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176 idle mines revived in 9 months

TEHRAN- Through implementing a program for reviving idle small-scale mines across the country, Iran has revived 176 mines during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 20, 2020). As announced by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), 12 mineral processing plants were also set up in the country through cooperation with the private sector during the mentioned

nine-month period. According to the available statistics, the number of active mines in the country is more than 5,600 mines, from which an average of 400 million tons of various minerals are extracted annually, and the share of construction materials is estimated at 60 to 65 percent. Currently, 257 mines are being equipped as part of a comprehensive program for reviving idle small-scale mines across the country.

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Iran ranks 14th for top universities worldwide

TEHRAN – Iran ranked 14th among 102 countries for the highest number of top universities, as 46 Iranian universities were listed on ISC World University Rankings 2020.

ISC is the third internationally accredited citation center established in the Islamic Republic of Iran based on a resolution adopted in 2008 by the 4th Meeting of the Islamic Ministers of Higher Education (ICMHESR) in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to index,

evaluate and publish scientific productions in Islamic countries.

There are 2,182 universities from 102 countries in the ranking, of which 46 universities are from Iran, ISNA reported.

In 2019, Iran participated with 43 universities, which shows an increased share in the recent ranking.

The United States with 312 universities tops the list, followed by China and Japan with 311 and 117 universities, respectively.

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Army holds large-scale drone exercise

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army on Tuesday launched a large-scale maneuver involving hundreds of combat drones used by the Army’s ground, navy and air defense forces.

The exercise, which lasts until Wednesday, is taking place in the northern province of Semnan. Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi, the Army deputy commander for operations, said Iran

today is one of the world’s most powerful countries in development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

“During the Army’s large-scale exercise, different types of drone systems in the Army’s ground, air defense, air and navy forces will perform defined missions in real combat conditions,” Mousavi stated, according to Press TV.

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Armenia’s market a new opportunity for Iranian producers

BY EBRAHIM FALLAHI

TEHRAN – During Armenia’s 44-day conflict with Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Turkey had heavily backed Azerbaijan, further deepening the historical conflict between the two neighbors.

In retaliation, the Armenian government announced on October 20, 2020, a decision for banning the imports of Turkish goods as of December 31, 2020.

Following the mentioned decision, Armenia has now reached out to the Islamic Republic to replace Turkish commodities with Iranian products in its markets. This has presented a new opportunity for Iranian producers to have a strong presence in this market and turn the (probably) temporary opportunity into a permanent trade bond between the two countries.

Turkey-Armenia trade

Although the border between Turkey and Armenia has been closed since 1993, the trade between the two countries has never ceased. The trade transactions between the two neighbors have been historically carried out through third countries like Georgia.

According to the Armenian Statistics Institute, Turkey’s annual exports to Armenia amounted to over \$2 billion over the past 10 years. However, in reality, the total imports of Turkish goods by Armenian people considering the so-called ‘luggage trade’ is much more than the mentioned figure.

In fact, Turkey has been dominating the Armenian market for a very long time.

Iran-Armenia trade

Despite having shared borders, and close cultural and historical relations, the trade between Iran and Armenia has not been at a favorable level over the past few decades.

However, Iran’s preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has changed the prospect of the country’s trade relations with Armenia, paving the way for a boost in the economic relations between the two sides.

Back in January 2020, the Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hervik Yarijanian said the preferential trade agreement between Iran and EAEU has had a significant impact on the country’s trade relations with Armenia.

According to the official, the volume of trade between the two countries has witnessed an outstanding rise since the agreement became effective in October 2019.

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General Qassem Soleimani: Iconic martyr of the century

BY DR. KEVIN BARRETT

The previous century (20th c.e., 14th h.) featured innumerable martyrs. But only a few of their names have been chiseled prominently into the tablets of world history. Mahatma Gandhi, John and Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Sayyid Qutb were all murdered for standing up against evil. None were saints, much less prophets or imams. All led imperfect lives and had personal as well as intellectual flaws. Yet each became emblematic of a different facet of the struggle for God and the good against the forces of Satan that dominate the so-called modern world.

Gandhi’s life symbolized the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and the yearning to overcome violence. The Kennedies died standing up for American ideals of justice and decency against their greatest enemies, Zionists and the military-industrial complex.

Malcolm and Martin waged religiously-based struggles against racism and imperialism, and were murdered for doing so. And Sayyid Qutb, for his part, saw that the modern secular West is essentially satanic, sought an Islamic alternative, and paid with his life.

Though the 21st/15th century, like its predecessors, has witnessed far too many martyrs, only one name is currently rising to world-historical status: that of General Qassem Soleimani, commander and inspiration of the Axis of Resistance that is transforming the Muslim East and, with it, the world. On January 3, 2020, General Soleimani was murdered in the most odiously cowardly fashion imaginable. Soleimani was ambushed by gutless drone operators who would need to wear adult diapers and leg irons if they ever faced actual combat.

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Wisconsin city braces for protest as charging decision looms

A southeastern Wisconsin city braced for another round of protests as prosecutors prepared to announce whether they’ll charge a white police officer who shot a Black man in the back, leaving him paralyzed.

Kenosha Police Officer Rusten Sheskey shot Jacob Blake seven times on Aug. 23 as Blake was about to get into an SUV during a domestic dispute. The police union has maintained Blake resisted arrest and was armed with a knife, although state investigators have said only that a knife was found on the floor of the vehicle. Blake’s three children were in the back seat of the SUV when he was shot.

The shooting sparked protests that went on for several nights. Some of them turned violent, with some protesters burning businesses and members of self-styled militias answering a call on social media to travel to the city. Prosecutors have charged Kyle Rittenhouse of Antioch, Il-

linois, with shooting three people, killing two of them, with an assault-style weapon during one of the demonstrations. Rittenhouse, who is white, was 17 at the time of the shootings. Conservatives have rallied to Rittenhouse’s legal defense.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley is expected any day to announce whether Sheskey will face criminal charges. Fearing a repeat of the August protests, city officials were expected to adopt an emergency resolution Monday night and take other steps, including setting up a limited area for protests, imposing a curfew and closing roads. Concrete barricades and oversized metal fencing surrounded the Kenosha County Courthouse Monday night.

Meanwhile, Gov. Tony Evers activated 500 National Guard troops to help Kenosha authorities when the decision is announced.

Lamprini Thoma of Press Project makes doc “Farewell to the Hero” on Qassem Soleimani

TEHRAN – Lamprini Thoma, a foreign correspondent of the independent Greek news portal the Press Project, has made a documentary entitled “Farewell to the Hero” about Commander Qassem Soleimani.

The documentary has been produced with contributions from Iran’s Cultural Office in Athens.

The film begins with the voice of the commander announcing the end of ISIS. The Greek TV channels’ coverage of Soleimani’s assassination comes next. It goes on with reports prepared by Thoma.

Thoma traveled to Tehran during the funeral

ceremony of IRGC Quds Force chief Soleimani, who was assassinated during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

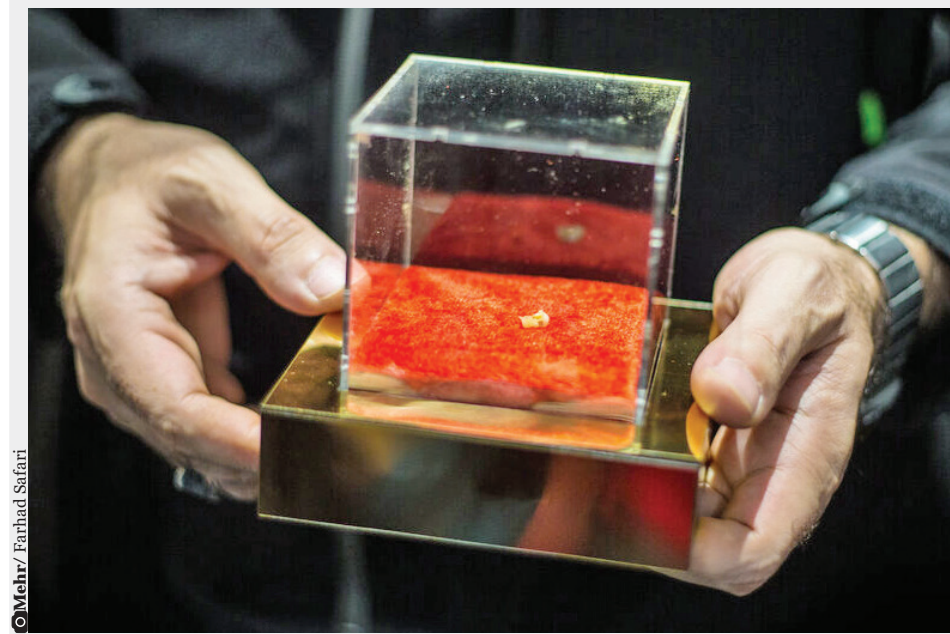
“After getting out of the plane in Tehran, I see him everywhere. General Qassem Soleimani, that is. On the TV are images of him I have never seen before. Black and white footage from when he was a soldier, a lieutenant, a young man during the Iran-Iraq war,” Thoma said in an article published on the Press Project on January 17, 2020.

“On billboards on the side of the road and on

the bridges, there is his image. Different images of him, words in Farsi, but I do not know Farsi. There is only one phrase I can read, written in English. An entire world will avenge you. An entire world. For you,” she writes.

“There are moments that I do not want to raise my cellphone’s camera. Due to respect, anxiety, and, yes, that feeling that I am a stranger. I can see his image, but that is all. I can see the thousands of images in the arms of common people,” she adds.

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Fossilized tooth found in west-central Iran dates from 100,000 years, minister says

TEHRAN – A fossilized tooth, previously found in a cave west-central Iran, could date back 100,000 years, the Iranian tourism minister said on Monday.

“Carbon-14 dating could not help estimate the age the Neanderthal tooth, which had been discovered in Qazvin’s Avaj [county]... so we got help from other countries that predicted its age is up to one hundred thousand years,” Ali-Asghar Mounesan said, Mehr reported.

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If any country has erred this century, it’s the U.S.

BY MARTIN LOVE

“Though we (the U.S.) spends a trillion dollars a year between our military and our intelligence and our “national security” circles, that trillion dollars has built, you know, things that can stop all the planes and the missiles and all kinds of things from other countries. But we missed the one thing other countries like China have deployed, which is not to fight at all, not firing a bullet or missile at all, but taking the U.S. out from within. And that’s what’s going on.”

So writes an American expert looking at China. And one must remark, imagine the U.S. now if the government had not wasted many trillions on war and “defense” and the military and piling up debt like never before anywhere in recorded history. Might Americans citizens have otherwise enjoyed universal healthcare and free education at public universities and a modern (not horrible) infrastructure and sanity and so much more including a much smaller debt load like some other modern, “Western” countries? Yes, of course. But NOW Americans face a government and ruling class trying to cling to U.S. hegemony and empire by threats of war and potential nuclear war with countries Washington calls “enemies”, which includes Iran.

So what’s the real story here, particularly with regard to the hostility towards Iran and the recent changes in West Asia which have seen several Arab countries normalize their relations with Apartheid Israel?

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Iran says can produce 9 kg of 20% enriched uranium per month

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran has the capacity to produce up to 9 kilograms of uranium enriched with the purity of 20 percent per month, the chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced on Tuesday.



“At present, we produce 17 to 20 grams of 20 percent [enriched] uranium every hour. We have a production capacity of 8 to 9 kilograms per month to reach the 120-kilogram limit stipulated in law,” Ali Akbar Salehi told reporters, according to Press TV.

Salehi, a nuclear physicist, said the 20%-enriched uranium is used in the Tehran Research Reactor, adding that Iran currently has enough fuel to run the reactor for five years.

He said the enriched uranium would be stored for future use.

Iran on Monday announced the beginning of the process to enrich uranium to 20 percent purity at its Fordow nuclear facility. The decision was taken after a ratification by parliament which obliges the government to remove cap on Iran’s nuclear program in response to violation of the 2015 nuclear deal by the U.S. and inactions by the Europeans to live up to their commitments.

According to the parliamentary approval, the AEOI is obliged to produce 120 kilograms of uranium enriched to 20 percent.

Fakhrizadeh ‘frontrunner’ of resistance against nuclear threats: defense chief

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was the frontrunner of resistance against nuclear threats, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said on Tuesday on the 40th day after the assassination of the top nuclear scientist.

“He left behind invaluable legacies in this field,” Brigadier General Hatami said.

He also said Fakhrizadeh was active in the field of nuclear defense, adding that the United States and the occupying Israeli regime possess hundreds of nuclear bombs and are considered a threat for the security of the people across the world.

Fakhrizadeh, a senior nuclear and defense scientist, was assassinated in a small city east of Tehran on November 27.

His assassination is considered a serious blow to diplomatic efforts to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which was abandoned by U.S. President Donald Trump in May 2018.

Iran has blamed Israel, which has carried out assassination operations against Iranian nuclear scientists over the past decade. Immediately after the assassination, Foreign Minister Zarif said in a tweet that the attack was carried out with “serious indications of Israeli role”.

