



Zarif meets with Taliban delegation in Tehran *Page 3*



Gholizadeh, Karimi dedicate their goals to late Minavand *Page 3*



Boosting 'technology diplomacy' on agenda: VP *Page 7*



Art Bureau celebrates Islamic Revolution anniversary with "Days of Victory" *Page 8*

Deciphering “maximum diplomacy”: Machiavellianism in practice

Health sector growth after Islamic Revolution

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI

TEHRAN – After the Islamic Revolution (1979), many advances have been made in the health sector, namely, increased medical facilities, increased life expectancy and reduced infant and maternal mortality, growth of medical universities, and upgraded medical equipment.

According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the life expectancy index at birth increased from 49.5 to

51.5; In other words, life expectancy among Iranians before the Islamic Revolution has been among the lowest in the world. While ten years after the revolution, despite the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, the life expectancy rate has increased to 61.5 years, showing a 10-year increase. The World Bank report shows that the life expectancy rate experienced a growth of 22 years since the beginning of the revolution, raising to 76.7 years.

Continued on page 7

See page 2

Is Russia mediating between Iran and U.S. on JCPOA?



© File photo

Water, electricity projects worth \$1.13b put into operation

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani, on Sunday, inaugurated 13 major water and electricity projects valued at 47.76 trillion rials (about \$1.13 billion) in Kordestan and North Khorasan provinces through video conference.

Inaugurated in the 19th week of the Energy Ministry's A-B-Iran program, 12 of the mentioned projects were put into operation in Kordestan province, while

the other one was in North Khorasan.

The projects included the steam unit of a combined cycle power plant, a dam, a small-scale power plant, four power supply projects, two power line construction projects, two irrigation and drainage network projects, as well as two water and wastewater treatment plant projects.

Continued on page 4

TEHRAN – As Iran and the United States moved to vociferously set their preconditions for any revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Russia quietly reached out to Tehran and Washington to address the “problem” of reviving the Iran nuclear deal.

The renewed Russian diplomatic efforts come against a backdrop of heightened tensions between Iran and the European parties to the nuclear deal – officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) –, who used to mediate between Tehran and Washington over the

course of the Trump presidency.

Last week, the Russian efforts were on full display.

During his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov directly addressed the issue of saving the JCPOA in his opening remarks, although the main subject of Zarif's visit to Moscow was to discuss the situation in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh after a Russian-brokered ceasefire deal put an end to a 44-day war there.

Continued on page 3

JCPOA is not renegotiable: American foreign policy expert

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

Noting that “the JCPOA is not renegotiable”, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council says the Iranian missile program cannot be addressed within nuclear negotiations.

“The JCPOA is not renegotiable but it is perfectly appropriate to seek a follow-on agreement that extends its nuclear provisions in return for more sanction's relief,” Barbara Slavin tells the Tehran Times.

“Missiles should be addressed in a different forum through regional consultations and confidence-building measures that the U.S. can support but probably not lead,” Slavin adds.

On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington will return to its commitments under the Iran nuclear deal only after Iran first return to full compliance. Such a precondition highlights a dispute that is set to become one of the Biden administration's most formidable challenges.

Iran says it is the U.S. that quit the nuclear deal unilaterally and imposed sweeping sanctions against Iran and naturally the party that has left the agreement must first return to its obligation.

Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president's chief of staff, said on Friday that Iran has never withdrawn from the nuclear deal so that it would be the first to return to its obligations.

“We held negotiations once and the issue of the JCPOA has been closed. Our stance on the JCPOA was clear and we have maintained our past approach,” Vaezi told IRNA when asked about Blinken's remarks that Iran should first return to the deal.

Vaezi stressed, “As President Rouhani has repeatedly said, only when the U.S. returns to its obligations, Iran will fulfill its commitments.”

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has demanded that it is Washington that must first comply with the agreement because it withdrew from the agreement that is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Continued on page 5

Restoration project to revive ancient monuments on Silk Road

TEHRAN – Iran's Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places have launched a development scheme, based on which arrays of centuries-old monuments would be revived along the ancient Silk Road.

