth \$983 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) during October, the IME’s Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported.

As reported, last month, the oil and petrochemical trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 1.374 million tons of commodities worth more than \$439 million.

On this trading floor, more than 349,150 tons of bitumen, 269,990 tons of polymer products and 147,633 tons of chemical products, 438,060 tons of VB feed stock, 96,500 tons of lube cut oil, 56,005 tons of sulfur, 7,434 tons of insulation, 700 tons of argon as well as 9,263 tons of oil products were traded by the customers.

The metal and mineral trading floor witnessed trading over 1.085 million tons of commodities worth more than \$541 million.

On this trading floor 991,864 tons of steel, 16,695 tons of copper, 480 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 36 tons of precious metals concentrates, 53,420 tons of zinc, 21,290 tons of aluminum, 40 tons of lead ingot, 1,500 tons of coke as well as 50 kg of gold bullion were traded by the customers.

Furthermore, in agricultural trading floor of the IME more than 1,730 kg of saffron worth over \$174,000 was traded by the customers.

The side market of the IME experienced trading of a total of 1,500 empty barrels, 70 tons of industrial soot, 504 tons of tomato paste, 58 tons of used locomotive engine oil, 852 tons of metal scrap, 750 tons of ferrosilicon as well as 280 tons of normal paraffin.

As previously reported, more than 3.585 million tons of commodities worth over \$1.56 billion had traded at IME in September.

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

In late April, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market’s new outlook plan, which depicts IME’s development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is “Surge in Production” is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

Bushehr Province’s date exports up 30% in 7 months yr/yr

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Export of dates from Iran’s southwestern Bushehr Province during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) has increased 30 percent compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.



Abolqasem Mohammadzadeh, the deputy head of the province’s Industry, Mining and Trade Department for trade promotion affairs, announced that Bushehr has exported 13,000 tons of dates during the mentioned period of time.

He put the country’s exports of dates at 130,000 tons in the seven-month period.

Mohammadzadeh mentioned India, Russia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia, and Iraqi Kurdistan as the major export destinations of Bushehr Province’s dates.

Every year, up to 1.2 million tons of various types of dates are produced in the country, making it the second-largest producer in terms of production and area under cultivation and the fifth largest exporter.

Iranian dates are being exported to India, Southeast Asia, CIS countries, Eurasia, Russia, and Europe.

819 idle industrial units revived in 7 months

1 → the official reiterated, and mentioned lack of liquidity, problems in terms of supplying raw materials and machinery, and absence of market as the main reasons making the units inactive.

ISIPO’s Previous Head Mohsen Salehinia has said that providing liquidity is the main issue for many of the country’s production units, so based on the arrangements made, these units can receive part of their needed liquidity through bank facilities.

“Currently, the share of the country’s production and industrial units in receiving bank facilities is about 31 percent and it is necessary to allocate a larger share of banking facilities to the country’s production and industry,” he added.

Given the position of production in the country’s economy and employment, and the fact that production units are facing lack of liquidity to supply raw materials and equipment, it is necessary to increase their share of bank facilities up to at least 40 percent, Salehinia stressed.

He further said: “Despite all the limitations, we are currently witnessing an increase in



production in some units, for example those active in the field of home appliances; also, according to the plans made and by solving the problems in the way of the production and

industrial units, we will realize the motto of “Surge in Production” by the end of this year.”

Strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important

125 major energy projects to be inaugurated across Iran by Mar. 2021

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that his ministry is going to inaugurate 125 major projects under the framework of the A-B-Iran scheme, by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of a water supply project in the northern province of Semnan on Monday, Ardakanian noted that so far 125 projects have gone operational across the country under the framework of the mentioned program.

According to the official, some 320 trillion rials (about \$7.61 billion) so far has been invested in the mentioned 125 projects.

Based on the mentioned program, a total of 500 trillion rials (over \$11.9 billion) worth of energy projects are planned to be inaugurated and put into operation during the current Iranian calendar year.

A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water

and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year, during which Ardakanian 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).

Underlining the significance of the inaugurated projects and the government’s efforts for supplying drinkable water to the country’s rural areas, the minister said currently over 82 percent of Iran’s rural population is supplied with drinkable water through pipelines while the average access to clean water in 52 percent worldwide.

“Today, 100 percent of the country’s urban population enjoys safe drinking water through pipeline, which is four percent higher than the global average,” the official said.

Since the beginning of the second phase of the A-B-Program in the current Iranian calendar year every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

Back in August, Ardakanian said that in the second



phase of the A-B-Iran scheme 250 projects were going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Trade with ECO members stands at over \$4.5b in H1

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s trade with the member nations of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) reached \$4.542 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

According to Rouhollah Latfi, during the mentioned six months Iran traded over 9.199 million tons of commodities with ECO member countries including Turkey, Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Iran exported 6,540,295 tons of commodities worth over \$2.526 billion to the said nations in the mentioned period, of which Afghanistan with \$1.108 billion, was the first destination for the export of Iranian goods in this union, the official said.

Meanwhile, the country imported 2,657,706 tons of goods valued at over \$2.016 billion from the ECO member countries, with the largest amount of imports coming from Turkey worth over \$1.843 billion.

As previously reported by IRICA, the value of Iran’s non-oil trade during the first six months of the current year stood at \$30.349 billion.

In the mentioned six months, Iran imported \$16.783 billion worth of goods, while exporting \$13.566 billion.