Over the past years Israel has assassinated five other Iranian nuclear scientists. It has killed Masoud Alimohammadi, Majid Shahriari, Darioush Rezaeinejad, and Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan. Israel also attempted to assassinate Fereydon Abbassi, Iran’s former nuclear chief, but it failed.

President Hassan Rouhani has said Iran is entitled to take revenge for the assassination.

“Iran’s government is entitled to take retaliation from the elements behind the assassination of the martyr,” Rouhani said on December 3.

In his Tuesday remarks, Hatami further lauded Fakhrizadeh for his role in the country’s scientific progress, but said the enemy failed to stop Iran’s progress through the assassination.

Tehran in talks with Seoul over using frozen money to buy COVID-19 vaccines: Korean official

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Seoul and Tehran have been in talks over the use of Iran’s frozen money in South Korea under U.S. sanctions to purchase COVID-19 vaccines from a global procurement mechanism, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday.

According to Yonhap news agency, the official said the U.S. has given the green light to the plan to secure vaccines via the COVAX facility, but Tehran remains indecisive amid worries that the Korean won-based assets could be frozen again in the process of its conversion into dollars to procure vaccines from the facility.

After Iran’s request for the use of the frozen money for the humanitarian cause, Seoul had consulted with the U.S. Treasury Department to secure sanctions exemptions for the use of the frozen money.

“Iran has not made a decision yet out of concerns that in the process of wiring the money for the dollar conversion to purchase vaccines, it would flow into U.S. banks, and in that process, uncertainty arises over how the U.S. government would handle it,” the official said.

Iran’s assets at two Korean bank accounts known to be worth about \$8 billion to \$8.5 billion in total have been frozen since September 2019, when Washington’s sanctions waiver for South Korea’s imports of Iranian oil expired.

The two countries had used the accounts based on the Korean currency to continue Korea’s imports of oil from and its exports of goods to Iran despite U.S. sanctions banning dollar-based transactions with the Islamic republic.

Hossein Tanhaei, head of the Iran-South Korea Joint Chamber of Commerce, on Sunday announced Iran’s decision to use its frozen money for COVID-19 vaccines

“Yesterday, we had a meeting with First Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri about our country’s blocked money in South Korea, and suggestions were made to be presented to South Korea on how to barter our money in this country with a variety of goods including COVID-19 vaccine,” Tanhaei told ILNA.

Earlier, President Hassan Rouhani had reacted to Seoul’s blocking of Iranian assets, saying: “South Korea’s ban on Iran’s use of its central bank resources to buy basic goods, medicine, and humanitarian items is by no means acceptable, and we expect Seoul to lift this restriction as soon as possible.”

Over the past two years, economic relations between Tehran and Seoul have fallen sharply under the increased U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Before re-imposing U.S. sanctions in 2018, South Korea had \$4 billion in annual exports to Iran and \$8 billion in Iran imports.

Iran can enrich uranium beyond 20% if necessary, says top nuclear negotiator

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran can enrich uranium beyond 20% if it needed to, emphasizing that the country’s enrichment program continues based on its needs.

“Our enrichment program is based on our field needs. We do not need to enrich more than 20% at the moment. If a need is defined, the country can decide,” Araghchi, a top nuclear negotiator, said on Monday evening.

“The start of 20% enrichment activities on the anniversary of Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani and the 40th day of the martyrdom of Martyr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh has a message for others, showing that they cannot stop the scientific movement of Iran by physically eliminating it,” he added.

It came hours after Iran officially announced that it has started the process to enrich uranium to 20 percent purity at its Fordow nuclear facility.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei announced on Monday that President Hassan Rouhani has ordered the implementation of a new law, dubbed the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, which has been already approved by the Parliament.

The action plan introduces a step-by-step strategy for the government to increase nuclear activities in a few months if the other side failed to implement certain commitments.

The law is part of a broader strategy that aims to lift the United States sanctions on Iran and was put forward by the lawmak-



ers in early November. It aims to force the United States into lifting sanctions on Iran by doubling down on nuclear activities.

Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, and also the European Union, reached

“The start of 20% enrichment activities on the anniversary of Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani and the 40th day of the martyrdom of Martyr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh has a message for others, showing that they cannot stop the scientific movement of Iran by physically eliminating it,” Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi asserts.

Tehran: First batch of %20 enriched uranium products ready

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran says it has produced its first UF6 (uranium hexafluoride or hex) product a few hours after it announced the restarting of uranium enrichment at 20 percent in the Fordow nuclear site.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), announced on Monday evening that the process of injecting gas into the centrifuges and resuming uranium enrichment with purity of 20 percent started earlier in the day.

Kamalvandi said Iran started the process after informing inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“Considering the previous experience of enrichment at the Fordow facility, the new production line for enriching uranium up to 20 percent was prepared very quickly,” the spokesman said.

He also said Iran is ready to enrich uranium at purity levels beyond 20 percent.

The remarks came hours after government spokesman Ali Rabiei announced that Iran has started the process to enrich uranium to 20 percent purity at Fordow.

President Hassan Rouhani has ordered the implementation of a new law, dubbed the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, which has been already approved by the Parliament, Rabiei told IRNA.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the historic nuclear agreement in May 2018 and pursued a policy of “maximum pressure” against the

Islamic Republic.

The maximum pressure campaign prompted Iran to reduce its commitments under the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, especially after the other signatories of the deal failed to protect Iran’s interests.

Zarif: Our measures are fully reversible

Iran, however, has repeatedly said that its actions can be reversed if the other parties fulfilled their JCPOA commitments.

In a tweet on Monday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran’s latest move conforms fully with paragraph 36 of the JCPOA, but also pointed out that Iran’s measures are fully reversible.

“We resumed 20% enrichment, as legislated by our Parliament. IAEA has been duly notified,” Zarif said.

“Our remedial action conforms fully with Para 36 of JCPOA, after years of non-compliance by several other JCPOA participants. Our measures are fully reversible upon FULL compliance by ALL,” he added.

Meanwhile, the IAEA said hours after Iran’s announcement that its head is set to inform members of the IAEA Board of Governors on Monday about the new development in Iran.

“Agency inspectors have been monitoring activities at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant in Iran. Based on their information, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi is expected to submit a report to IAEA Member States later today,” a spokesman for the nuclear agency said by email, Reuters reported.



Later on Monday, the IAEA issued a statement confirming that Iran had started the process of enriching uranium to 20 percent.

“Iran today began feeding uranium already enriched up to 4.1 percent U-235 into six centrifuge cascades at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant for further enrichment up to 20 percent,” the statement read.

The UN nuclear watchdog said its inspectors were present at the site to detach the Agency’s seal from a cylinder with the feed material and that the cylinder was then connected to the feeding line to start the production of uranium enriched up to 20 percent.

A total of 1,044 IR-1 centrifuges were being used in the process, the IAEA added.

If any country has erred this century, it’s the U.S. ...

1 → The truth? The many trillions of dollars have been wasted in this century especially on the application, by sheer stupidity, of bad will to other countries, some of which have challenged U.S. economic power simply by their relative excellence and growth, and other countries (like Iran) which have never presented any kind of real challenge to the U.S. either economically or militarily.

The so-called Abraham Accords between the Zionist state and several Arab countries allegedly take this into account: the geopolitical position of Iran. Global measures are said to rank Iran’s position well ahead of countries such as Saudi Arabia and even Israel, at 14th in the world. This index includes over 50 factors, including Iran’s population, size, land mass, coasts, natural resources, infrastructure and military discipline among other factors.

Thus it has been further remarked that Iran’s nuclear program is NOT the primary

concern of the U.S. and alleged allies, but rather Iran’s huge potential as an economically powerful and thriving nation outstripping any of its rivals in West Asia. The Abraham Accords is simply a reaction of new alliances against Iran’s potential to become the leading country in West Asia. And as well, the accord with the Zionists destroys the concept of making West Asia a nuclear weapon free zone, something which the Arab states have rightfully said to have supported so far. Far from creating stability in the region, the accord is increasing instability.

Interestingly, the Zionists have already not proven themselves good allies to the various Arab states with whom they have recently “normalized” relations. For example, there are reports that Israeli tourists and visitors to the UAE have been caught literally stealing accessory items in hotel rooms they have inhabited, stuffing goods like coffee makers and ice buckets and towels into their baggage

on departure. Some have been caught red handed by various hotel managers. These Zionist tourists are so accustomed to theft of land and lives in Palestine and elsewhere for over seven decades that they apparently believe that petty theft is quite okay. They have no shame. Anything is game for theft unless goods are well defended or nailed down. One must wonder if the Abraham Accords are already souring and fraying at the margin. But this fraying is likely to be ongoing since the alleged benefits of the accords mostly accrue to the oft-despised Arab dictators in these countries, and not to their subject populations.

But in general the world is waking up to the U.S. and Israeli game in the Mideast. A former Iraqi PM, al-Maliki, recently stated that Iraq would have sent an army to save Bashar Assad in Syria if he had been about to fall. Because that would have meant al-Qaeda and ISIS and other terrorists would have

flooded Syria. One must conclude that the U.S. and the Zionists wanted this to happen, and it beggars believe that this should ever have been the aim. Assad it seems is beloved by most Syrians, and an observer can only further conclude that the U.S. and its allies have had only one goal in mind all these years past: complete chaos in West Asia to benefit the squatters in Palestine.

But if it should ever come to war between Iran and its craven allies, one must never forget Qassem Soleimani’s words that Iran is a nation of potential martyrs. This is why man for man Iran’s soldiers are far superior to soft U.S. troops and why Iran would win, at great cost, a conventional war against the U.S. in somewhat the same fashion that Vietnamese peasants won their war against the U.S. under Ho Chi Minh’s leadership. But with ever more fervor.

The world can only pray it never comes to a regional war in West Asia.

Army holds large-scale drone exercise

1 → The commander said that the operational part of the military exercise will feature the widespread use of kamikaze drones as well as the aerial interception and destruction of targets by air-to-air missiles, along with the destruction of ground targets with bombs and precision-guided missiles.

Navy drones, he noted, would practice flying from vessels in the southern waters of the country, while long-range kamikaze drones would drill precision strikes on vital targets in the depth of the enemy territory.

The drone units would also monitor land, air and sea borders, Mousavi said, adding that an exhibition would be held on the sidelines of the drill showcasing the Army’s new successes in the drone technology.

Separately on Tuesday, Deputy Army Chief Mohammad Hossein Dadras said the main message of the exercise is the establishment of peace and security in the region without the presence of extra-regional countries.

“The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran regularly upgrades its equipment and holds specialized exercises and



combat trainings in accordance with the threats posed by extra-regional countries and enemies,” Brigadier General Daras stated.

“Despite the cruel sanctions of the sworn enemies of the Islamic establishment, the capabilities and perseverance of Iran’s youth have led us to reach a stage of self-sufficiency in

the field of production of new equipment that can compete with those of the developed countries.”

Iran has taken great strides seeking to attain self-sufficiency in producing essential military equipment and defense systems in the face of decades-long sanctions and arms embargoes on the country.

Iran produces a wide variety of advanced weapons systems and equipment based on its own technological capabilities.

According to Tasnim, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Bagheri and Army Commander Rahim Mousavi inspected the site of the drone maneuvers. The two top generals saw an honor guard as well.

Speaking at the ceremony, Major General Bagheri said, “If the enemy does the slightest error, it will get a tough response.”

The military chief was openly referring to the deployment of U.S. aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine USS Georgia, and B-52s in the Persian Gulf in a show of force to Iran.

SPORTS

Karimi considered as “glimmer of light” by Iranian football figures

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** —The legend of Iran football and Persepolis club, Ali Karimi, is ready to participate in the presidential elections of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIR).

Karimi announced on his Instagram page he is running to become president of Iran's football federation, which its elections will be held on Feb. 28. “I want to be with my country's people. I'll run for the presidency of the football federation to make Iranian football proud once again. Fundamental changes have been made by FIFA and the AFC in the FFIR's statutes and now the ex-players can participate in the elections more easily. I hope that on Feb. 28, our dear Iranian football will experience a day without collusion.”

FIFA demanded changes to the FFIR statutes more than a year ago and rejected amended documents submitted on several occasions. Finally, it was in 2020 October that FIFA approved the football federation's new statutes. Then the statutes were approved by the General Assembly of the FFIR, and after that, the elections' date was set by the assembly.

The new statutes give the green light to former footballers to contest at the football federation presidency elections. In contrast, in the previous version of the statutes, running for elections was only possible for those who had a managerial background.

Karimi, who has played for Bayern Munich and Schalke 04, is already supported by many football figures and fans and is considered as one of the hot favorites to win the presidential elections, with many regarding his candidacy as a chance for the revival of Iranian football.

Ali Karimi, 42, has met the requirements approved in the statutes. It is mentioned that four years of playing in national football, futsal, or beach soccer teams and four years of playing in professional football leagues are equivalent to four years of managerial background for former footballers.

Many people have considered Karimi's decision (or any other footballer who will set to run for the FFIR elections) as a glimmer of light at the end of what is still a long and quite dark tunnel in the fight against mismanagement in the Iranian football.

He should take the endorsements from assembly members, provincial football associations, football clubs, and players to be elected as the head of the Iran football federation. It is a good step in the right direction for the country's football to have celebrated football figures in its governing body.