“Monuments which are located on the Silk Road will be revived to develop and prosper tourism along the ancient route as much as possible,” IRNA quoted Hadi Mirzaei, the CEO of the Fund, as saying on Saturday.

“The Revitalization Fund seeks to provide an opportunity for [the private] investors to revive historic buildings along the Silk Road,” the official added.

The scheme is expected to assist a sustainable development for the local communities through fueling a tourism boom along the once flourishing route, he explained.

He made the remarks during a visit to

the recently-restored Maranjab caravan-serai, which is located adjacent to a barren desert of the same name in central Isfahan province.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of historical sites and monuments across Iran have been temporarily ceded to the private sector by auctions reportedly to gain higher productivity and better maintenance.

Experts say the possible inscription of the ancient Silk Road on the UNESCO World Heritage list would open up a suitable opportunity for Iran and other nations to present their cultural, literary, historical, and scientific achievements to the world.

Today, there are over 40 countries alongside the historic land and maritime routes, which are collectively named the Silk Road, (or Silk Roads).

Continued on page 6

Protesters disrupt COVID vaccination site in Los Angeles

Demonstrators have briefly disrupted a coronavirus vaccination distribution center at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, calling the jabs part of a conspiracy by elites to control the population.

Several dozen people carrying signs demanding the end of lockdowns and promoting anti-vaccination conspiracy theories gathered on Saturday at the entrance to the vaccination site, one of the largest in the United States, social media posts showed, al Jazeera reported.

Officials shut the site down for nearly an hour, U.S. media reported, citing fire department officials – though the Los Angeles police department later insisted it was not closed and all the vaccines would be distributed. The incident represents the latest challenge to the vaccine roll-out in the U.S., which has the highest number of cases and deaths in the world from COVID-19.

On social media, protesters were shown holding signs reading “Covid = scam,” “99.96

survival rate,” and “Tell Bill Gates to Vaccinate Himself.” The latter in reference to a conspiracy theory that vaccines were being used to implant microchips in the population in order to control them by a New World Order.

Others chanted “This is not a vaccine,” “Sheep led to their slaughter” and “This is a treatment. You are submitting to be a lab rat in real-time”.

A post on social media described the demonstration as the “SCAMDEMIC PROTEST/ MARCH.” It advised participants to “please refrain from wearing Trump/MAGA attire as we want our statement to resonate with the sheeple. No flags but informational signs only”.

Health officials expect to vaccinate 12,000 people a day at the stadium, thought to be the largest vaccination site in the nation. Videos and photos of the protests were widely shared on social media, drawing ire and outrage from some who highlighted the burgeoning death toll from coronavirus in the country.

Indonesia studying case of Iranian ship independently

BY MOHAMMAD JAVDAN

On January 25, the Indonesian Coast Guard announced that it had seized two Iranian and Panamanian-flagged tankers in its territorial waters and intends to release both ships by the end of the week if there is no solid evidence. Now, it is a good opportunity to examine all the developments surrounding this event.

Following the Trump administration's illegal sanctions against Iran's shipping and oil industries and oil transfers, Iran's oil export process has been

disrupted around the world. However, in the past, according to international custom, Iran rented giant tankers with the flags of different countries to transport oil and its products, and ships of different countries used the same rule to buy oil from Iranian oil terminals but after the escalation of oppressive sanctions, the process ran into serious problems.

Following these problems, various strategies were used to circumvent oil sanctions, one of the most widely used being the transfer oil from ships to ships and oil products to the buyer in the high seas.

This method, of course, required equipment such as an oil pond, special equipment for inter-ship-to-ship transports, and the collection of contaminants from this transfer from sea level.

Until now, ship-to-ship exchanges in the high seas near Iran have had no problem other than identifying the buyer's ship and placing it on the sanctions list, meaning that the transfer was safe and secure but this type of oil export also faced problem after buyers' ships were sanctioned by the U.S.

Continued on page 2

Leader visits Imam Khomeini shrine as Islamic Revolution marking 42nd anniversary

TEHRAN – Concurrent with the start of “the Fajr 10-Day Celebrations” and on the eve of the 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei visited the shrine of Imam Khomeini and the martyrs' cemetery on Sunday.

The Fajr 10-Day Celebrations start from Bahman 12 to Bahman 22, which this year falls on Jan. 31-Feb. 10.

Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, returned to Iran on Bahman 12 in 1979 after 15 years in exile. Ten days after his arrival, the long struggle against the Pahlavi regime bore fruit and finally, the Islamic Revolution gained victory.



© khamenei.ir

Iran's military power not a threat to other nations: Venezuelan ambassador

BY MOHAMMAD ALI SAKI

TEHRAN – Pointing to Iran's technological and scientific advances over the last 42 years, the Venezuelan ambassador to Tehran says that “Iran's military power is not a threat to other nations.”

“We are aware of Iran's technological and scientific advances during the last 42 years,” Carlos Antonio Alcalá Cordones tells the Tehran Times.

“In the defense sector, Iran has become self-sufficient in the production of basic military equipment and systems thanks to the Islamic Revolution,” the Venezuelan diplomat notes. “We know that Iran's military power is not a threat to other nations, but is based on the doctrine of deterrence.” The following is the text of the interview:

What were the messages of sending fuel ships to Venezuela by Iran? How do you assess the reaction of the United States to this move?

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2020 was to send fuel ships to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

This courageous move, in accordance with international norms, sends a categorical message to the United States and the world that both Iran and Venezuela are defending their right to conduct free foreign trade and diplomatic relations.

The move is also a challenge to policies designed by the White House that seeks to destabilize independent states through unilateral and extraterritorial sanctions.

Continued on page 5

Deciphering ‘maximum diplomacy’: Machiavellianism in practice

By Azin Sahabi

When it comes to Trump's approach to Iran, the phrase “maximum pressure” declared by Mike Pompeo at The Heritage Foundation, mostly comes to mind. On the other hand, the term “maximum diplomacy” has been used in some formal and informal comments by U.S and EU officials on diplomatic relations with Iran. But what is the origin of “maximum pressure” and what does “maximum diplomacy” imply?

Maximum pressure: Bargaining through violence
The logic of “maximum pressure” goes back to “compellence” strategy, articulated by Thomas Schelling in 1996.

The essence of compellence strategy is bargaining through violence, involving active use of coercion to get an enemy to change or abandon its behavior by means of a carefully calibrated schedule of punishments. Each time the enemy fails to comply, the punishments must become more severe, ultimately advancing to the use of lethal force.

On the other hand, the “enemy” receives various signals that they could peace if they meet a list of demands. In Iran's case, Pompeo's infamous list of 12 demands is a typical example. Punishments range from economic strangulation (in Iran's case, “crippling sanctions” and a blockade on Iranian oil exports) to some form of violence through the use of military force. In fact, compellence strategy leaves no room for diplomacy. But vis a vis “maximum pressure”, the term “maximum diplomacy” also exists.

EU's maximum diplomacy towards JCPOA

In their remarks on the essence of the EU's engagement in crisis, high-ranking EU officials have explicitly and implicitly pointed to maximum diplomacy towards the JCPOA.

For instance, following the Foreign Affairs Council's event on December 11, 2019, former High Representative of the European Union Federica Mogherini declared: “The European Union exercises maximum diplomacy with everybody during crises. This is the feature of the European Union engagement worldwide and in the region.”

The official added: “Efforts to de-escalate tensions are made increasingly difficult by Iran's latest actions that are inconsistent with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom and the High Representative of the European Union are extremely concerned by the latest announcements that Iran is restarting uranium enrichment activities – confirmed by the IAEA latest reports - and urged Iran to reverse all measures inconsistent with the JCPOA.”

EU to “redouble efforts” to preserve JCPOA

Moreover, on the eve of President Joe Biden's inauguration, the European Commission spokesperson Peter Stano announced Trump's maximum pressure “fruitless” and declared: “The bloc will ‘redouble efforts’ to preserve the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and return all parties to it.”

His statement can imply maximum diplomacy requirements: “We are working together to achieve a situation where all participants in all parties respect the obligations set out in this agreement, that's our goal,” Stano said, adding, “The Biden team must set aside the Trump administration's fruitless ‘maximum pressure’ in favor of the mix of intelligence cooperation, diplomacy, financial and military tools that can effectively deter or disrupt subversive Iranian activity while incentivizing Tehran's return to the nuclear negotiating table.”