The volume of traded goods was es-

timated at about 62.842 million tons, of which over 46.318 million tons were related to exports and about 16.524 million tons were imported goods.

Iran’s top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with over \$3.709 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.971 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.933 billion, and Afghanistan with \$1.103 billion as well as Turkey with \$731 million, so the country’s top five export destinations remained the same in comparison to previous months, according to IRICA.

China accounted for over 27 percent of Iran’s total exports, followed by Iraq, UAE, Afghanistan, and Turkey with 21.9 percent, 14.2 percent, 8.1 percent, and 45.3 percent respectively.

Polyethylene, natural gas, liquefied propane, and other light oils and products are Iran’s major export items.

According to the IRICA, more than 70 percent of the imported goods were basic goods and the rest were mainly raw materials, machinery and spare parts for production units.

The top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$4.295 billion, the UAE with \$3.961 billion, Turkey with \$1.814 billion, India with \$1.097 billion, and Germany with \$835 million worth of imports.

China accounted for nearly 26 percent of Iran’s total imports, followed by UAE, Turkey, India, and Germany with 23 percent, 10.8 percent, 6.5 percent, and five percent, respectively.

Iran-EAEU FTA taskforce holds online meeting

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — An online meeting of the Iran-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade agreement (FTA) taskforce, which was set up following the agreement signed between the two sides in October 2019, was held on Monday.

The meeting was attended by the chairs of the mentioned taskforce, the Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum, and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Minister of Trade Andrey Slepnev, the portal of TPO reported.

Speaking in this videoconference meeting, the officials mentioned the increase in trade exchanges between Iran and EAEU since the implementation of the FTA despite the coronavirus outbreak, saying it is an indication of their trade capacities.

Underlining the high trade capacity between Iran and the EAEU, in the meeting Zadboum called for further cooperation between the two sides to provide the necessary infrastructure in transport, transit, banking, and customs for paving the way for the successful implementation of the trade agreement.

Converting the current (temporary) agreement into a permanent one requires the development of the current infrastructure for a higher level of trade between the two sides or to create new infrastructures, because the current infrastructure is not enough for a favorable volume of trade, and in this regard also the development of cooperation in the fields of transport, banking, and investment in free zones is of

particular importance, Zadboum stressed.

Iran is also willing to develop cooperation in the field of services and it is necessary to consider specific sectors like services, in the free trade agreement or in the form of separate agreements, based on which the parties could expand cooperation in new fields, the official added.

In the end, it was decided the parties will hold consultative meetings on a free trade agreement and present issues to be considered, and to exchange views in all areas related to the mentioned agreement, so that by the end of 2020, the parties will reach a technical goal; then, the official negotiations will begin in February 2021.

Iran and Eurasian Economic Union reached a free trade agreement in May 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs, the agreement came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan).

The trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides.

The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran’s exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a turning point for the Islamic Republic plans for boosting non-oil exports during the U.S. sanctions.

Liquidity rises 17.1%



Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), 7.3-percent more than the figure for the end of the past year.

Based on the CBI report, the liquidity growth has been inevitable in the country considering the outbreak of the coronavirus and the injection of liquidity by the government for supporting households and

businesses.

As reported, considering the CBI’s monetary policy frameworks and in line with the bank’s inflationary targets, the liquidity growth is expected to return to its normal trend in the coming months.

In mid-September, board members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) had criticized the unbridled liquidity growth in the country claiming it to be causing disruption in many economic and industrial sectors.

During the 16th meeting of the TCCIMA board of representatives, the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari noted that currently, liquidity is the most important factor that is disrupting the country’s economic system.

According to Khansari, if the current trend continues, the liquidity growth will reach 32 percent and 8 quadrillion rials (about \$190.4 billion) will be added to the country’s liquidity by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

On the verge of serious domestic unrest

BY Donald Losman

We are on the verge of some serious domestic unrest. If the election is contested, as I suspect it will be, it may take weeks to sort out. During that time it is likely that groups both from the left and the right will take to the streets for demonstrations, ostensibly peaceful, but very likely to degenerate into riots, clashes with each other, and with the police. It could get very ugly. Further, even after the election winner is finally determined, if it is Trump, I believe riots and disorder will continue as the political left will be frustrated, angry, and unable to accept the outcome.

American reactions will largely depend on who is in charge politically. If Trump wins, there will be huge demonstrations and riots in many cities. To the extent that they are Democratic locations—mayors and governors—the protests will tend to continue with local leadership choosing to allow their cities and economies to be disrupted rather than tame the crowd. If such demonstrations become disorderly in Republican run cities, local police will be sent into action. Further, they will ask for federal assistance. If Trump



is president, they will get assistance; if Biden is president, they will not.

U.S. foreign policy in West Asia will change slightly with a Biden administration. There will be more stress, mainly verbal, but also diplomatic, on expanding U.S. values such as human rights, democracy,

fair play. This will no doubt put pressure on U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Somewhat oddly, such pressure is unlikely to be exerted against Iran or Turkey. There will also be more pressure for Saudi to get out of Yemen.

Regarding Iran, Biden will attempt to re-es-

tablish the JCPOA. His proposals are likely to involve the ending of sanctions in exchange for a new agreement which puts greater time limitations on Iran's enrichment actions as well as limits on ICBM efforts. Exactly how such negotiations will end up is something I cannot possibly even try to predict.