Persepolis share spoils with Sepahan: IPL

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team shared the spoils with Sepahan in a 0-0 draw in Iran Professional League (IPL) on Tuesday.

The Reds have not won a single match since losing to South Korean Ulsan Hyundai in 2020 AFC Champions League final on Dec. 19.

Persepolis were held to two 1-1 draws against Nassaji and Zob Ahan football teams.

It was another poor performance from the titleholders in the recent weeks.

Persepolis will have to play Esteghlal in Tehran's derby next week.

In Isfahan, Tractor defeated Zob Ahan 2-1 thanks to goals from Mohammad Abbaszadeh. Darko Bjedov scored Zob Ahan's goal with a header.

Paykan battled back from a goal down to beat Nassaji 2-1 in Tehran.

Karim Eslami was on target for the visiting team but Ebrahim Salehi and Farzad Hatami scored for Paykan.

Esteghlal sit top of the table with 18 points, followed by Sanat Naft and Gol Gohar.

Iran to unveil stamp in honor of legendary wrestler Takhti

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian Wrestling Federation secretary general Jalal Askari has announced that legendary wrestler Gholamreza Takhti's new stamp will be unveiled on Wednesday.

The stamp will be released to honor the 53rd death anniversary of Takhti, Askari said.

“Due to coronavirus restrictions, the fans are not allowed to participate in the anniversary at the Ebn-e Babويه Cemetery in southern Tehran, but the federation's officials will attend the ceremony,” he said.

Takhti won the gold medal in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, defeating Boris Kulayev from Soviet Union in the final match.

He also claimed two Olympics silver medals in 1952 Helsinki and 1960 Rome.

Takhti won two World Championships gold medals in 1959 Tehran and 1961 Yokohama.

The freestyle wrestler also seized a gold medal in the 1958 Asian Games held in Tokyo, Japan.

Takhti is the most famous wrestler in Iranian history. The legend was known for his chivalry and sportsmanship and continues to symbolize the essence of sports to the Iranian people.

Ali Karimi joins Al Duhail

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian football midfielder Ali Karimi joined Qatari giants Al Duhail.

The Qatar Stars League parted company with Iranian winger Ramin Rezaeian last week.

The 26-year-old player has signed for Al Duhail on loan from Qatar SC until the end of the season.

Qatar SC have recently hired former Persepolis midfielder Bashar Resan.

Esteghlal football team had shown interest in signing their former player but he opted to join Al Duhail.

Iran confirms IAEA access to 20% enrichment process at Fordow

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Kazem Deyeski, Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, has confirmed that the UN nuclear watchdog had technical access to an Iranian nuclear site where Iran has just started enriching uranium to 20%.

Gharibabadi said in a tweet on Monday that the International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi has submitted a report underlining that the Agency has carried out a Design Information Verification (DIV) operation at the Fordow facility in accordance with an updated version of the IAEA Design Information Questionnaire (DIQ) at the same time as Iran produced UF6 enriched uranium.

Using a technical IAEA jargon, the Iranian ambassador tweeted, “The IAEA DG reported today that upon provision of an updated DIQ for Fordow, the Agency carried out a DIV at the Site and confirmed that a cylinder containing 137.2 kg of uranium up to 4.1% has been connected to the feeding line and production of UF6 enriched up to 20% started.”

DIQ is an IAEA form used by member states to submit Design Information to the IAEA. Design Information includes information



concerning nuclear material subject to safeguards under the agreement and the features of facilities relevant to safeguarding such material. It also includes the facility description; the form, quantity, location and flow of nuclear material being used; facility layout and containment features; and procedures for nuclear material accountancy and control. This information is used by the IAEA, inter alia: to design the facility safeguards approach, to determine material balance

areas and select key measurement points and other strategic points, to develop the design information verification plan and to establish the essential equipment list.

DIV is activities carried out by the IAEA at a facility to verify the correctness and completeness of the design information provided by the State. An initial DIV is performed on a newly built facility to confirm that the as-built facility is as declared. A DIV is performed periodically on

existing facilities to confirm the continued validity of the design information and of the safeguards approach.

Iran has coordinated its recent nuclear move with the IAEA, allowing it to perform DIV activities at Fordow.

On Monday, Iran officially announced that it is starting 20% uranium enrichment at the Fordow site.

“A few minutes ago, the process of producing enriched uranium to 20% purity has begun. And the first product of UF6 enriched uranium will be produced in a few hours,” Ali Rabiei, spokesman for Iran's government, said on Monday morning.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said this move is reversible, implying that Iran would stop enriching uranium to 20% if parties to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers implement their commitments.

Iran has long called on the remaining parties to the deal JCPOA, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), to uphold their obligations after the U.S. withdrew from it. The European signatories to the JCPOA have largely avoided doing business with Iran under the pretext of the U.S. secondary sanctions.

China urges restraint, calls for unconditional U.S. return to JCPOA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In its first reaction to Iran's announcement on resuming 20 percent uranium enrichment, China has urged all stakeholders of the 2015 nuclear deal to exercise restraint while pushing for an unconditional return of the United States to the nuclear deal.

“China urges all sides to exercise calm and restraint, to stick to the commitments of the agreement and to refrain from taking actions that might escalate tensions, so as to make space for diplomatic efforts and a change in the situation,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily news briefing on Tuesday, according to a Reuters report.

“The urgent task at hand is for all sides to push the United States to return unconditionally to the agreement and remove all relevant sanctions,” Hua said. Doing so could help bring the agreement back onto “the right track,” she added.

The spokeswoman also pointed out that the Iran nuclear issue was at a critical juncture and was “extremely complex and sensitive.”

On Monday, Iran formally announced the start of the process of enriching uranium to 20%, a major break from the 3.67% purity limit set by the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“...., the process of producing enriched uranium to 20% purity has begun. And the first product of UF6 enriched uranium will be produced in a few hours,” Ali Rabiei, the Iranian government spokesman, announced on Monday morning.

According to Rabiei, the 20% uranium enrichment began at the Fordow nuclear facility, where Iran is not allowed to spin centrifuges under the terms of the JCPOA.

The spokesman said President Hassan Rouhani has issued an order stipulating that the recent nuclear law passed by the Iranian Parliament should be implemented.

The nuclear law, officially called “Strategic Action to Lift



Sanctions and Protect Nation's Rights,” outlines a step-by-step strategy for Iran to force the West into reconsidering its sanctions policy against Iran by increasing nuclear activities. It stipulates that the Iranian government should take certain nuclear measures such as raising the level of uranium enrichment to 20% and suspending the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in few months if the Western parties failed to honor their obligations under the JCPOA.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that his country's nuclear move is reversible upon compliance by all other JCPOA parties.

“We resumed 20% enrichment, as legislated by our Parliament. IAEA has been duly notified. Our remedial action conforms fully with Para 36 of JCPOA, after years of non-compliance by several other JCPOA participants. Our measures are fully reversible upon FULL compliance by ALL,” Zarif tweeted on Monday.

Iran's decision to substantially raise the level of uranium enrichment up to 20% came after months of calling on the remaining parties to the nuclear deal, especially the European countries, to uphold their obligations under the deal by

normalizing economic ties with Iran but Iran's calls fell on deaf ears in Europe, which prompted Iran into reducing its nuclear commitments in five steps first and then resuming the 20% uranium enrichment.

However, Iran has said time and again that its “remedial measures” are reversible and aimed at restoring the lost balance between rights and obligations within the JCPOA after U.S. President Donald Trump pulled his country out of it in May 2018.

Iran also informed the UN nuclear watchdog of its latest move.

“We have sent a letter to the representative of the Islamic Republic to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna to submit it to the Agency. This letter was submitted to the Agency on Friday, informing it that we want to start 20% enrichment in accordance with the parliament law,” Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said in a televised interview a few days before Iran began the 20% uranium enrichment.

“God willing, we will start enriching [uranium] up to 20% soon. The president should issue an order. Of course, the president has already issued a preliminary order according to which we sent a letter to the Agency and made the announcement. We are just like a soldier having his hand on the trigger, waiting for the commander to issue an order to open fire. We are ready to do this and God willing, we will do it as soon as possible,” he continued.

The IAEA has confirmed that it was kept in the loop about Iran's recent nuclear activities.

“Iran has informed the Agency that in order to comply with a legal act recently passed by the country's parliament, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran intends to produce low-enriched uranium (LEU) up to 20 percent at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant,” the IAEA said in a statement.

Iran nuclear move aims to restore balance

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran has embarked on a new nuclear policy aimed to restore the balance of rights and obligations in a nuclear deal that has long been implemented one-sidedly by Iran. The policy is aimed at persuading the European signatories to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — France, Germany and the UK (E3) — that their poor track record in implementing their commitments under the deal is no longer acceptable to Iran.

After years of strategic patience in the face of U.S. sanctions, Iran has ultimately moved to change the nuclear status quo by substantially raising the level of uranium enrichment up to 20%, an unprecedented development since the nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — was signed in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1, which includes the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — Russia, China, France, the UK and the U.S. — plus Germany.

“A few minutes ago, the process of producing enriched uranium to 20% purity has begun. And the first product of UF6 enriched uranium will be produced in a few hours,” Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei announced on Monday morning, putting an end to a recent wave of speculation over how soon Iran will make the most significant nuclear move.

Iran had informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it will start enriching uranium to 20% before it started the process of producing UF6 enriched uranium. And the UN nuclear watchdog confirmed in a statement that it was informed by Iran of the country's intent to start enriching up to 20%.

“Iran has informed the Agency that in order to comply with a legal act recently passed by the country's parliament, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran intends to produce low-enriched uranium (LEU) up to 20 percent at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant,” the IAEA has said in a statement.

Later on Monday, the IAEA issued a statement confirming Iran's nuclear move. “Iran today began feeding uranium already enriched up to 4.1 percent U-235 into six centrifuge

cascades at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant for further enrichment up to 20 percent,” the statement said.

Tehran pressed ahead with its plan to resume 20% uranium enrichment and even produced its first UF6 product a few hours after it announced the resumption of uranium enrichment at 20 percent in the Fordow nuclear site.

“Considering the previous experience of enrichment at the Fordow facility, the new production line for enriching uranium up to 20 percent was prepared very quickly,” Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Monday evening.

Iran made the nuclear move after years of pursuing talks with the Europeans to convince them that if they really want to maintain the JCPOA, there is no other way than normalizing economic ties with Iran as envisioned by the JCPOA.

Up to Tuesday, the European signatories to the JCPOA had refrained from reacting to the Iranian move. The only European reaction came from the European Commission.

An unknown spokesman for the Commission said on Tuesday the European body regretted that Iran has resumed 20% uranium enrichment at an underground nuclear facility but believed that the accord was worth saving, according to a Reuters report.

“We are highly concerned by the measures taken by Iran. This action is in breach of Iran's nuclear commitments and will have serious implications,” the spokesman pointed out. “It is regrettable but it is also highly important and ... that we maintain the agreement,” he said.

As of this writing, the E3 have refrained to react to Iran's move to raise the level of uranium enrichment, despite the fact that some observers and officials in Iran believe that the resumption of the 20% uranium enrichment may have well been intended to push the Europeans into changing their approach in dealing with Iran.

The E3 usually issue statements on Iran whenever it makes any significant nuclear

moves. And sometimes they even issue statements on Iran's internal affairs. For instance, they issued a joint statement in early December after Iran's Parliament passed a law requiring the government of Hassan Rouhani to increase nuclear activities in a few months if the remaining parties to the JCPOA failed to uphold their obligations under the deal.

The nuclear law, officially called “Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect Nation's Rights,” outlines a step-by-step strategy for Iran to force the West into reconsidering its sanctions policy against Iran by increasing nuclear activities. It stipulates that the Iranian government should take certain nuclear measures such as raising the level of uranium enrichment to 20% and suspending the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in few months if the Western parties failed to honor their obligations.

Back in December, the E3 told Iran not to implement this law if it wants to preserve what they called “a space for diplomacy” that was created after Joe Biden won the U.S. presidential election in November.

“If Iran is serious about preserving a space for diplomacy, it must not implement these steps. Such a move would jeopardize our shared efforts to preserve the JCPOA and risks compromising the important opportunity for a return to diplomacy with the incoming US Administration. A return to the JCPOA would also be beneficial for Iran,” the joint statement of the E3 said.

Iran did not heed the E3 warning and implemented part of that law on Monday. The nuclear law was basically designed to send a message to the E3, not the U.S., according to Abbas Golrou, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

In a mid-December interview with the Asr-e Iran news website, Golrou said that the nuclear law was designed to send a message to the P4+1, especially the Europeans.

“Our talking point in this law has something to do with the Europeans' commitments,”

Coming months will be determinative of oil market situation: Zanganeh

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said that given the current uncertainties in supply and demand, the coming months will be determinative of the oil market situation, Shana reported.

Zanganeh made the remark on the sidelines of the 13th OPEC Plus ministerial meeting, which was held through video conference on Monday evening.



In terms of the progress of the negotiations, he said: "There are two different proposals. One side agrees to continue production at current level and the other side wants to increase supply by 500,000 barrels per day."

Russia pays more attention to market share, while the other side pays more attention to price, the minister added.