Maximum diplomacy at 2019 UN General Assembly

In addition, Lyse Doucet, the BBC's chief international correspondent, on 4th of October 2019 comments on the 2019 UN General Assembly. She describes French President Emmanuel Macron's diplomatic efforts regarding Iranian-American talks as “mega-mediation”. Quoting a senior UK diplomat, the BBC commentator describes maximum diplomacy, as “this year's (2019) flurry of efforts to build confidence, and even move closer for a historic meeting between the U.S. and Iranian presidents. We need to find a way through the U.S.'s maximum pressure’ and Iran's ‘maximum resistance. There had to be ‘robust responses’ to Iranian misbehavior”.

She further comments on the process of “maximum diplomacy and writes: “The procession of would-be peacemakers sweeping in and out of hotel suites in New York included leaders of France, Germany, Japan, Britain, Pakistan, Iraq, Oman and more.”

Maximum pressure in support of maximum diplomacy

It is worth mentioning that top U.S. think tanks, which play a pivotal role in crafting U.S foreign policy, have emphasized the necessity for the Biden administration to use “maximum pressure with maximum diplomacy” against Iran. In fact, due to firm emphasis on the failure of Trump's maximum pressure expressed by many experts of key think tanks, they have apparently turned to a hybrid strategy to achieve their goals.

For example, Dr. Kiron Skinner, a foreign policy and national security expert at The Heritage Foundation, underlined on Jan. 5, 2020 the need for the Trump administration to combine maximum diplomacy with maximum pressure following the U.S. drone strike in Baghdad last year that led to the martyrdom of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

Moreover, some hawkish figures such as critics of the Iran deal and advocates of ripping it off, overtly describes Pompeo's maximum pressure campaign “a clear Plan B” to support maximum diplomacy through pursuing maximum pressure. Among them is Mark Dubowitz, the CEO of The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD). In a statement on May 21, 2018, he said: “Pompeo provided a clear Plan B: Intensify the Iranian regime's ongoing liquidity and political crisis to force fundamental changes in its behavior across a range of malign activities with the promise of a big diplomatic deal if they do, in short: Maximum diplomacy backed by maximum pressure.”

Maximum diplomacy backed by maximum pressure is Machiavellianism in practice

It seems that maximum diplomacy backed by maximum pressure is in fact a replica of Machiavellianism. Niccolò Machiavelli, an Italian Renaissance diplomat, believed that politics have always been played with deception, treachery and crime. In his most infamous book titled “The Prince”, Machiavelli proposed immoral behavior, such as the use of deceit and the murder of innocents, and encouraged politicians to engage in evil when it would be necessary for political expediency.

Despite some Western officials' emphasis on “maximum diplomacy” in negotiations with Iran, a brief review of their comments as well as three decades of inhumane sanctions, lay bare the playbook of Machiavellianism. In fact, the core of their remarks in short is: Maximum diplomacy should be backed by maximum pressure.

Qalibaf says U.S. has no right to set preconditions to rejoin JCPOA

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — Mohammad Bager Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, says, “Instead of setting preconditions for fulfilling its obligations under the JCPOA, the U.S. has to think about fulfilling its obligations and take serious action to lift the sanctions.”

According to ISNA, Qalibaf pointed to his visit to the Fordow nuclear site last week and said, “I am glad that nuclear centrifuges rotate with the cooperation of the government.”

Speaking during a session of the parliament, Qalibaf noted “the parliament has endorsed the diplomacy by operating the centrifuges and producing 20% enriched uranium.”

“We believe that the nuclear industry will benefit from the revenues earned from the production of energy and radiopharma-



ceuticals. It can also be effective in lifting the sanctions,” Qalibaf noted.

Regarding remarks of U.S. Secretary States Antony Blinken, Qalibaf emphasized,

“The statements of the U.S. administration were disappointing. The U.S. has to make clear how it intends to fulfil its commitment concerning the repeal of the sanctions.”

“Iranians experienced the JCPOA, Iranians are clever not gullible to enter the game of cash and credit,” he remarked.

Blinken said the United States is “a long way” from lifting sanctions imposed on Iran and it will resume its obligations under the 2015 nuclear agreement after Iran meets fully its commitments.