Regarding Israel, Biden's personal inclination is to maintain strong ties with Israel. However, his vice president, Congressional members such as 'the squad,' BLM (Black Lives Matter) will push against him. I suspect they will prevail in getting him less favorably inclined toward Israel.

On some other issues, Biden will be quick to repair relations with China, even if it means softening or removing the trade demands of the Trump administration. On the economic front, economic growth under Biden is likely to be meaningfully slower than under Trump. Biden is likely to return to the Paris Agreement on the environment; Trump will not.

Donald Lee Losman is a professor of Economics and West Asian Studies at National Defense University and a lecturer in International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs.

Electoral College thoroughly undemocratic: American professor

“The Electoral College, which is partly rooted in slavery, makes a mockery of democracy in America.”

1 → Asked about some factors that call into question whether America is a democracy, the San Francisco State University professor notes that the election does not call into question democracy in America, “but the issues of voter suppression, Trump's unwillingness to say he will accept the outcome of the election if he loses, his unwillingness to assure a peaceful transfer of power, the possibility the outcome will not be known on election night, the prospect of Supreme Court intervention all make this an unusual, controversial and messy election, but the American—such as it is— is not in question.”

Describing the Supreme Court lawyers as “politicians in robes,” Smith argues that the court has a role in U.S. elections inconsistent with democratic principles, and more so than the historical normal, is highly partisan.

Some restrictions were put on voters in Texas, a move which got some experts to say that battle playing across America is, in some ways, a continuation of a centuries-long fight over

access to the franchise.

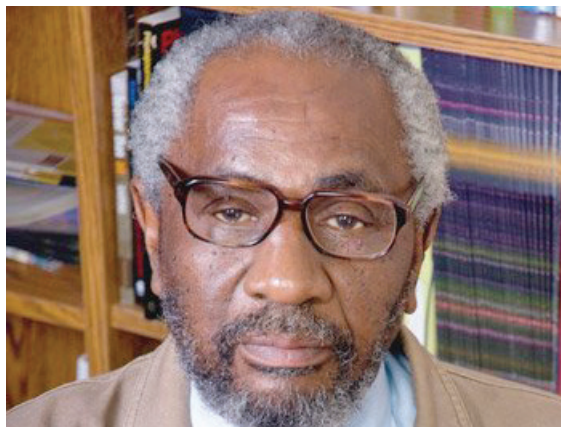
Last month, Texas's governor, Greg Abbott, a Republican, abruptly issued an order that limited each county in the state to offer one ballot drop box.

In this regard, the American academic believes that “what happens in Texas and elsewhere in the nation is part of a long, sordid history of vote denial and suppression in the U.S., which has become increasingly blatant in recent elections.”

Overall, it seems that the Tuesday election did not proceed as was predicted, and no one knows what will happen.

However, Smith emphasizes that “the polls are generally accurate and trustworthy; they accurately predicted the popular vote outcome in 2016.”

Underneath it all, many see a Machiavellian approach by the ruling party. It wants to preserve power by making harder for certain groups like minorities, young people, and the poor to vote.



U.S. nationwide unrest: A challenge to the U.S. sham democracy

1 → Regardless of which man is President on January 21, it will take the U.S. a long time to heal and the political and security structure will be looking for a way to unite the nation in a common cause. War is the usual solution to that problem in the U.S. Let us hope another resolution is found.

A Biden administration will be somewhat less aggressive in its blind support for the whims of the Netanyahu regime, but the actions of Trump - moving the embassy to Jerusalem and recognition of the Golan Heights as part of Israel, etc. - will not be reversed. An end to talk about the “Deal of the Century”, and

probably a return to UNRWA support can be expected, but there will be no change in the longstanding U.S. support for the Israeli government. In addition, continued U.S. support for the Arab monarchies is assured.

Since the Biden foreign policy team will be full of the same neoconservatives that advised President Obama, I would expect an end to serious peace talks with the Taliban, a continued unwillingness to leave Iraq, continued U.S. occupation of parts of Syria, and no significant change in the policy toward Iran.

Biden will want to return to the JCPOA,



Charles Dunaway is an American radio host and journalist who runs an online political forum.

mostly in order to preserve his party's legacy - the only foreign policy achievement of the Obama years. However, I would assume the government of Iran will be suspicious of any such move and they should be. Biden, like Obama, will be surrounded by Zionist hawks who will seek to add new conditions unacceptable to Tehran, or provide less sanction relief than would be required to conform to the JCPOA. The continuing pressure from the Israel Lobby, the Saudi lobby, and the foreign policy establishment will prevent Biden from taking any step toward significant sanctions reduction.

U.S. election: Minor effect on West Asian policy, major implications for domestic unrest

1 → But today, the pro-Trump and anti-Trump factions are not going to be reading from the same script. So the response to the unrest could be as chaotic as the unrest itself. In fact, the response might actually amplify the chaos. And once the chaos reaches a certain point, we might even get a Constitutional crisis and a declaration of martial law, curtailing Americans' remaining freedoms, including the freedom to express our views.

However, if Biden becomes president, he will most

likely try to re-enter the JCPOA. But the U.S. war against the Axis of Resistance won't end, it will just become subtler. Biden and Harris, who may take over sooner rather than later, are both strongly pro-Zionist. Though they may scale back Trump's all-out support for Netanyahu and Bin Salman, they are unlikely to reverse U.S. subservience to Zionism. I would expect them to return to policies roughly similar to those of the Obama Administration.