Stating that any decision requires the consensus of all members, Zanganeh said: "Given the current uncertainties in supply and demand, the coming months will be very determining

for the oil market."

Zanganeh said: "Since no decision will last long in these circumstances, it is reasonable to hold OPEC Plus meetings on a monthly basis."

"What is important for us is not to increase the world's oil reserves and production," he said, adding, "The oil market is fragile and a mistake can cause oil prices to fall and cause a lot of problems."

U.S. extends waiver for Iraq to import Iranian energy for another 3 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The United States has renewed a sanction waiver allowing Iraq to import Iranian gas and electricity for another three months, an Iraqi official told AFP on Monday.

The waiver will continue to exempt Iraq from U.S. sanctions reimposed on Iran in November 2018, after President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from world powers' 2015 nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic.

The new exemption, which is longer than previous extensions, was granted after "long discussions", the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Washington has repeatedly extended the waiver for Baghdad to use crucial Iranian energy supplies for its struggling power grid.

Iraq relies heavily on Iranian gas to feed several power plants across the country, while Iranian electricity exports also account for a major part of the country's power supply. Iran currently meets nearly 30 percent of Iraq's daily need to 14,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, while the country imports around 1.25 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) of gas through the pipeline.

The Islamic Republic has recently slashed its gas exports to Iraq and has threatened further reduction due to the Arab country's failure to meet its payment obligations.

TEDPIX dips over 24,000 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** —TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 24,272 points to 1.35 million on Tuesday.

Over 9.857 billion securities worth 104.913 trillion rials (about \$2.497 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index fell 22,637 points and the second market's index dropped 31,861 points.

Last week, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand said that the stock market is now on the right track and has reached a stage that can be trusted in terms of performance.

"Except for the peripheral variables that affect this market, we do not have a specific market disturbance", the minister stated.

Sometimes the policies that are made in different sectors affect the market, which is natural, he added.



For example, if a price floor is to be set for a commodity group and a ceiling is to be released, it is in the interest of that group, but because it is badly reflected, it has the opposite effect, Dejpasand explained.

The vice-chairman of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)'s board of directors has recently said that the stock market will spend the last months of the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021) calmly.

Mentioning investigation of the periodical (six-month and nine-month) reports of the companies' performance, Javad Es-hqi-Nejad said that given the foreign currency exchange rate situation and the appropriate sales volume, in this period, almost the expectations of listed companies have been met and positive results have been provided for the capital market.

Regarding the continuation of the stock market trend in the next three months, he said: "In this regard, the main issue is political relations and international behavior; We seem to be achieving good results in the international arena."

While predicting that the stock market will be calm in the last months of this year, he said: "But for the next year, according to the budget, we may face new events whose analysis can have special effects on various industries; in a way that these effects may be associated with some industries for the next 2-3 years."

176 idle mines revived in 9 months

1 → Reviving 200 idle mines and setting up 25 processing units have been planned for the current Iranian year (ends on March 20, 2021).

Last year, 146 mines were revived throughout the country.

According to the information released by IMIDRO, the most small-scale inactive mines are located in Khorasan Razavi Province and the least of them are located in the south of Kerman Province and North Khorasan Province.

As reported, under the framework of the mentioned program, 672 idle mines have been identified and prioritized in the current Iranian calendar year, and diagnostic procedures have been performed on 194 mines to determine the reasons for the halt in their production.

The mentioned program, which has been at the forefront of IMIDRO's missions over the past two years, is being pursued in several provinces.

The previous head of IMIDRO has mentioned this plan as one of the most significant plans of "Resistance Economy", saying that IMIDRO is strongly determined



to carry out it.

Reviving the small mines not only is a major step toward materializing "Surge

in Production", which is the motto of the current Iranian calendar year, it also plays a significant role in job creation through-

Armenia's market a new opportunity for Iranian producers

1 → According to the official, the volume of trade between the two countries has witnessed an outstanding rise since the agreement became effective in October 2019.

Iran mainly imports red meat from Armenia, while Armenia imports polymer raw materials, machinery, industrial gases, manufactured artifacts, leather and leather goods from Iran, he said.

The new opportunity

With the Turkish products being wiped out of the Armenian market, Iranian producers are presented with a great opportunity to showcase the high quality of their products and benefit from the huge capacities of the mentioned market.

Last week, the Director-General of the Asia-Pacific Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that Armenia is willing to replace Turkish commodities with Iranian products.

According to Mojtaba Mousavian, the Republic of Armenia plans to replace 2,250 Turkish commodity items with Iran-made products.

Later on Tuesday, a board member of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (IC-CIMA) told ILNA that Iran now has the advantage of exporting goods such as sweets and chocolates, ceramic tiles, detergents, shoes, flooring and carpets and textile and clothing to Armenia, in addition to the previously traded items.

"We may not have been able to make good use of regional agreements in the past, but this is an opportunity for us to enter the Armenian market with full force," Ali Shariati said.

Final thoughts

Establishing strong economic relations with other countries requires a united front by the government, which means it requires close coordination between various government bodies to set the scene for the private sector and traders to play their role.

In this particular case, the situation begs the immediate attention from a triangle consisting of the Trade Promotion Organization, the Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of



Commerce, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

By mobilizing the facilities in the mentioned bodies, exporters will be able to fully showcase their capacities and capabilities and take advantage of this probably short-term opportunity.

Iran inks deal to export rail tracks to Afghanistan

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) has signed an agreement to export \$4.332 million worth of rail tracks to Afghanistan, according to the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

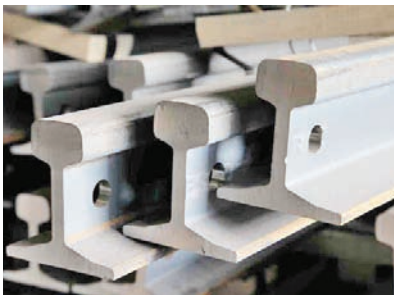
The mentioned rail tracks will be used in the country's railway development projects, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan is currently taking serious measures for developing its railway infrastructure and will be needing millions of tons of rail tracks to this end, and Iran as a major producer of rail tracks in the region can meet all its neighbor's needs in this sector.

Iran and Afghanistan officially inaugurated a joint railway project called Khaf-Herat on December 11, 2020, to link eastern Iran to western Afghanistan. Some sections of this project were implemented by the Iranian side and Afghanistan was in charge of constructing one part.

Iran took the first steps for domestic production of rail tracks six years ago in the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015), in which the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) made an agreement with ESCO on the production of rail tracks.

In November 2016, ESCO signed a contract with RAI to produce 40,000 tons of U33 rails and consequently launched its rail production line with €28.2 million plus 573 billion rials (about \$13.6 million) of investment.



Later in June 2018, the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks (called National Rail) were handed over to RAI.

Mentioning the hand-over of the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami said, "Moving toward self-sufficiency in this sector is a must and delivery of the first cargo of the National Rail has been a big achievement in this regard."

He underscored that the country would become a major rail track producer in the region in near future.

Iran-made rails are in full compliance with the latest international standards of rail production and now National Rails are being used in various railway development projects across the country including Chabahar-Zahedan, Yazd-Eghlid, Hamedan-Sanandaj, Miyaneh-Ardebil, Bostanabad-Tabriz, and Rasht-Caspian.

POGC installs new SPM to boost South Pars condensate exports

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing the country's giant South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf, has installed a second single-point-mooring (SPM) system at Site 2 of the mentioned field to facilitate gas condensate exports from the region.

According to the POGC office of Public Relations, this SPM, with a loading capacity of 7,000 cubic meters per hour of gas condensate, was installed by the Sea Master Vessel in its designated place in the Persian Gulf waters on Monday.

With the installation of this new SPM system, the construction and quality tests of which were carried out by a foreign company and was delivered to Iran in May 2020, the loading capacity of the gas condensate at the South Pars phases will increase significantly.

Currently, the gas condensate produced at Pars 2 region is sent through a subsea pipeline to the SPM No. 1 of the South Pars Phase 12 to be loaded for exports, and the second SPM is also going to be connected to the site by a 36-inch subsea pipeline with a length of 6.8 kilometers.

The new SPM is also intended to increase the operational flexibility for gas condensate exports by making POGC able to carry out periodic facility repairs



on both SPM systems, and will also prevent the deterioration of condensate measuring and loading equipment by balancing the operational loads between the two systems.

In late December 2020, Iran inaugurated its strategic gas condensate storage facilities in the South Pars region in a move to boost the storage and exports of the mentioned commodity.

With a nominal capacity of 640,000 cubic meters (four million barrels), the mentioned storage facilities and gas condensate measuring stations have been constructed to store gas condensate produced by South Pars refineries.

The mentioned storages are able to supply 480,000 barrels of gas condensate to the Persian Gulf Star Refinery on a daily basis and also are able to send gas condensate to the mentioned SPM systems via pipelines.

TCCIMA, MSC ink MOU to cooperate in new technologies

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) for cooperation in the field of new technologies to improve the efficiency and productivity of enterprises by using new innovations.

The MOU was signed by TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and the MSC Managing Director Hamidreza Azimian during a visit of Khansari to Isfahan, TCCIMA portal reported on Monday.

Based on the MOU, the two sides will collaborate to support the technological development of business enterprises in line with the country's plans for the fourth industrial revolution.

The MOU will be in effect for two years and can be further extended; it is mainly focused on the smartening and digital transformation of the country's industrial units especially in the fields of steel, minerals, and metals.



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (R) and MSC Managing Director Hamidreza Azimian exchange signed MOU documents.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, Khansari pointed to cooperation between the TCCIMA and MSC as a big step toward a technological transformation in the country's industrial sectors, noting that it aims to help the country's private sector companies to enter the world's modern companies' club.

Azimian for his part, noted that the future developments in the global market may no longer welcome the traditionally produced products, therefore manufacturers should pursue a digital transformation plan if they want to keep up with the world.

Iran has been developing and implementing several plans to support and empower knowledge-based companies as a step toward the modernization of the country's industries in order to materialize the goal of a surge in production.

Located 65 kilometers southwest of Isfahan near the city of Mobarakeh, MSC is the largest steelmaker in the MENA (West Asia and Northern Africa) region, and one of the largest industrial complexes operating in Iran.

General Qassem Soleimani: Iconic martyr of the century

“Due to his legendary courage, General Soleimani was loved and admired by nearly everyone, including many of his enemies”

I → Their even more cowardly commander-in-chief who authorized the slaughter, a certain Donald J. Trump, had avoided the Vietnam-era draft by claiming to have a vague problem with his foot. Trump—a certified narcissist, sociopath, dullard, and child-molesting rapist pervert—relayed the order to kill Gen. Soleimani from Trump's boss, Benjamin Netanyahu, whose intelligence service had employed Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell to obtain blackmail material documenting Trump's criminal sex habits.

There are several reasons why Hajj Qassem Soleimani's martyrdom rises to world-historical stature. The first, as already suggested, is the emblematic evil of his murderers. Just as Hussein's martyrdom was underlined by the evil of Yazid, Gen. Soleimani's death at the hands of the most villainous cowards imaginable creates a striking chiaroscuro effect in which the darkness of the forces of evil emphasizes the bright, shining light of the martyr who stood against them.

That same “moral chiaroscuro” shines a dazzling halo around Soleimani's battle with another avatar of sheer evil: the pitiless terrorists of Daesh. The entire world, with the exception of Daesh's Zionist and American sponsors, cheered as the brave General repeatedly helicoptered behind enemy lines to rally Kurdish, Iraqi, and Syrian forces fighting the head-choppers and liver-eaters who had sullied the good name of Islam with their insane, drug-addled, U.S.-mind-controlled bloodbaths.

Due to his legendary courage, General Soleimani was loved and admired by nearly everyone, including many of his enemies. Even neocon-friendly Gen. Petraeus, who was nearly driven out of his mind by Soleimani's military and strategic genius as they clashed in Iraq, reacted ambivalently to the latter's murder, voicing barely-disguised admiration as he admitted that the martyred General had “played his hand well.”

Indeed, in the long annals of military history, it would be hard to find a commander who, with a level of courage that stunned ally

Just as Hussein's martyrdom was underlined by the evil of Yazid, Gen. Soleimani's death at the hands of the most villainous cowards imaginable creates a striking chiaroscuro effect in which the darkness of the forces of evil emphasizes the bright, shining light of the martyr who stood against them.



Dr. Kevin Barrett is an Arabist-Islamologist scholar and one of America's best-known critics of the War on Terror. From 1991 through 2006 Dr. Barrett taught at colleges and universities in San Francisco, Paris and Wisconsin.

The entire world, with the exception of Daesh's Zionist and American sponsors, cheered as the brave General repeatedly helicoptered behind enemy lines to rally Kurdish, Iraqi, and Syrian forces fighting the head-choppers and liver-eaters who had sullied the good name of Islam with their insane, drug-addled, U.S.-mind-controlled bloodbaths.

and enemy alike, continued to personally visit the most sanguinary war fronts under circumstances of the most extreme peril the way Hajj Soleimani did. Obviously Gen. Soleimani knew he would almost certainly be martyred. He was undoubtedly surprised that it took so long. From his extensive time on the bloodiest fronts of 1980s Iran's imposed war against Saddam Hussein's aggression, to his battles with the biggest and nastiest U.S. and mafia-backed drug gangs of Baluchistan, to his front-lines on-the-ground leadership of the many and various struggles against the U.S.-Zionist-Daesh axis of evil, Gen. Soleimani should have, on the basis of cold actuarial calculations, died hundreds if not thousands of times. His survival until 2020 is so improbable it can only be considered miraculous.