The Iranian parliament has approved a legislation allowing enriching uranium by at least 20% and a rise in low-level enriched uranium stocks. The bill also allows Iran to withdraw from the Additional Protocol to the NPT, if the parties to the nuclear agreement do not take steps to normalize Iran's banking relations and oil exports.

Army says Islamic Revolution has inspired freedom-seeking nations

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — The Army says the 1979 Islamic Revolution has inspired the justice-seeking and freedom-seeking nations around the world, the Army said in a statement released on Saturday, Fars reported.

“The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran changed the equations of great powers and disrupted the structure formed on the basis of a bipolar order, challenging the atheistic ideas of liberal democracy and communism by presenting religious democracy. Undoubtedly, the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran shattered the equations

of foreign powers in the sensitive region of West Asia and cut off the illegitimate hand of the West from Iran,” the Army said as Iran is marking the 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

It highlighted the ability of Islamic Republic of Iran “to strengthen its influential and decisive position in regional and trans-regional developments more than ever, and has been a source of inspiration for the justice-seeking and freedom-seeking moves by the oppressed nations in the world.”

“The Iranian Army which has played an undisputed

role in the victory, consolidation and strengthening of the foundations of the Islamic establishment, has gone through a promising path of flourishing over the past four decades despite all sanctions and threats,” the statement emphasized.

The Army also assured the Iranians that it permanently supports the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

On February 11, 1979, Iranian people earned victory under the leadership of Imam Khomeini by ousting the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime.

Pakistani political scientist says only repeal of sanctions can revive JCPOA

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — Hassan Askari Rizvi, a Pakistani political scientist, says if President Joe Biden is serious to join the JCPOA, he needs to lift sanctions imposed on Iran as a trust building measure, according to IRNA.

In an article published in the Dunya newspaper on Saturday, he said, “After unexpected ups and downs that led to the Trump administration's defeat, Biden is expected to work for improvement of the country's credibility and repair relations with allies.”

He underscored importance of the JCPOA for Pakistan's interest and noted, “Joe Biden could revive the nuclear deal signed between Tehran and world powers in 2015 by lifting the U.S. anti-Iran sanctions; an action that will benefit the parties of the JCPOA, the European countries and Iran's neighbors, especially Pakistan.”

Praising a possible revival of the JCPOA and improvement of relations between Iran and Pakistan, he asserted the JCPOA can “also ease tensions in the Persian Gulf region.”

“The Biden administration is expected

to review foreign policies of the Trump administration in the next two months,” he remarked.

He expressed his hope regarding a lifting of sanctions on Iran and its positive impact on Pakistan's relations with Iran as well as Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

In a series of interviews and articles, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister, has insisted that Iran will come back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal if the U.S. lifts the economic sanctions imposed unilaterally by Trump's administration.



Congress will likely put up barrier in the way of Biden to rejoin nuclear deal

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — The new Biden administration may find it difficult to revive the nuclear deal endorsed by the UN Security Council in 2015 due to the likely opposition by Congress, according to Politico, an American magazine.

In foreign policy area, President Joe Biden has promised to rejoin the nuclear agreement that former president Donald Trump described it as “horrible” and “the worst deal ever.”

Due to Trump's imposition of severe financial and economic sanctions on Iran, Biden and his aides are facing serious challenges as they are seeking a path back to the 2015 nuclear agreement.

“For now, the U.S. government employees involved in sanctions policy have been thinking through what steps

to take to return to the deal, a U.S. official said. They plan to submit their ideas to Biden political appointees, including Rob Malley, a foreign affairs practitioner whom Biden has appointed as a special envoy for Iran,” Politico reported on Saturday.

The nuclear deal left in place numerous other U.S. sanctions on Iran, such as those related to the so called, and definitely wrong, Iran's support for terrorism, its defensive missile program. Many of the U.S. sanctions are especially powerful because they apply to non-American companies who want to do business with Iran.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has indicated he is willing to keep some sanctions. “The nuclear agreement was one thing, but continuing and even strengthening our ability to push back and to deal effectively with Iran's

egregious behavior, including in the terrorism realm, was something that we needed and should do,” he said on January 19, 2021.