U.S. should compensate illegal sanctions against Iran and Cuba: Tampere University scholar

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – An American academic says that the U.S. should compensate the decades-old illegal sanctions and embargo against Iran and Cuba.

Tuomo Melasuo, a political science professor at Tampere University, tells the Tehran Times that the idea of conditionality for the U.S. return to the JCPOA, can reinforce multilateralism around the world.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ The U.S. is practicing more and more unilateral policies and at the same time it withdraws from major international and multilateral treaties. This policy continues to isolate that country. Don't you think this would allow the rest of the world, especially China and Russia together with Europe, to challenge the United States' leading role in many different fields?

A: It is true that the USA is isolating herself more and more from world affairs. However, this is a very ambivalent evolution. The general trend today goes to opposite direction, nobody can face the future alone anymore. We do not need another North

Korea, even if it is a former “superpower”. It is extremely difficult to say if China, Russia and Europe can have a common stand towards the USA, but if they want to remain responsible countries, they must fulfil the expectations the rest of the world is placing on them.

■ Do you agree that Iran should demand compensation for the losses the U.S. has caused through its illegal sanctions?

A: This also is a difficult question that should be debated on international level. Illegal sanctions are causing suffering for many nations and innocent people.

Of course, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif can require that the USA compensate Iran's losses. Nevertheless, the goal of the international community should be larger, and should aim at the creation of regime where all rogue states, be it superpower, would be prosecuted for unilateral and illegal sanctions.

This kind of conditionality for the USA's return to the JCPOA, could be an occasion to strengthen this multilateral drive towards more just world.

Further on, besides the sanctions against

Iran, the USA should compensate also the decades-old illegal sanctions and embargo against Cuba.

■ Do you think the controversies between Iran and the U.S. would end with a war?

A: Of course, I hope that these controversies will not lead to a war. It would be the worst thing to happen for both antagonists, but at the same time it would be a catastrophe for the whole Middle East (West Asia) and for international community. This requires that both antagonists do all they can in order to avoid the war. Today's international community and also individual countries have such a complex and multimodal profiles that a war is not a solution, on the contrary.

■ Why does Israel oppose creating a West Asia zone free of nuclear weapon?

A: Up to my understanding there are mainly two explanations for your question. Primo, that Israel has never recognized that it owns nuclear arms. It might voluntarily maintain a secrecy on it also for leaving the world believe that it could really use those arms against its neighbors.

Secondo, if the nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East (West Asia) would be



created, in one hand, it would reduce the strategic weight of the USA and its vassal in the area. On the other hand, the NWFZME will reduce the tensions in the region and make them more local. At the same time the only nuclear arms country in the area will lose its strategic position and become a banal local entity.

By the way, I am wondering why this crucial issue has not been included in Mr. Trump's efforts for the peace, neither it seems to play no role in the new initiative's countries like the UAE and Bahrain have done recently.

White House barricaded over fears of unrest

A temporary wall has been erected around the White House perimeter as law enforcement agencies prepare in advance for potential unrest and violence on Election Day.

The media reported a non-scalable “anti-climb” fence, made from a welded wire mesh that is impossible to climb and very difficult to cut, installed around the White House on Monday.

Additional fencing already had been erected around Lafayette Square, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, the location of protests over racial equality in June following the police-killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man who died on May 25 when a Minneapolis police officer knelt on the neck of the handcuffed former bouncer for nearly nine minutes during an arrest.

The new fencing was among other measures being taken in Washington, DC, and other cities ahead of expected protests.

Meanwhile, fears of possible unrest on Election Night and beyond prompted many businesses and shops to board up doors and windows.

In anticipation of violence, in New York City, the Empire State Building, the Macy's department store, and the skyscraper that houses the Trump-favored Fox News channel were all boarded up.

On Rodeo Drive, one of the most expensive shopping streets in California's Beverly Hills, staff stripped the display windows at Tiffany & Co. and Van Cleef & Arpels of their jewels.

“Hopefully, this is all for nothing,” Kathy Gohari, vice president of the Rodeo Drive Committee, the merchant's association, said on Monday as she watched workers nail plywood over luxury storefronts.

However, in New York City's Times Square in recent days, ardent Republican Trump supporters and Democrats, as well as adherents of the anti-fascist movement known as ANTIFA, have been clashing with one another.

US President Donald Trump has warned that he expected an unprecedented level of cheating and violence in the course of the 2020 presidential election.

“[C]heating can happen as you have never seen,” Trump told a rally in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on Monday.

In a Monday night tweet, Trump criticized the US Supreme Court's decision to allow officials in Pennsylvania and North Carolina to continue accepting and counting mail-in ballots for a few days after Election Day, saying the court ruling will “induce violence in the streets.”

Trump's prediction or threat of violence has increased anxieties about the potential for violence in a polarized nation engaged in a bitter and divisive race to send their favored presidential candidate to the White House.

N Korea building 2 submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles: South

South Korea's spy agency has alleged that the rival North is building two new submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles.

On Tuesday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited the country's National Intelligence Service as making the allegation, without elaborating or producing any evidence about the claim.

There was no immediate reaction from Pyongyang. The claim comes nearly three weeks after North Korea showcased its new long-range ballistic missiles during a military parade marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of its ruling Workers' Party.

“We will continue to build our national defense power and self-defensive war deterrence, in the face of hostile forces,” North Korean leader Kim Jong-un emphasized at the time, but vowed that the country's military power would not be used preemptively.