General Soleimani's legendary charisma and optimistic can-do attitude inspired his troops, his allies, and even foreign heads of state. In 2012, the General met Syria's president Bashar al-Assad at the presidential palace in Damascus. At that moment, the plot against Syria, hatched by Zionist extremist Jeffrey Feltman, author of the 2005 Hariri assassination among other atrocities, was in full swing. General Soleimani told President Assad that Iran would offer him sanctuary if he wished to step down. If, on the other hand, he wanted to fight, Iran would stand by its long-time friend. Inspired by Gen. Soleimani, the Syrian leader chose to stay and fight a David-vs.-Goliath battle against the Zionist-American regime change effort.

That uphill battle might have been hopeless had Gen. Soleimani not paid a visit to Russian

president Putin in 2015. A Russian witness to the encounter says Putin was greatly impressed by the Iranian General: “I can even say that without the meeting, (Putin) wouldn't have committed to Assad the same way.”

Gen. Soleimani's talent for inspiring Davids to rise up against Goliaths and win was also evident in Lebanon and Syria. The General's advice and support was an essential ingredient in the emergence of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Ansarullah movement in Yemen. Both groups seemingly came out of nowhere to strike devastating blows against the twin scourges of Zionism and imperialism, somehow winning battles against vastly bigger, better-armed, better-funded opponents. Lebanon's defeat of Israel in the 33 Day War of 2006, and Ansarullah's defeat of the Anglo-Zionist Empire's proxies Saudi Arabia and the UAE, were among the most unlikely David-vs.-Goliath triumphs in military history. Such grossly improbable victories might have been downright impossible without the daring, charismatic genius of General Qassem Soleimani.

Indeed, the against-all-odds career of Gen. Soleimani parallels the miraculous triumphs of the Prophet Muhammad (saas) and his allies against the formidably powerful Meccan oligarchy. The Qur'anic injunction to resist evil and defend the good, and to fight with utmost exertion in the cause of God, trusting that He will help with unseen forces even on the most unequal battlefields, defines and describes the career of the martyred General. Such genuinely Islamic warriors have been rare in most eras, and even more rare in ours.

Finally, any serious discussion of Gen.

Soleimani's legacy cannot ignore his stature as the towering giant of the anti-Zionist struggle—the defining clash of our time, which Sheikh Imran Hussein among other eschatologists identifies with the end times (akhir uz-zaman). Virtually all Christian as well as Muslim eschatologists explicitly or implicitly identify Zionism with Antichrist (Dajjal). But while Sheikh Imran Hussein and other Muslims correctly argue that all people of God must stand against the lying, criminal, genocidal Zionist Antichrist, today's deviant and misguided Christian eschatologists generally support Zionism on the grounds that the more Antichrist prospers, the faster Jesus will come back to defeat him!

The satanically-inspired bogus Christians and bogus Muslims who fail in their duty to wage jihad against the Zionist Antichrist, neglecting to raise their voices much less their swords and allowing the genocide of Palestine to proceed, will have to answer to God for their crimes of omission. Today, many of them can plead ignorance: The Zionists have grossly distorted history. They have turned the entire mainstream media into a mendacious propaganda factory, using the proceeds of their global usury racket to brainwash most of the world's population.

But as the world gradually awakens to the shocking truth about the 20th century world wars, the Zionist assassinations of the Kennedies and controlled demolitions on 9/11, the century-long terrorist genocide of the Palestinians, and the enablement of these and so many other crimes through the establishment of the worst criminal dictatorship in history thanks to ubiquitous Zionist usury, more and more citizens of the world, whatever their nominal national or religious affiliation, will gradually come to understand General Qassem Soleimani's heroic stature in the struggle of good against evil. A living legend in his own time, and an even bigger legend just one year after his martyrdom, General Soleimani's halo will, insha'Allah, continue to shine ever-brighter, inspiring millions to rise up against evil and struggle in the cause of God.

That uphill battle might have been hopeless had Gen. Soleimani not paid a visit to Russian president Putin in 2015. A Russian witness to the encounter says Putin was greatly impressed by the Iranian General: “I can even say that without the meeting, (Putin) wouldn't have committed to Assad the same way.”

General Soleimani: Fighting globalism in the trenches

By Walt Peretto

General Qassem Soleimani was the leader in the field for Iran's effort to rid West Asia and North Africa of the scourge of terrorism. Soleimani achieved major successes against Western backed mercenary groups in Syria and Iraq. This ended when Soleimani was assassinated in a drone attack on January 3, 2020 on the orders of U.S. President Donald Trump. Officially, this assassination was lauded by Israel and the Saudi proxy government in Yemen.

The terrorist groups Soleimani was fighting were trained, equipped, and funded by the U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia, and their globalist allies. Their purpose is to destabilize Syria to encourage regime change in Damascus and coerce immigration (mainly to Europe). In Iraq, their purpose is to promote and maintain chaos to ‘justify’ the continuation of a U.S. military presence.

These mercenary terrorist groups are collectively known as Daesh, or as the Western mainstream media refers to them: ISIS, ISIL, or Islamic State (IS). The Western/Zionist mainstream media portrays these groups to Western news consumers as Muslim fundamentalists who will routinely and ruthlessly kill anyone who does not conform to their extremist ideologies. In reality, these groups are mercenaries fighting on behalf of the U.S./Israeli/Globalist Complex to advance their agendas.

General Soleimani was assassinated because he was interfering with the expansionist plans of the globalists. Another reason for this act is to provoke Iran into war against the United States on behalf of Israel and the globalist psychopathic elite.

The Western globalist powers, Israel, and their allies are led by criminal psychopaths who lack any moral restraint due to their innate mental pathologies and/or acquired Machiavellian nature. To cover up and mitigate their pathologies, they routinely attempt to moralize their actions by claiming to support justice and human rights around the world. Yet, on September 11, 2001 the U.S. attacked itself with Israeli impetus and then blamed it on fictional Muslim religious fundamentalists. They proceeded to use these false narratives



to ‘justify’ invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq to extract their resources and to subjugate both nations into the emerging new world order. These agendas were given a significant boost in 2020 with the planned Covid-19 operation designed to trim the population and administer millions of toxic vaccines to the common public.

In the days following the assassination of General Soleimani last January, huge gatherings of mourners and protesters congregated in cities around the Muslim world to condemn this cowardly act and display unity and solidarity. A few weeks later the world would enter the throes of the Covid-19 operation that was designed to reset the world's economy, introduce increased governmental powers to control the masses in lockdown fashion, and of course mass vaccinations.

Going into 2021, humanity is entering a major crossroads. We can either submit to the global psychopathic plans OR we can expose the pathological nature of the globalists and reverse course towards a direction beneficial to the empathic (non-psychopathic) majority that makes up about 99% of humanity. The vaccines they want everyone to receive are designed to alter human biology and likely induce lower birth rates. General Soleimani gave his life fighting against this insanity and proposed psychopathic dystopia.

On November 27, 2020 – Israel's Mossad conducted the assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientist Moshen Fakhirzadeh on Iranian soil. This heinous act was again designed to again goad Iran into a war for Israel in which United States will do most of the fighting. Additionally, at least 5 Iranian scientists have been murdered by Mossad in the last several years.

The globalist psychopathic elites behind these operations have openly called for a one-world cashless economy, technocratic surveillance and control of the world's populations, sharp depopulation, censorship of information, and mandatory injections in response to planned exaggerated pandemics. These elites are experts on human social psychology, having amassed this knowledge over many generations. Meanwhile, their incessant propaganda and disinformation campaigns have left in its wake a world confusion, false perceptions, economic manipulation, and anxiety for many; leaving the common masses in poor shape to fight back. The only way to avoid global dystopia is to study the psychology of the elite with twice the passion and accuracy than they have studied us. Knowledge is power, action is critical, and the time to act is slipping away.

In these crucial times, accurate information needs to get out to the people before information censorship makes it impossible and we are left only with a Western/Zionist disinformation monopoly. Only through accurate information and objective analysis, can empathic humanity create effective counterstrategies to fight this pathological scourge. The future of humanity is on the line. We also need more people with courage like General Soleimani who are willing to take action into the field against the agents, thugs, mercenaries, order followers, and enforcers of the pathological new world order.

Walt Peretto is an American writer, researcher, analyst, and sociopolitical psychologist. He is a regular contributor to various media outlets and he writes for several online news magazines. He is also working on a new research project that will introduce the groundwork for sociopolitical psychology which is the study of the behaviors behind social systems and their interactions.

Johnson orders new England COVID lockdown

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has ordered England into a new national lockdown to try to slow a surge in COVID-19 cases that threatens to overwhelm parts of the health system before a vaccine programme reaches a critical mass.

Johnson said on Monday a new, more contagious variant of the coronavirus was spreading at great speed and urgent action was needed to slow it down, al Jazeera reported.

Johnson said the measures would include school closures from Tuesday and rules requiring most people to stay at home apart from essential shopping, exercise and other limited exceptions.

Persian Gulf monarchies sign agreement to resolve diplomatic rift with Qatar

The members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Persian Gulf, which includes Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, have signed a “solidarity and stability” agreement that effectively puts an end to the diplomatic spat between Doha and other members of the council.



Under the agreement, the Persian Gulf kingdoms will lift the blockade on Qatar and reopen their airspace as well as land and maritime borders with the peninsular monarchy.

“These efforts helped us reach the agreement of the Al-Ula statement that will be signed at this summit, where we affirm our Persian Gulf, Arab and Islamic solidarity and stability”, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said, as broadcast by Al-Arabiya.

Qatar and its Persian Gulf neighbors have been locked in a bitter diplomatic dispute since 2017, when several Arab nations severed ties with Doha, accusing it of supporting terrorism - a claim Qatar has denied. However, the regional crisis showed signs of a breakthrough after Riyadh and Doha agreed to reopen their borders and airspace on Monday.

Wisconsin city braces for protest as charging decision looms

A southeastern Wisconsin city braced for another round of protests as prosecutors prepared to announce whether they'll charge a white police officer who shot a Black man in the back, leaving him paralyzed.

Kenosha Police Officer Rusten Sheskey shot Jacob Blake seven times on Aug. 23 as Blake was about to get into an SUV during a domestic dispute. The police union has maintained Blake resisted arrest and was armed with a knife, although state investigators have said only that a knife was found on the floor of the vehicle. Blake's three children were in the back seat of the SUV when he was shot.

The shooting sparked protests that went on for several nights. Some of them turned violent, with some protesters burning businesses and members of self-styled militias answering a call on social media to travel to the city. Prosecutors have charged Kyle Rittenhouse of Antioch, Illinois, with shooting three people, killing two of them, with an assault-style weapon during one of the demonstrations. Rittenhouse, who is white, was 17 at the time of the shootings. Conservatives have rallied to Rittenhouse's legal defense.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley is expected any day to announce whether Sheskey will face criminal charges. Fearing a repeat of the August protests, city officials were expected to adopt an emergency resolution Monday night and take other steps, including setting up a limited area for protests, imposing a curfew and closing roads. Concrete barricades and oversized metal fencing surrounded the Kenosha County Courthouse Monday night.

Meanwhile, Gov. Tony Evers activated 500 National Guard troops to help Kenosha authorities when the decision is announced.

Resistance News

Dozens of female Palestinian inmates suffer from poor conditions in Israel prison: Rights group

INTERNATIONAL d e s k **TEHRAN**—A Palestinian prisoners' rights group says approximately 40 female detainees are being held under inhumane conditions at a detention center in the occupied territories run by Israeli forces.

The Palestinian Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs said in a statement that there are 36 Palestinian women incarcerated in Israeli Damon prison, of whom 24 are serving different prison terms, including two given 16-year jail terms.

The Commission added that nine female Palestinian prisoners are on remand and three women are administratively detained.

The co-called Israeli administrative detention is a form of imprisonment without trial or charge that allows the Israeli authorities to incarcerate Palestinians for up to six months, which could be extended for an infinite number of times.

The Palestinian Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs highlighted that some of the female detainees suffer from very difficult health conditions and are subjected to deliberate medical neglect, like the case of Israa Jaabis, who suffers from burns and needs surgeries.

Other prisoners who also need special medical care include Amal Tagatqa, who was injured by five bullets and needs an operation to remove fixators from her leg, prisoner Iman Awar, who suffers from cancerous lumps in her vocal cords, and prisoner Nasreen Abu Kamil, who suffers from hypertension, diabetes and sore toes.

More than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners are currently languishing in some 17 Israeli jails, with dozens of them serving multiple life sentences.

Over 500 detainees are being held under the so-called administrative detention in various Israeli prisons, some of whom have been held in that condition for up to 11 years without any charges brought against them. According to Press TV, Palestinians and human rights groups say administrative detention violates the right to due process since evidence is withheld from prisoners while they are held for lengthy periods without being charged, tried or convicted.