“Those lawmakers are skeptical of the deal will likely object to many if not all of Biden's attempts to ease sanctions. They also will monitor how the administration goes about enforcing sanctions that it decides to keep”, a Republican Senate aide said to the Politico.

The unidentified aide emphasized “one area of concern is how the Biden administration defines what goods fall under ‘humanitarian’ exemptions to sanctions.”

“If they lift sanctions, I could see new sanctions being moved through Congress,” the aide predicted. “We'll be closely watching any sort of agreements or understandings they'll reach with the Iranians.”

Indonesia studying case of Iranian ship independently



Iran now uses a combination of different ways to circumvent its sanctions, but these measures are not always without problems. In the latest of these problems, while the Iranian ship and the buyer are transporting petroleum products, they encounter Indonesian naval patrols near the Indonesian island of Kalimantan.

The Indonesian Coast Guard, which spotted two giant objects on its radars, first made radio communications with the two ships, but due to the shutdown of their telecommunications equipment, Bakamla sent its KN Marore 322 ship to the site of the two ships.

At 6 p.m., as Lt. Col. Yuli Eko Prihartanto watches the two ships up close, he realizes that both ships covered their names and lowered the flags of their respective countries.

The incident, which took place 17 miles off the island of Kalimantan (the exact point of which can be seen from the map below), was clearly in Indonesian territorial waters, and the two ships, while having to continue their journey in accordance with the international bill of lading, anchored in this waterway and proceeded to transport petroleum products.

The Indonesian Coast Guard, abbreviated as “Bakamla”, in a statement announced illegal anchoring in Indonesian territorial waters, as well as the shutdown of international tracking systems, as the reason for the transfer of both ships to Batam Island and the start of the interrogation process of 36 Iranian nationals and 25 Chinese crew.

Why did Indonesia seize both ships?

The presence of Iranian and Chinese ships in Indonesian territorial waters, the illegal anchoring of the route on which traffic is to take place, and the shutdown of tracking systems and the non-response of the Indonesian Coast Guard are among the legal reasons

announced by the Indonesian Coast Guard to seize both Iranian and Chinese ships.

Although, the United States has said that the Indonesian Coast Guard has taken steps to prevent Indonesian smuggling, the Indonesian Coast Guard has confirmed that it has ceded investigating the seizure of the two ships to a technical investigation team consisting of the Indonesian Coast Guard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, the Customs Office, the Immigration Office, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment, the Navy and the Indonesian Police.

The formation of such a team with the presence of all government departments related to the seizure of these two ships, given the power structure in Indonesia, shows that the country seeks not to accept any pressure with regard to these two ships and a thorough and legal investigation into this issue.

When will the Iranian ship be released?

To answer this question, a few issues must first be considered. First of all, it must be acknowledged that Bakamla is now at a critical juncture. The Indonesian Coast Guard uses 17 different companies to carry out its duties due to the size of the Indonesian archipelago, so one of the promises made by Indonesian President Joko Widodo is to integrate Bakamla and assign a strong and central role to the maritime unit.

It was not long before that the government introduced a bill called “Omnibus” to the parliament to integrate 21 laws related to the protection of 3.2 million square kilometers of territorial waters to provide a powerful role for its Coast Guard; With the ratification of the bill, Bakamla could play a decisive role in international waters. In fact, the Assembly

of Southeast Asian Nations and Indonesia's neighbors are now awaiting the completion of the bill's legal process to work more closely with the Indonesia Coast Guard especially in the international arena on the international waterways and the South China Sea, which is the main point of contention between China and the United States.

In fact, now that Bakamla is at the height of national and regional attention, it has had to seize two ships that, in violation of international regulations, anchored along their route and turned off their tracking equipment.

Given the described situation, and while China-Indonesia trade relations are at their peak and the political relationship between Iran and Indonesia with the appointment of a new ambassador to Iran is expanding economic and cultural cooperation, “Bakamla” had no option except for the seizure of two ships.