The remarks came amid assertions by officials in Seoul and Washington that the North might begin unveiling new strategic weapons.

Pyongyang also displayed the Hwasong-15, the longest-range missile it has ever tested, and what is thought to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile.

North Korea had suspended its nuclear and missile tests and demolished a nuclear test site in 2018 as signs of goodwill in the course of diplomacy then underway with the U.S.

Kim met U.S. President Donald Trump three times, but diplomacy gradually halted owing to Washington's refusal to relieve any of its harsh sanctions on Pyongyang in exchange for the goodwill measures.

Israeli bulldozers level, demolish structures in Jerusalem neighborhood

The Israeli municipality of Jerusalem today leveled and demolished several Palestinian-owned structures and land in Beit Hanina and Jabal al-Mukabbir neighborhoods, according to a media center and witnesses.

The Wadi Hilweh Information Center reported that Israeli police escorted a bulldozer into Beit Hanina neighborhood, where the Hyundai heavy machinery leveled a plot of land.

Police also forced their way into Jabal al-Mukabbir neighborhood, where they used a bulldozer to demolish a horse shed and destroyed a cement floor.

Using the pretext of illegal building, Israel demolishes houses on a regular basis to restrict Palestinian expansion in occupied Jerusalem.

At the same time, the municipality and government build tens of thousands of housing units in illegal settlements in East Jerusalem for Jews with a goal to offset the demographic balance in favor of the Jewish settlers in the occupied city.

Although Palestinians in East Jerusalem, a part of the internationally recognized Palestinian Territory that has been subject to Israeli military occupation since 1967, they are denied their citizenship rights and are instead classified only as “residents” whose permits can be revoked if they move away from the city for more than a few years.

They are also discriminated against in all aspects of life including housing, employment and services, and are unable to access services in the West Bank due to the construction of Israel's separation wall.

According to a report by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, the Israeli High Court could be liable for war crimes for their policies that led to the dispossession of Palestinians from their properties in Area C of the West Bank.

Some 150,000 craftspeople to get free insurance

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The Iranian government will offer free insurance coverage to around 150,000 craftspeople and artisans who live in small towns and villages across the country.

“150,000 craftspeople, living in villages and small towns, as well as nomadic crafters, will be granted insurance coverage and the government will provide payments for the first year,” IRNA quoted Pouya Mahmoudian, the deputy cultural heritage, handicrafts, and tourism minister, as saying on Monday.



“Craftswomen constitute some 75 percent of crafters in villages, small towns, and nomadic tribes, and many of whom are breadwinners,” she added.

In late January, Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran’s number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

The country exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Seljuk-era relics found in northern Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Iranian authorities have recently discovered 81 ancient relics dating back to the Seljuk era (1037–1194) in the city of Gorgan, the northern province of Golestan.



The objects were found in an illegally-excavated well, Amir Rahmatollahi, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Monday, CHTN reported.

The relics, which include plates, candlesticks, kohl container, pen pot, and incense burner, were handed over to the Archaeological Museum of Gorgan, the official added.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Seljuk, also spelled, Seljuq, was a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in the Middle East.

Old plane trees in Semnan added to National Heritage list

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Some old plane trees across the north-central province of Semnan have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscription on Monday in a letter to the governor-general of the province, IRNA reported.



Old plane trees of Ermian, Sukhteh, and Tuye Darvar, and collections of old trees of Vali-e Asr alley and historical complex of Cheshmeh-Ali were added to the National Heritage list.

The list also includes more natural spots such as Talkhab mineral spring, a salt lake, and Darband cave.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Menar Jonban: they really shake!

➔ 1 Such dynamic behavior has become a puzzle to architects and structural engineers for many years as there is no crack running on it due to centuries of shaking. Some believe that its considerable flexibility comes from a special type of mortar that has been utilized in its masonry.

The building is built in Mongolian style and only has one iwan.

The two minarets have not been added to the building until the end of the Safavid era. The most interesting fact about these minarets is not their simultaneously shake, but the mystery behind these shakes. So far, no one exactly has exactly known why these minarets shake in the way they do, but the closest guess is that these movements are due to the Doppler effect, which is the change in frequency of a wave in relation to an observer who is moving relative to the wave source.

Since the minarets are identical in every way, the movement of one will cause the same effect on the other. Also, In terms of decorations, Menar Jonban has beautiful blue and turquoise tiles with four-star and multilateral shapes. The minarets are elegantly ornamented with lovely but unpretentious brickwork. Narrow spiral staircases lead to the summits of the minarets, which are pierced by open arches.

Opinions

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the minaret have posted to TripAdvisor,



one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

“Shaking minaret”

If you want to see they’re really shaking, choose the time to get there, otherwise you have to wait for nearly an hour. They shake the minarets every hour sharp (I mean 12, 1, 2...) Before the shaking, a guy

will explain to you the structure but only in Persian. Luckily the guy spoke English so he explained to us about the DVD they were selling as a souvenir.

Interesting... As a Japanese, who has an earthquake often think it's a bit scary for such a building to shake a lot, but in a way, it may absorb the shake so it may be...

Archaeological survey resumed at ancient hill with Bronze Age relics northwest Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The second archaeological survey has recently commenced at Tappeh Gerdi-Gouran months after the ancient mound situated in Iran’s northwestern Piranshahr county yielded relics and vestiges from the Bronze Age.