Palestinian detainees have continuously resorted to open-ended hunger strikes in an attempt to express their outrage at the detentions.

Fossilized tooth found in west-central Iran dates from 100,000 years, minister says

➔ **1** Radiocarbon dating is [routinely] practiced for determining the age of an object containing organic material that ages up to 45,000 years... and the method was not effective for the Neanderthal tooth, he explained.

Last week, Mounesan attended the opening ceremony of a public show for the tooth, which was found years ago in Qal-e Kord Cave of Avaj county.



The organ has been examined in two laboratories in France and the United States, and the results of radiocarbon dating experiments show that it relates to the oldest-known Neanderthal civilization in Iran, according to Alireza Khazaeli, the provincial tourism chief.

In November 2018, the first season of the joint Iran-France archeological exploration led to the discovery of over 6,000 cultural pieces in the area. It also yielded bone remains of horse, deer, bear, and many stone tools belonging to the Middle Paleolithic period (between 200,000 up to 40,000 years ago).

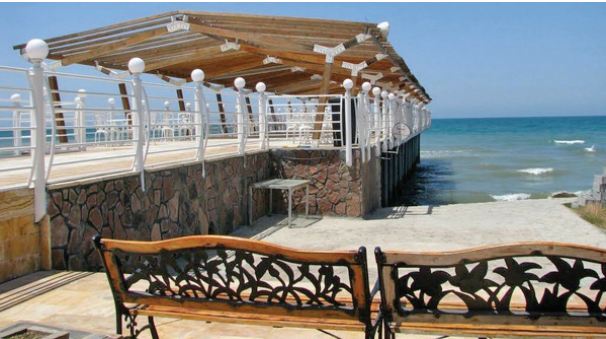
A 2019 study published in the Journal of Human Evolution, suggests that Neanderthals were roaming at the Iranian Zagros Mountain sometimes from 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

Until the late 20th century, Neanderthals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans. However, more recent discoveries about this well-preserved fossil Eurasian population have revealed an overlap between living and archaic humans.

New recreational piers to be built in Noshahr

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Ten new recreational piers are planned to be constructed in Noshahr in a bid to attract more tourists to the Iranian city, situated in Mazandaran province, south of the Caspian Sea.

Constructing such piers could also boost the infrastructure needed for developing fisheries investments, the head of the city's Fisheries Department has announced.



This capacity could also facilitate the activities of the fish farms in the coastal waters of the region, ILNA quoted Mostafa Rezvani as saying on Monday.

Last August, construction of the first recreational pier in Mazandaran began in the city of Ramsar.

Some 150 billion rials (\$3.5 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) were allocated to the project, which aimed to enhance coastal and maritime tourism in the region.

With a width of three meters and a length of 100 meters, the pier is being constructed by private investors in close collaboration with the provincial cultural heritage department.

This pier is one of the 134 piers, which are decided to be built in the future across the province's coastal strip, provincial tourism chief Mehran Hassani said.

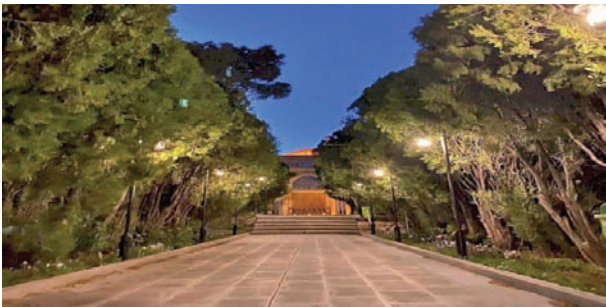
The project, which is planned to come on stream in one year, also includes restaurants, water sports space, and boat mooring.

Stretched along the Caspian Sea and Alborz mountain range, Mazandaran is a popular destination for domestic holidaymakers and it is home to more than 3500 villages and rural areas.

Lightening project completed at Shaikh Kharagani mausoleum

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A lightening project has recently been completed at the mausoleum of Shaikh Abu al-Hassan al-Kharagani (963-1033), a renowned Sufi master whose students include the likes of Khwaja Abdullah Ansari (1006-1088).

A budget of 400 million rials (\$9,500 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the Semnan province's tourism chief Mehdi Jamal announced on Monday.



His mausoleum is located 24 kilometers outside of Shahroud inside a garden. The original mausoleum was a simple brick structure that was replaced by a new one in 1974.

There was once a mosque attached to the mausoleum of Sheikh Abu al-Hassan which had a conical dome with elaborate tilework. Only the Mihrab (prayer niche) of the mosque stands today. This Mihrab has beautiful stucco reliefs and a stucco inscription. Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran, another mosque was built around this Mihrab.

Today, the mausoleum includes a library, which houses reference books on mysticism, and rooms where pilgrims can stay. The historical monument was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1967.

Prehistorical clay heads, griffin, earthen mask added to Iran national heritage list

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A total of eleven prehistorical works of art, including clay heads, a griffin, and an earthen mask unearthed years ago in Iran's Khuzestan province, have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The objects include a clay head of a man, clay head of a woman, clay tablet, earthen mask, and an earthenware with human face, all of which had been excavated in Haft-Tepe (Haft-Tappeh), according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

The new entrees also contain a trilingual column base, an Achaemenid column base with Greek inscription, a Parthian statue of a lady bearing Pahlavi inscription, and a stone statue depicting Hercules, which have been unearthed from the UNESCO-registered Susa.

An Elamite relief depicting a family scene, and a griffin made of stone, which have been recovered during excavations at the UNESCO-registered Tchogha Zanbil were also added to the prestigious list.

The objects have been put on show at various museums across the southwestern oil-rich province which, embraces three World Heritage sites: Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Hydraulic System.

The magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil is considered by many the finest surviving example of the Elamite architecture in the globe. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979. Its construction started in c. 1250 BC upon the order of the Elamite king Untash-Napirisha (1275-1240 BC) as the religious center of Elam dedicated to the Elamite divinities Inshushinak and Napirisha.

The ziggurat overlooks the ancient city of Susa (near modern Shush) in Khuzestan Province. Reaching a total height of some 25m, the ziggurat was used to be surmounted by a temple and estimated to hit 52m during its heyday. UNESCO says that Tchogha Zanbil is the largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped



pyramidal monument. Tchogha Zanbil was excavated in six seasons between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archaeologist who specialized in ancient Iran.

The World Heritage also includes Haft-Tappeh (literary meaning "Seven Mounds"), which is located 15 kilometers to the south of the ancient city of Susa. Early excavations in Haft-Tappeh conducted by the late Iranian archaeologist Dr. Ezzatollah Negahban yielded a large number of petroglyphs bearing cuneiform inscriptions in Akkadian, belonging to Elamite kings. The petroglyphs contain information on the religious beliefs, trading methods, and the political, cultural, and social relations of the time.

Susa was one of the city-states of ancient Elam (2700 – 539 BC), which later became a winter capital of the Persian Achaemenid kings, who ruled Iran from c. 550 to 330 BC. Elam was an ancient country in southwestern Iran approximately equivalent to the modern region of Khuzestan province.

Part of Susa is still inhabited as Shush



on a strip of land between the rivers Shaour (a tributary of the Karkheh) and Dez. Archaeological evidence suggests that Susa has been continuously inhabited since 4,200 BC placing it among the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Also, there are traces at Susa of a village inhabited around 7,000 BC and painted pottery dating from ca. 5,000 BC at the site.

The archaeological site includes the ruins of the Achaemenid palace complex of Darius I, the Great, and is located on a fifteen meter high artificial raised 100-hectare terrace. It has suffered greatly in the past seventy years. Susa became part of the Persian Empire under Cyrus II, the Great in 538 or 539 BC. During the balance of the Achaemenian period (to 330 BC), Susa functioned as one of the rotating capitals (a winter capital) of the Achaemenian Kings.

It is said that Alexander of Macedonia captured Susa in 330 BC and plundered the city, seizing some 40,000 talents of gold and silver from the treasury. According to UNESCO, "the excavated



architectural monuments include administrative, residential, and palatial structures" and the site contains several layers of urban settlement dating from the 5th millennium BC through the 13th century CE.

During the Sasanian age, the city had a large Christian community. It was sacked by the Sasanian king Shapur II, who transferred the population to Iwan-e Karkheh, but Susa was sufficiently recovered in the early seventh century to fight against the Arabs, who nevertheless captured the city which remained important until the thirteenth century CE.

Different archaeological seasons in Susa have yielded ample relics including pottery, arms, ornamental objects, metalwork, bronze articles, as well as clay tablets. Susa is also a gateway to several worthy destinations such as the UNESCO-tagged ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil, the ruins of Achaemenid Apadana Castle, Shush Castle (Akropol), Prophet Danial Shrine, Museum of Susa, the archaeological mount of Haft Tapeh.

Anthropology museum, research center under construction in UNESCO-tagged Maymand

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — An anthropology museum as well as a research center are under construction in the UNESCO-registered Maymand, a southeastern Iranian village of troglodytes.

A budget of 20 billion rials (\$476,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the projects, Reza Riahi, the director of the World Heritage site, said on Monday.

The cultural landscape of Maymand was named a UNESCO World Heritage in 2015 as an exemplar system of manmade cave dwelling that is believed to be practiced in the region to cope with its harsh climate.

The museum and research center are being built and localized based on the village's site plan, the official added.

The construction of the research center, which includes a laboratory, conference hall, meeting room, library, technical office, and documentation center, is complete by 60 percent, while the museum is complete by 70 percent, he explained.

He also noted that the museum is planned to showcase and introduce the lifestyle, traditions, and customs of the residents of Meymand as well as their handicrafts, and agricultural and livestock tools and products.

Maymand is situated near Shahr-e Babak in the south-eastern Kerman Province. Its self-contained, semi-arid area is sprawled at the end of a south-facing valley at the southern extremity of Iran's central mountains.

Sandwiched between a desert and a mountain, Maymand has cold winters and exceedingly hot summers yet abundant with mulberry and blackberry trees. Living conditions in the village are considered as severe due to the aridity of the land, high temperature in the summer-time, and very cold winters.

It is believed to be one of human's primary residences in the country as its history stretches far back in time to about 10,000 years ago. Some of its natural and manmade caves are still used for housing and shelter.

The houses in the continually inhabited village are carved like caverns inside the mountain. The internal spaces have corridors and pillars featuring a rural architecture. The houses are situated in four or five stories, one on top of the other.

Narratives say the early residents did not use hammer and chisel, but rather a type of local, pointed stone that was hard enough to carve images onto the rocks. This method of carving is still practiced in the region. Some of the stone engravings in the village date back to 10,000 years ago.

The majority of inhabitants are semi-nomadic shepherds. They raise their animals on mountain pastures, living in temporary settlements in spring and autumn. The community has a strong bond with the natural environment that is expressed in social practices, cultural ceremonies, and religious beliefs.



The local dialect contains words from the ancient Sassanid and Pahlavi languages. The dialect has been barely changed due to the remoteness of the village. The area is also home to various animals such as snakes, lizards, hedgehogs, deer, leopards, wolves, foxes, and also birds of prey.

Few seasonal springs around the village contribute to the flourishing of agriculture in the area. In such an arid climate, residents have to collect every drop of water to make a living as their ancestors did.

Semnan's nomads produce over 7,000 square meters of hand-woven rugs, textiles in 9 months

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Over 7,000 square meters of hand-woven rugs and textiles have been produced during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 20, 2020) by the nomads residing in the north-central province of Semnan.

The handmade products, worth a total of 32.6 billion rials (\$776,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), include kilim, carpet, woolen and felt clothes and socks, Morad Khadem, the Director-General of Nomadic Affairs of Semnan province said on Tuesday.

Besides producing handicrafts, the nomads, which make up 8.2 percent of the population of the province, produce a significant part of red meat, milk, and dairy products, the official added.

According to data compiled by the



Nomads Affairs Organization of Iran, the nomadic inhabitants of the country have been decreased from 38.6 percent of the whole Iranian population in the Iranian year 1245 (1866) to 9.6 percent in the year 1345 (1966) and around one percent currently.

And nomads and tribes are be found in all Iranian provinces except Kordestan.

The data suggests that Iran's nomads are fading away in the course of time. The modern life lures the newest generations to big cities for a more relaxed lifestyle and even higher education. Many younger people have left behind struggles with backbreaking works of the nomadic life which is sometimes mingled with drought and dust storms.

However, some Iranian nomads had long resisted modernity through isolation, which was the result of their lifestyle, deep traditions, and patriarchy. However, nowadays traces of modern life is undeniable in the lives of the remaining ones across the ancient land.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking

Atlas of historical Masuleh, its legal boundaries determined

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A comprehensive atlas of the historical village of Masuleh and its legal boundaries have recently been determined and announced by the Iranian ministry of tourism and cultural heritage.

Legal boundaries and historical texture of Masuleh has been announced to Gilan Governor-General Arsalan Zare' is a letter inked by Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, a deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and

Handicrafts, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The scenic, mountainside village is famed for its Lego-shaped earthen houses built on another's rooftop. It is estimated to date for a millennium, as the existence of numerous graveyards inner and outside of the village proves its old age.