“The second season of an archeological survey has started at Tappeh Gerdi-Gouran of Piranshahr, which is situated in West Azarbaijan province, with the aim of completing the information of the [ancient] layers and architectural ruins [partly] obtained during the first chapter,” ILNA quoted Azita Mirzaei, who leads the survey, as saying on Monday.

Stratigraphic excavations conducted in the first chapter revealed layers, deposits, and pottery fragments connected with the late Islamic periods, the Parthian era ..., and the Bronze Age, the archaeologist said.

Last month, a number of graves and human skeletons were discovered near Piranshahr in a survey led by archaeologist Afrasyab Geravand. The oldest remains

discovered in the area show that the region was inhabited in prehistoric times, and the history of human presence in the region dates back to about 30,000 years ago.

West Azarbaijan embraces various lush natural scenarios, cultural heritage sites, and museums, including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander’s generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there.

The area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE. The Arabs controlled Azerbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers.



The Mongols overran the region in the 13th century, and, under the ruler Hulegu, Azarbaijan became the center of a Mongol empire extending from Syria on the west to the Oxus River (now the Amu Darya) on the east.

UNESCO-tagged Takht-e Soleyman boosts tourism infrastructure

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Tourism infrastructure at the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleyman, an ancient sanctuary in northwest Iran, has been reinforced through building a cobblestone road and parking space, as well as improving sanitary services.

Takht-e Soleyman (“Solomon’s Throne”) bears testimony to various eras of the nation’s history. It is situated in the southeastern highlands of West Azarbaijan province overlooking a lake with a backdrop of a snowcapped mountain range.



“During this [Iranian calendar year], 22,000,000 rials have been spent for

reinforcing tourism infrastructure of the World Heritage site of Takht-e Soleyman,” provincial tourism chief Jalil Jabbari announced on Monday.

Building a water supply network, constructing a cobblestone road toward the monument, enhancing sanitary services, as well as landscaping and lightening were implemented during the project, the official noted.

The historical ensemble was established in a geologically anomalous location as the base of the temple complex sits on an oval mound roughly 350 by

550 meters. Inspired by natural context, the rich harmonious composition draws local and foreign travelers who want even for minutes revel in its peaceful atmosphere.

According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the surrounding landscape of the sanctuary was probably first inhabited sometime in the 1st millennium BC. Some construction on the mound itself dates from the early Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), and there are traces of settlement activity from the Parthian period.

Permanent handicrafts market to open in Kermanshah

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A permanent market for handicrafts is planned to be established in the city of Kermanshah, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

A budget of 10 billion rials (\$238,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to launch the market, which aims at supporting crafters as well as promoting their handmade products, Hossein Veisi announced on Monday.

Three more handicrafts markets are also scheduled to be established in the cities of Sahneh, Ravansar, and Eslamabad-e Gharb in the western province, the official added.

Kalash (lightweight traditional footwear also called Giveh), textile, door locks, musical instruments, woodwork, leatherwork, figurines, and rugs are among the highlights of the handicrafts produced in Kermanshah.

In late 2017, Marivan, a historical city in Kermanshah, officially celebrated being named a world crafts



city for Kalash.

Handicrafts exports from the province reached some \$15 million in the first nine months of the previous

Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019), showing 40 percent growth year on year.

About 60 fields of handicraft are practiced by nearly 13,000 artisans and crafters across the Kermanshah province according to the provincial tourism director Omid Qaderi.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Rey’s autumn exhibition of handicrafts being held online

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The autumn exhibition of handicrafts in the city of Rey, southeast of Tehran, is being held virtually, Rey’s cultural heritage department director has announced.

The exhibition, which opened on Tuesday, aims at supporting crafters and promoting their products, Amir Mosayeb Rahimzadeh said.

Crafters in the fields of pottery, klim, leatherwork, glasswork, and cutting and cutting precious and semi-precious stones have participated in the exhibition and their products are offered with a 10 to 20 percent discount, the official added.

Iran ranks first globally in the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council (WCC).

In late January, cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran’s number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of filigree”. And Qasemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab,



a kind of homemade outer-garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of

handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

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

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Dead of Night Film Festival honors Iran's "Divinity"

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian short film "Divinity" (Malakout) has won two honors, including the best director award for Farnush Abedi, at the Dead of Night Film Festival in Liverpool.

The international horror film festival was held last week online in the northwestern English city.



Ascene from "Malakout" by Iranian director Farnush Abedi.

"Divinity" also received the best score award. Soroush Abedi has worked as a composer in this acclaimed short animation.

The film tells the story of a pianist, who has lost one of his hands and can't play the piano anymore. Doctors decide to transplant a dead criminal's hand to his body. The pianist with his new hand starts killing people.

Produced at Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center, "Divinity" has been screened in numerous international events and won several awards, including the Excellence Award at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival.

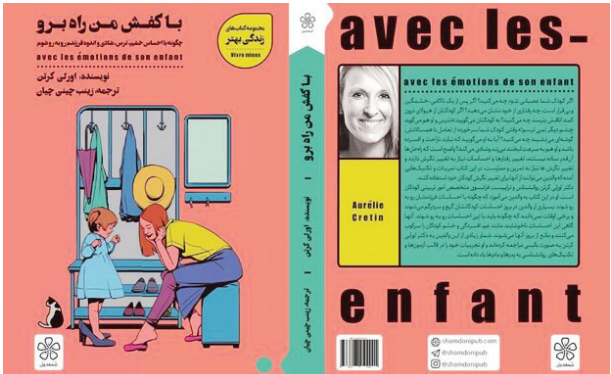
Katie Beurdert was selected as best actress for her role in "Show Me Jack" by Sam Strong at the Dead of Night Film Festival.

The award for best actor went to Jayson Warner Smith for his role in "Salt Water Taffy" by Michael Benedetti.

The Audience Choice Award was presented to "Snarl" by L.J. Stark Greenwood, and "Dead Teenage Séance" by Dante Vescio and Rodrigo Gasparini was picked as best short.

"Living Better with Your Child's Emotions" appears in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of French author Aurelie Cretin's "Living Better with Your Child's Emotions" ("Vivre mieux avec les émotions de son enfant") has recently been published by Shamdoni Publications in Tehran. The book has been translated into Persian by Zeinab Chinichian.



Cover of the Persian translation of French writer Aurelie Cretin's book "Living Better with Your Child's Emotions".

All emotions—joy, anger, sadness, fear—are essential for the child to develop, communicate and express what he needs or wants, what he likes or what he does not like. But it is not always easy to understand why he reacts in such and such a way to everyday situations.

This is why this book, designed to better experience the emotions of the child, offers all the useful points of reference to react to his/her fears; allow him to appreciate the moments of joy; find the right attitude when angry; help him when he is sad; differentiate between normal and excessive emotions; and, manage their own emotions as parents.

This enables parents to react in the most appropriate way to the emotions of the child, to give themselves every opportunity to support him as well as possible, so that he has more confidence in himself. The book offers concrete solutions and adapted tools, promoting good management of everyone's emotions.

Cretin is a psychologist and psychotherapist, practicing in behavioral and cognitive therapy. She engages in private practice in Lyon and teaches at the University of Lyon-1.

Resistance filmfest receives over 3000 submissions from 135 countries

» In addition, the organizers will honor the most influential film with a grand prize.

"The festival has consisted of several sections, some of which were held during the Sacred Defense Week in September. The selected works of the sections, in addition to the best of the coming sections, will be competing in the 'Film in Its Absolute Meaning' category, and the winner will be receiving the grand prize," director of the new section Nasser Bakideh has said.

Earlier, the organizers announced that the best screen and TV adaptations of books on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as Sacred Defense in Iran, will be honored in a new special section this year.

Adaptions of books on the Islamic Revolution, resistance and regional issues, and Islamic awakening will also be accessed in this section named "Narration of the Pen Section".

A short, a feature-length movie and a telefilm will be honored in this section.

Screenwriters from across the world



A poster for the 16th Resistance International Film Festival.

whose screenplays have not been made into films are invited to attend the festival in the three languages of Persian, English and Arabic.

The festival will review films on Commander Qassem Soleimani's role in awakening people of the region and the world in a special section.

Interested filmmakers are asked to submit their films on the main characteristic of the martyr as the symbol of resistance, highlighting the bravery of the commander, and the soldiers without borders as the main themes of the section named "Prominent Resistance Martyr Section".

The oppression of the people in the region, their resistance, and the role of Soleimani in their awareness are also highlighted in the section, which is due to be held internationally.

The Association of the Revolution and Sacred Defense Theater organizes the festival every year in collaboration with several other institutions.

Illustrator Rahimizadeh from Iran nominated for Hans Christian Andersen Award



A combination photo shows Iranian illustrator Pejman Rahimizadeh and his book "Sleep Full of Sheep".

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Children's Book Council of Iran has nominated illustrator Pejman Rahimizadeh for the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award.

Rahimizadeh, whose artwork has embellished "The Lovely Hero of Our Story", "Mad and the Well", "Arash",

"Rustam & Esfandiar" and many other bestsellers, was shortlisted for the award in 2016.

The Children's Book Council of Iran has said that Rahimizadeh has received the 2022 nomination for his great ability to create narrative illustrations and works in harmony with Iranian culture, and his perfect accord with various styles of illustration.

His works have been showcased in numerous Iranian and international exhibitions around the world.

Earlier in June, the council also picked writer Jamshid Khanian as its nominee for the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award, which is called the Nobel Prize for children's literature.

Khanian was nominated for his key role in the formation of adolescent fiction stories, and his focus on peace, friendship, love and respect in his stories.

"Emphasis on man's everyday concerns like immigration, isolation, death and identity, as well as the problems of the elderly and adolescents, and his special attention to middle-class families are among other topics highlighted in Khanian's stories," the council said.

Khanian is a researcher and a playwright. Among his credits are "A Half Day in the Interrogation Room" and "Compass". He is also the author of several stories,

including "Money" and "Where Is My Joseph", which have been translated into English, Russian and Polish.

Both Rahimizadeh and Khanian have previously been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, a prestigious Swedish honor to promote children's and youths' literature in the world.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is presented in the categories of writing and illustration by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

Each winner receives the Hans Christian Andersen Medaille, a gold medal with the bust of Andersen. Medals are presented at the biennial IBBY congress. The Patron of the Andersen Awards is Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and the awards are sponsored by Nami Island Inc.

The winners of the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award were Jacqueline Woodson from the U.S. as an author and Albertine from Switzerland as an illustrator.

Woodson has a prolific body of writing from picture books to young adult literature, all of which feature lyrical language, powerful characters and an abiding sense of hope.