Masuleh a popular tourist destination where local and foreign tourists swarm like ants across the village's rooftops and through its narrow passageways during summer.



Iran ranks 14th for top universities worldwide

1 → In 2019, Iran participated with 43 universities, which shows an increased share in the recent ranking.

The United States with 312 universities tops the list, followed by China and Japan with 311 and 117 universities, respectively.

The United Kingdom with 99 universities listed in the ranking has placed fourth, while India with 98, and France with 79 came after it.

Turkey with 77 universities, Germany with 71, Italy with 65, Brazil with 63, South Korea with 62, Spain with 55, Poland with 47, and Iran with 46 universities are among 14 countries on top of the list in terms of the highest number of top universities.

The results show that the two universities of "Tehran Medical Sciences" and "Tehran" are among the top 600 in the list, Mohammad Javad Dehghani, head of the ISC said.

The Isfahan University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, Amir Kabir University of Technology, Tarbiat Modarres University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University are among the top universities in this ranking, he stated.

In the ISC 2020 rankings, three universities of Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stanford are ranked first to third.

Among 57 Islamic countries, a total of 273 universities from 25 are included in the ranking system, he said, noting, Turkey with 77 universities, Iran and Malaysia with 46



and 22, respectively, are ranked among the top 3 universities on the list, he stated.

In total, only 7 universities among Islamic countries were ranked among the top 500. However, according to the 10-year plan of science, innovation, and technology of the Islamic member states (OIC approved in 2017 in Kazakhstan), it is necessary that by 2026, 50 universities from Islamic countries to be among the top 500 universities in the world.

Top universities in 2020

Times Higher Education has published its annual ranking of the world's top universities for 2021, listing 47 Iranian universities,

which shows an increase of 7 universities compared to the last year.

With 47 Iranian universities ranked among 1,527 top universities of 93 countries in the world in 2021 rankings, Iran achieved a great improvement in the academic field.

Some 21 Islamic countries were also listed in the ranking, however, Iran holds the highest share with 47 universities.

With a scientific growth rate of 10.4 percent in 2019, Iran ranked second among the top 25 countries in the world, next to China with a growth rate of 12.9 percent, according to the Web of Science website.

According to statistics released by the International Web of Science Database, Iran's citation rank has always been on the rise over the last eight years, from 24 in 2012 to 16 in 2019.

Iran ranks first in terms of the number of universities in the region and among Islamic countries, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020.

Two Iranian universities have been ranked among the top 100 universities in Asia, according to Webometrics Ranking of World Universities for July 2020.

Moreover, 7 Iranian universities have been listed among the best 1000 worldwide; including, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Isfahan University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology.

In June, THE Asia University Rankings 2020 ranked five Iranian universities among the top 100 universities worldwide.

The Center for Science and Technology Studies Leiden Ranking has placed 36 Iranian universities in the list of over 1,000 major universities worldwide in 2020 compared with 26 universities in 2019.

Also, five Iranian universities have been placed among the world's top 1,000 universities announced by the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021.MG

Pakistan pledges to strengthen anti-narcotics co-op with Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Ijaz Ahmed Shah, Pakistan's Minister for Narcotics Control, has pledged to further strengthen cooperation with Iran to combat drug trafficking.

The fight against drugs is of global importance because today the serious threat is imposed on the young generation caused by drug use, Ahmed Shah said during a meeting with the chief of the Iranian anti-narcotics police Majid Karimi in Islamabad on Tuesday.

"Each country may have its own methods and approach to dealing with drug trafficking, but in Pakistan, we are looking to cut off the demand for drugs and if the demand is stopped, it will be easier to deal with supply and trafficking," he explained. Emphasizing the need to strengthen Iran-Pakistan border cooperation, he welcomed Iran's initiatives and proposals to effectively combat drug trafficking.

Karimi also met his Pakistani counterpart, Mohammad Arif Malik, during a meeting on Monday in Islamabad, through which the two officials announced the agreement to establish an information exchange committee between the Iran-Pakistan anti-narcotics forces.

Referring to the increase in narcotics production in Afghanistan and the serious threat facing Iran and Pakistan, Karimi stated that the issue is now on the agenda and the Pakistani side promised to cooperate.

Any trafficking of humans, drugs, and weapons must be stopped in any way possible, which is why the Pakistani government's move to fence the borders is important and welcomed by Iran, he highlighted.

He also said that Iran would set up a center for narcotics detective dogs and assist in equipping it in addition to providing necessary training to Pakistani agents, IRNA reported.

Karimi also met the Interior Minister of Pakistan Sheikh Rashid Ahmad.



Iran's anti-narcotics measures

Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2020), putting the country in the first place in the world, Eskandar Momeni, the secretary-general of Iran's drug control headquarters, said in July 2020.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking, Momeni announced.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

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

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

Iran's drug control efforts led to the seizure of 266 tons of different types of drugs during the period of April-June 2020, a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

Contrary to expectations, marriage in Iran increased amid pandemic

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Contrary to expectations, the marriage rate in Iran has been increasing over the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 20, 2020), amid the coronavirus pandemic.

It was expected that the outbreak would affect the marriage rate leading to a downward trend, but studies have shown that the policies and cooperation of the related organizations increased the marriage rate by 0.3 percent over the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year, Mohammad-Mehdi Tondgooyan, deputy minister of sport and youth stated. "Also, the number of divorces decreased by 0.1 percent," he highlighted, Mehr reported on Monday.

Marriage threefold of divorce in Iran

Some 307,349 marriages and 99,679 divorces have been registered in the country during the first seven months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-October 21), according to the statistics of the National Organization for Civil Registration.

In December 2020, Seifollah Aboutorabi, the National Organization for Civil Registration spokesman said that during the first 9 months of the current [Iranian calendar] year, some 853,084 births were registered across the country, as well as 397,501 deaths during the same period.

Population growth policies

Official statistics of the country and the forecast of demographic experts indicate that if the trend of decreasing fertility rate, increasing single-child families, and decreasing marriage rate continues for the next 30 years, old age will prevail in the country and one in three people will be over 60-years-old, which will be the beginning of a crisis.

Some 14 policies to support childbearing and the family were announced by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in [the Iranian calendar year] 1393 (March 2014-March 2015) when he



stressed that social, cultural and economic development should be done in accordance with these general policies to support families.

The policies address the need to increase the population and the various dimensions of it, including childbearing, facilitating marriage and strengthening the family, reproductive health, promoting the Iranian-Islamic lifestyle, empowering young people, honoring the elderly, and the environment, which can lead to an increase in the quantity and quality of the population if it is timely and continuous implemented.

Kimia Mohammadzadeh, a member of the working group for women's and family at the independent association of the University of Tehran, told Mehr news agency that thus, instead of considering family support and youth marriage, policymakers adopt policies that lead to delays in marriage and family formation.

Childbearing, which should be a public issue, became an inefficient policy due to lack of follow-up, she said.

Most recently, the Majlis (Iranian parliament) has developed a support plan to encourage families to increase childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

Street in Tehran named after first Christian martyr

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — A street in Tehran was named on Tuesday after the first person of the Christian minority who was martyred by terrorists after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution in the country.

Andranik Masihi Megerchichian was martyred on October 2, 1979, in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, IRNA reported.

With the start of the Iraqi imposed war in 1980, reli-

gious minorities of Iran rushed to help the people protect the country and defend their homeland, symbolizing national solidarity and unity.

The enthusiastic presence of Christian compatriots and other religious minorities, including Zoroastrians, Jews, and Assyrians, portrayed Iranian unity at that time.

The most prominent Iranian martyr of Armenian ethnicity was Zurik Moradian and Vigen Karapetyan. Among the 6 Assyrian martyrs, Robert Lazarus is the

most famous who was martyred in the last year of the war. Some 221 of these youth were martyred, 1102 were disabled, and 48 were prisoners of war.

In Iran, Sacred Defense Week is commemorated every year from September 21st.

According to official statistics, 225,570 Iranian people were martyred and 574,101 people became disabled during the Sacred Defense. Also, the number of freed prisoners of war was 43,173.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → چ

Tehran to host INOTEX 2020 in June

The 9th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2020) will be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on June 7-10.

It is expected that more than 18,000 people will attend the event which is aimed to attract investment for startups and introduce investment opportunities to them.

Over 500 companies, startups, and investors will set up booths at the exhibition representing their latest achievements, with more than 600 B2B sessions and 20 side events to be held during the three-day event.

تهران میزبان نمایشگاه اینوتکس ۲۰۲۰ در خرداد

نهمین نمایشگاه بین المللی نوآوری و فناوری (اینوتکس ۲۰۲۰) تا ۲۱ خرداد ماه سال ۹۹ در محل دائمی نمایشگاه‌های بین‌المللی تهران برگزار می‌شود. به گزارش ایرنا، نمایشگاه اینوتکس با هدف اصلی «جذب سرمایه برای استارت‌آپ‌ها و شرکت‌ها و نیز معرفی فرصت‌های نوین سرمایه‌گذاری» برگزار می‌شود.

پیش‌بینی می‌شود بیش از ۱۸ هزار نفر از این نمایشگاه بازدید خواهند کرد. بیش از ۵۰۰ شرکت، استارت‌آپ، و سرمایه‌گذار در این نمایشگاه غرفه خواهند داشت و بیش از ۶۰۰ جلسه B۲B و بیش از ۲۰ رویداد جانبی برگزار خواهد شد.

First case of mutated coronavirus identified in Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Health Minister Saeed Namaki announced on Tuesday that the first case of infection with the mutated coronavirus, which emerged in the United Kingdom, has been identified in the country.

"We found the first case of mutated COVID-19 in an Iranian person residing in England, who came back to the country after a long time and was hospitalized in a private hospital. Repeated testing showed that the patient is infected with the new coronavirus strain," Namaki added, IRNA reported.

"Fortunately, this patient is fine and he was quarantined from the first day that entered the country so that none of his family or relatives was infected with the virus," he noted, emphasizing that, no other cases have been found in the country, but people must observe health protocols more than before.

The person was cognizant of the situation and had come to Iran with a positive PCR test result and had been quarantined. Screening tests were done on [his/her] relatives, but no one proved to be infected, Namaki explained.

Many countries have temporarily banned flights from the UK after the new outbreak, including Ireland, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Turkey, and so on.

Given the new situation concerning the infections to the coronavirus in the UK, Iran announced a two-week suspension of the flights on December 20 to prevent the transmission of the disease. In this line, all passengers entering Iran from England should undergo diagnostic tests.

Deaths below 100 for first time in months

For the first time in months, coronavirus deaths declined to below 100 in the country, as Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 98 COVID-19 mortalities during the past 24 hours, in a press briefing on Tuesday.

The total number of deaths reached 55,748, she stated. Lari also confirmed 6,113 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 1,255,620. She added that 1,029,028 patients have so far recovered, but 4,829 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

So far, 7,885,416 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

Lari noted that currently, 4 cities of Sari, Amol, Ramsar, and Savadkuh are in high-risk "red" zones, 43 cities in orange, and 401 cities in low-risk "yellow" zones.

Due to the high prevalence of the disease, strict COVID-19 restrictions took effect on October 26.

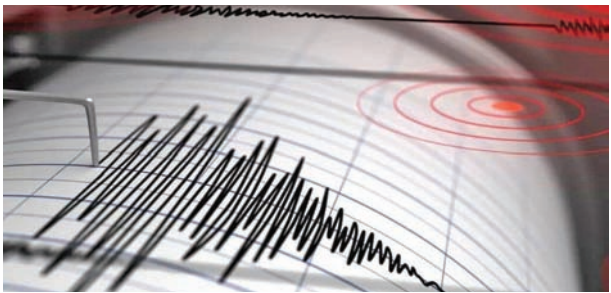
The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country. Ten days later, decisions were made to set new limitations on highly-affected areas for another 10 days, through which 46 cities undergone restrictions.

The plan divided cities into three levels of alert, namely red, orange, and yellow.

Another plan also went into effect on November 21, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, get closed for two weeks in high-risk cities.

4.1 magnitude quake strikes Caspian Sea

SOCIETY **TEHRAN**—An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale occurred on Tuesday in the Caspian Sea, shaking nearby regions in Iran and other littoral countries..



The incident took place at a depth of 10 kilometers at 7:42 a.m. local time, according to the University of Tehran Institute of Geophysics.

The epicenter of the earthquake was 212 kilometers away from the city of Bilehsavar, northwestern Ardebil province.

No injury or damage has been reported so far.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 101)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

جدول

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							دور است؛ ۳. نزدیک است ۴. به
							انگلیسی ۵. بعد از ده ۶. حالا ۷. به
							انگلیسی ۸. از ساعت هشت ... ساعت ده
							۹. تهران ... بزرگی است ۱۰. جواب 'چرا'
							۱۱. چه کسی؟ ۱۲. چیزی که دانشمند دارد
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							حرف اول 'تند' ۲۱. من می‌دهم ... می‌گیری ۲۲. پایتخت ایران

دُرک

● تمرین ۱. "ص" یا "غ" بگذارد و غلط را تصحیح کنید:

۱. صد سال قبل تهران پایتخت ایران شد.
۲. شهر ری از شهرهای بزرگ و مهم ایران است.
۳. قلعه دماوند حدود شش کیلومتر ارتفاع دارد.
۴. آهالی تهران به شهرها مهاجرت کرده‌اند.
۵. تهران اکنون دیدنی‌های زیادی دارد.
۶. مساحت تهران ۵۶۷۱ کیلومتر مربع است.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Lamprini Thoma of Press Project makes doc “Farewell to the Hero” on Qassem Soleimani

→1 “It is not only Tehran. It is the whole of Iran. On the same evening, on the TV, all stations display a black ribbon up left. People are everywhere, all streets are full. There hasn’t been a funeral like that since the one of Ayatollah Khomeini. And never ever did the body of the hero passed so many cities, so many sacred places, for people to pay respects. Never, since 1989, a



A photo by Greek correspondent Lamprini Thoma shows people attending the funeral procession of Commander Qassem Soleimani in Tehran.

funeral had many million people traveling to pay their respects,” she mentions.

“I have four or five hours in the streets. I’m going up and down the procession, they are always moving forward. Standing still are only the policemen, the girls of the Red Crescent, the water vessels for the thirsty, water for the people of the desert. And then, slowly, they go back home, with all their flags held upright, not even one wrapped,” she concludes.

The demonstration of people in front of the U.S Embassy in Tehran in protest against the martyrdom of the Commander in addition to the images of his funeral are also included in the documentary.

Movies from Iran line up for Malaysian festival

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — A lineup of four Iranian films will be competing in the 4th Malaysia International Film Festival.



“The Slaughter House” by Abbas Amini.

The festival was originally scheduled to run from December 5 to 10, 2020, however, it was postponed to January 2021 due to the pandemic.

The lineup includes “A Man without Shadow” by Alireza Raisian, “Just 6.5” by Saeid Rustai, “The Slaughterhouse” by Abbas Amini and “The Oath” by Mohsen Tanabandeh.

“A Man without Shadow” is about a filmmaker who is threatened after making a film on violence, but his wife tries to help him with all her love. However, various incidents make things worse.

“The Oath” shows that in Iran’s legal system, 50 oaths in court can reverse a judgment. Razieh, whose sister was killed by her husband, takes 50 people to the courthouse by chartered bus.

“Just 6.5” is a drama about drug abuse and addiction. It is about a police group under the leadership of Samad who has been assigned to arrest Nasser Khakzad, a major drug trafficker in Tehran.

“The Slaughterhouse” tells the story of Amir, who has recently been released from jail and finds himself in a difficult situation when his father, who works at a slaughterhouse, calls on him to help him cover up a crime that has happened there.

“Guest of Iraq” on Commander Qassem Soleimani released in Baghdad

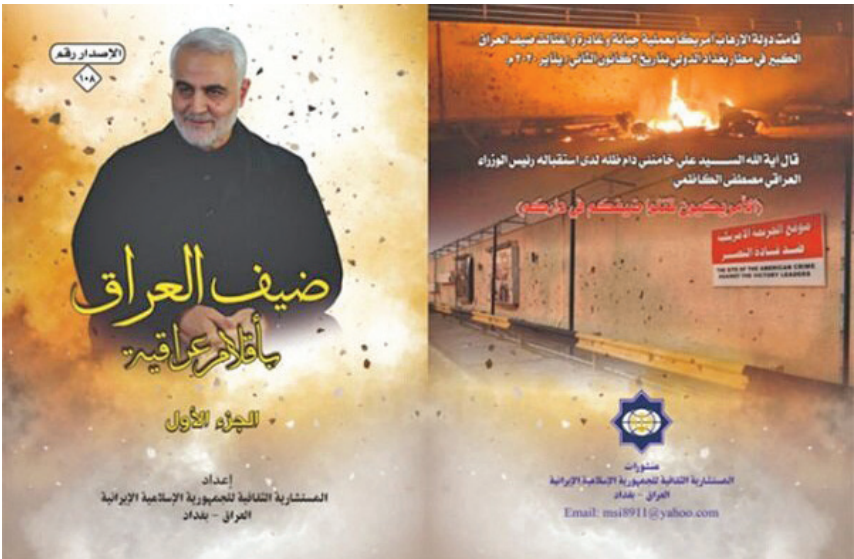
C U L T U R E d e s k TEHRAN — A book on Commander Qassem Soleimani has been published in Iraq both in Persian and Arabic under the title “Guest of Iraq Written by Iraqi Personalities”.

Iran’s chief of IRGC Quds Force Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy chief of Iraq’s PMU (Popular Mobilization Forces), were assassinated during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

Published by Iran’s Cultural Office in Baghdad, the book has been written by several Iraqi cultural figures about the lofty characteristics of the commander.

It contains interviews with 18 political and religious officials, experts and analysts, including Iraqi former prime minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and the leader of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, Hamam Hamudi.

The book was introduced during a ceremony at the Embassy of Iran in Baghdad on Monday. The ceremony was attended by the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, Iraj Masjedi, and a number of Iraqi officials, who were presented with a copy of the book.



Cover of the book “Guest of Iraq written by Iraqi Personalities” published in Iraq.

In his brief words at the ceremony Masjedi said that Iran does not intend

to fight or quarrel with any country, and added that Iraq can never be the hotbed of

conflict with the Americans, because Iraq is the land of Imams.

“Today in the world, there is nobody who does not know Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. The role of the two martyred commanders in the fight against terrorism and the victory over ISIS and the liberation of Iraq from occupation cannot be hidden from anyone,” he said.

Head of the Badr Organization in Iraq Hadi Al-Amiri also attending the ceremony said that he believes the atonement for the blood of these martyred commanders is to remove the American forces from Iraq and the entire region.

“Commander Soleimani had a major role in putting an end to the occupation of the Americans and the victory over ISIS. He was one of the main commanders of resistance in the world of Islam,” he said.

Rayan al-Kildani, the commander of Babiliyon Brigades, a group of Christian volunteers formed to fight ISIS, also attending the ceremony said that the Iraqi Christians will never forget the help and kindness of the two commanders.

No novels, short stories deserve Jalal Literary Awards, juries say

romantic life with a stage artist in Tehran.

“Hard Labor” by Mohammad Hanif and “The Imaginative” by Ahmad Hassanzadeh were other nominees in this category, which was judged by Saeid Tashakkori, Javad Afhami and Ali Changizi.

In their statement, the jury of the short story section said, “All the story collections submitted to the organizers were not acceptable technically in their structure and context, therefore, there is no technical and professional justification for selecting a book as a winner of the literary award or honorable mention.”

“Autumn 32” by Reza Julai, which contains short stories in Iran after World War II until the Anglo-American coup in Iran in 1953, and “Flamingos of Bakhtegan” by Ali Salehi Bafqi were nominated for the award in this section.

Darius Abedi, Razieh Tojjar and Abdolmajid Najafi were the members of the jury of this section.

The literary review category had also no winner. The jury composed of Hamidreza Shairi, Mohammadreza Sangari and Kamran Parsinejad only gave honorable mentions to “History of the Body in Literature” by Seyyed Mehdi Zargani and “Narratology of Drama” by Parastu Mohebbi.

In the documentation category, Fazlollah Saberi’s book “Frequency 1160” and Tayyeb Pazuki’s “Gem of Patience” shared the award.

“Gem of Patience” (“Gohar of Patience”) is a memoir of Gohar ash-Sharieh Dastgheib, a political activist and

a former reformist MP of the Iranian parliament after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

“Frequency 1160” covers over one hundred interviews with the hosts of Frequency 1160, a local radio station broadcasting in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan in the early days of the Iran-Iraq war to encourage civilians in their resistance against the Iraqi invaders.

“From Rey to Damascus”, an IRGC senior commander Ahmad Gholami’s account of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and his fight against the ISIS terrorists in Syria, received an honorable mention in this section.

The book is the outcome of an interview scholar Ali Mojdehi conducted in 18 sessions with Gholami. The book remained unfinished due to his death in a battle in Syria in 2016.

This year, the organizers initiated a special category named “Forty Years of Sacred Defense Fiction” to honor the authors of the foremost stories created about the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran.

The top writers of war literature were Habib Ahmadzadeh, Hamid Hesam, Ahmad Dehqan, Davud Amirian, Golali Babai, Akbar Sahrai, Davud Ghaffarzadegan, Qassemali Ferasat, Mohammadreza Bayrami, Rahim Makhdumi, Majid Qeisari and Ali Moazzeni.

They were selected during a poll of 19 journalists and representatives of the media active in the literature arena.

“Better than Neil Armstrong” wins awards at Via dei Corti festival

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Iranian director Alireza Qasemi has won the award for best director for his acclaimed movie “Better than Neil Armstrong” at the Via dei Corti Independent Short Film Festival in the Italian city of Catania.

The film also won the award for best photography, which has been done by Sorush Alizadeh, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

“Better than Neil Armstrong” is about four kids who start their journey to the Moon



“Better than Neil Armstrong” by Iranian director Alireza Qasemi.

with the mission of finding a mysterious place called “Redland”, but the gates of the place are being guarded by a mischievous snake.

The sci-fi movie brought Qasemi the Best Live Action Short Film Director’s Award at the 18th Pune International Film Festival in India during January 2020.

The movie also received the awards for best film and best drama at the Southport International Short Film Festival in England in June 2020.

The Via dei Corti also honored the Italian

screenwriter and director of “The Allied” with the award for best screenplay.

The award for best composer went to Jaime Gutierrez for “Memories” by Jose Vega from Spain.

Riccardo De Filippis for his role in “Matilde’s First Day” and Vinicio Marchioni for his role in “The Game” shared the award for best actor.

Ester Pantano for her role in “The Ally” and Svetlana Barandich for her role in “Anna” won the award for best actress.

IIDCYA hangs illustrations by Iranian nominees for Hans Christian Andersen Award

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) is organizing an exhibition displaying the illustrations by Iranian nominees from various editions of the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

A collection containing 34 works by Farshid Mesqali, Nasrin Khosravi, Pejman Rahimizadeh, Frashid Shafiei, and Mohammad-Ali Bani-Asadi are view in the exhibit at IIDCYA National Museum of Children’s Art and Literature.

Mesqali is the sole Iranian winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award. He received the honor in 1974.

Earlier in 2016, his illustrations chosen from the books “The Little Black Fish”, “The City of the Snakes”, “Arash, the Archer”, “I, the Hedgehog and My Doll” and



An illustration by Iranian artist Farshid Mesqali from writer Samad Behranghi’s book “The Little Black Fish” is on display in an exhibition at IIDCYA National Museum of Children’s Art and Literature.

several other books were showcased in an exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international recognition given biennially by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) to an author and an illustrator of children’s books in Basel, Switzerland. The Author’s Award has been given since 1956 and the Illustrator’s Award since 1966.

Author Jamshid Khanian and illustrator Pejman Rahimizadeh, both from Iran, have received nominations for the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award.

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards recognize lifelong achievement and are given to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to literature for young people.

David Luscombe’s “Medieval Thought” comes to Iranian bookstores

C U L T U R E d e s k TEHRAN — A Persian translation of David Luscombe’s “Medieval Thought” has recently been published by SAMT, an Iranian publisher that provides books for university students.

The book has been translated into Persian by Meisam Sefidkhosh.

The Middle Ages span a period of well over a millennium: from the emperor Constantine’s Christian conversion in 312 to the early sixteenth century.

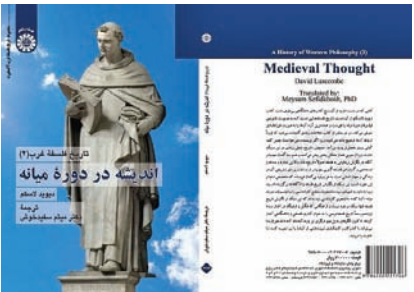
Luscombe’s clear and accessible history of medieval thought steers a clear path through this long period, beginning with the three greatest influences on medieval philosophy: Augustine, Boethius and Pseudo-Denis, and focusing on Abelard, Anselm,

Aquinas, Ockham, Duns Scotus and Eckhart among others in the twelfth to fifteenth centuries.

Medieval philosophy is widely regarded as having a theological and religious orientation, but more recently attention has been given to the early study of logic, language and the philosophy of science. This history therefore gives a fascinating insight into medieval views on aspects such as astronomy, materialism, perception and the nature of the soul, as well as of God.

Luscombe is a professor in the Department of History at the University of Sheffield.

He received his B.A. degree with Firsts in both Parts of the Historical Tripos in



Cover of the Persian translation of David Luscombe’s book “Medieval Thought”. the University of Cambridge in 1959. He earned his Ph.D. in Cambridge in 1964. He was a fellow of King’s College, Cambridge in 1962-64 and a fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge in 1964-72.

In 1972, he became a professor of medieval history at the University of Sheffield. From 1995 to 2000 he was Leverhulme personal research professor of medieval history and was later research professor of medieval history until the end of September 2003 when retirement was required under the University’s Statute. He has the degree of LittD from the University of Cambridge and of LittD honoris causa from the University of Sheffield.

He was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1986. He has held visiting appointments in the University of Connecticut and All Souls College, Oxford and he has been the British Academy Exchange Visitor in Canada and in Japan.