Albertine creates books with multiple levels of interpretation, and with drawings made with infinite precision that are lively and full of humor.

17th Resistance Theater Festival in Tehran to go online

A R T **TEHRAN** — The 17th Resistance Theater Festival in Tehran will go online in December, director of the festival Hamid Nili has said.

"The street theater performances will be held in open spaces with the audiences observing health protocols, while we are ready to host the stage sections in the event that we experience normal conditions in these days of battle with coronavirus," he added.

He noted that the exact time and date of the performances will be announced in later reports.

The Association of the Revolution and Sacred Defense Theater organizes the festival every year in collaboration with several other institutions.

The organizers have established an award



A poster for the 17th Resistance Theater Festival in Tehran.

named after Commander Qassem Soleimani. "Due to the importance of the resistance

issue and the need to promote the teachings of the popular figure of Iran's resistance culture and the leader of the resistance front, Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani, we plan to honor a top play with an award named after Hajj Qassem Soleimani this year for the first time," Nili had said earlier.

According to Nili, the award will be presented in the next editions of the festival to represent its organizers' committed devotion to the divine commander.

Soleimani was martyred during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3. Thereafter, several other cultural events in Iran have also established awards in memory of the commander of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

In addition, ten children's plays will be

performed during the festival.

The performances include "The Generals" written by Amir Mashhadi-Abbas, who is also the director of the play. "Courage or Truth" will be directed by Seyyed Javad Rahimizadeh and "That Man Came" will be staged by Omid Niyaz.

Also included are "Tear of a Doll", which will be staged by directors Hajar Jaan-Nejad and Leila Yadollahzadeh, and "Pedal Up Man", which will be performed by director Hiam Ahmadi's troupe.

"Over Time" by director Hossein Asadi, "Wish of a Blind Mouse" by Vahid Nafar, "Alley of Brazilians" by Mohammad Esmailzadeha, "Where Is the Mouse, Where Is the Cat" by Farzad Lebas and "Thief of the Lullabies" by Arash Sharifzadeh are also on the list.

Iranian shorts line up for Serbian festival MikroFAF 2020

A R T **TEHRAN** — Nine movies by Iranian filmmakers will be competing in the 11th MikroFAF in Serbia.

The international festival of DIY and independent short films will take place at the Museum of the Yugoslav Film Archive in Belgrade from November 13 to 15.

"Divinity" (Malakout) by director Fernush Abedi is the highlight of the Iranian lineup.

The animated movie, which won the Excellence Award at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival in August, is a horror film about a pianist, who has lost one of his hands and can't play the piano anymore. Doctors decide to transplant a dead criminal's hand to his body. The pianist with his new hand starts killing people.

The lineup also includes "The Rotation" by Hazhir As'adi. It tells the story of a country where there is a war between two tribes over claiming the sun in the sky. As a result of that war, the sun is annihilated and a volcano



A poster for the 11th MikroFAF film festival in Serbia. erupts. Those two tribes now are dead and a new sun is made, both done by the lava. Several centuries pass and

the humans are still at war to claim the sun in the sky.

"Talker" by Mehrshad Ranjbar has also been selected to be screened in the official competition.

The movie, which was named the best student film at the 18th Tirana International Film Festival in Albania in September, revolves around an elderly woman who has cared for her infirm husband for many years until one day this routine ends.

"Today Is Friday" by Mohammad Ahangar, "Rahmat Creel" by Behzad Alavi, "The Movement" by Ruzbeh Kazemi, "Raya" by Sepideh Berenji, "Bullets of Baptism" by Zivar Hojjati and "Prestige" by Zahra Ahui will also competing with 88 films from all over the world in the 11th MikroFAF, which is going to be held in digital format this year.

The motto of this year's MikroFAF is "Can You Breathe?" to draw attention to the global sociopolitical unrest and turmoil that marked 2020 with their negative consequences and difficult challenges.

Movies from Iran competing in FrauenWelten festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian movies "Driving Lessons", "Sunless Shadows" and "Women of the Sun: A Chronology of Seeing" are competing in the FrauenWelten Film Festival underway in the German city of Berlin.

The acclaimed short movie "Driving Lessons" by Marzieh Riahi tells the story of Bahareh, a young woman who, according to Iranian law, must have a man from among her relatives accompany her on driving lessons so she and her male instructor won't be alone.

"Sunless Shadows" by Mehrdad Oskui is about a group of adolescent girls that serve their sentence for the grave crime of murdering their father, their husband or

another male family member in an Iranian juvenile detention center.

"Women of the Sun: A Chronology of Seeing" by Hamed Zolfagari is a documentary about a group of women who come together in an old caravansary in the middle of Iran's outback, and form a collective to sell and promote their homemade handicraft products.

The women are accompanied by an enthusiastic director who equips the women with cameras so that they are able to film their own path to emancipation. In their community there initially is a great deal of suspicion towards the group of independent women armed with cameras.



A scene from "Women of the Sun: A Chronology of Seeing" by Hamed Zolfagari.

Many husbands refuse to allow their wives to participate. But the success of the collective exceeds their own expectations, and soon it is the women's collective that can financially support their village, allowing it to survive.

The festival in its 20th edition encompasses 31 films from 30 different countries, with a focus on gender equality in the workplace.

The films show the range and the gravity of the worldwide obstacles to full realization of women's rights. At the same time, they tell stories of courageous action and solidarity.

The festival opened on October 28 and will come to an end today.