Leaving the investigation on the dimensions of the presence of the two ships to a technical team consisting of several ministries and departments shows that Indonesia intends to deal with this issue regardless of the international pressure exerted by the United States from the very beginning.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued a statement expressing concern over the treatment of Chinese nationals in the tanker and calling for legal action, the Indonesian government seems to be dealing with this issue independently, as it has so far maintained its independent policy in international disputes despite pressure.

As expected, the Indonesian government's goodwill has also helped investigate the case of the two seized ships due to its proximity of political point of views to the Islamic Republic. Indonesia has always opposed the

oppressive sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran and has stated its position against this issue in various fora.

Indonesian analysts also recently analyzed the relations between several Arab countries in West Asia and the Zionist regime, saying that Indonesia is likely to expand its trade and political relations with Iran, as the country with condemning the normalization of relations with the Zionist regime has a similar policy to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Perhaps the appointment of a new ambassador to Iran and his initial steps to honor the 70-year-old political relationship between Iran and Indonesia can be explained as part of these policies.

Although we have to wait for the official announcement of the results of the investigation by the Indonesian government, it seems that in the process of investigating the violations of these two ships, if there is no extrajudicial intervention, there will be no problem because the accusations against the Iranian ship are not so serious that the relations between the two countries are strained.

Now that the Indonesian government has announced that it will release the Iranian ship within a week if there is no problem or no court-friendly evidence, the policy of rapprochement between Iran and Indonesia will be reaffirmed.

Finally, in connection with some speculations about the possible connection between the seizure of this ship and the seizure of the South Korean ship by Iran, it should be emphasized that Indonesia's independent policies are far from being influenced by other countries and this has been the definitive policy of this country so far. On the other hand, South Korea does not have such influence in Indonesia to seek reciprocal action against Iran through this country.

Zarif meets with Taliban delegation in Tehran

“Iran ready to facilitate dialogue among Taliban, Afghan government and other Afghan groups”

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met on Sunday with a Taliban delegation led by deputy head of the group’s political bureau Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

In the meeting, Zarif welcomed the idea of formation of an all-inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic and political groups in Afghanistan, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“Political decisions could not be made in a vacuum, and the formation of an all-inclusive government must take place in a participatory process and by taking into account the fundamental structures, institutions and laws, such as the Constitution,” the statement quoted Zarif as saying in the meeting.

The chief Iranian diplomat expressed Iran’s readiness to facilitate dialogue among the Taliban, the Afghan government and other Afghan groups, noting, “The noble people of Afghanistan have been wronged. The war and occupation of Afghanistan have dealt heavy blows to the Afghan people.”

He expressed hope that the Taliban would focus efforts on an immediate end



Zarif expressed hope that the Taliban would focus efforts on an immediate end to the pains and problems of Afghan people so that the establishment of peace in Afghanistan would strip the outsiders of a pretext for occupation.

to the pains and problems of Afghan people so that the establishment of peace in Afghanistan would strip the outsiders of a pretext for occupation.

‘Inclusive Islamic government’

According to a Tasnim report, Zarif also voiced support for an all-inclusive Islamic government in Afghanistan.

“We support the formation of an all-inclusive Islamic government with the participation of all ethnicities and sects and consider it necessary for Afghanistan,” Zarif was quoted by Tasnim as telling the Taliban delegation. He underlined the need for the Taliban to avoid targeting the people of Afghanistan.

Zarif also told the Taliban delegation that the United States is not a good mediator.

The Taliban delegation, for its part, gave a report of the Afghan peace process and the intra-Afghan negotiations.

“Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar also noted that the relations between Afghanistan and Iran are based upon friendship and good neighborliness, expressing hope for the expansion of relations between the two countries with the establishment of peace and calm in Afghanistan,” the statement noted.

Is Russia mediating between Iran and U.S. on JCPOA?

1→ “We have a packed regional and international agenda. The task of saving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) ranks among the most topical subjects. Russia and Iran are sincerely interested in seeing all JCPOA signatories resume the fulfillment of their obligations,” Lavrov said in the meeting with Zarif, who was on a working visit to Russia on the second leg of a regional tour that included Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, and the autonomous republic of Nakhchivan.

During the meeting, Lavrov and Zarif discussed “in detail” the latest developments surrounding the Iran nuclear deal, according to a Russian Foreign Ministry statement.

“We discussed in detail the situation around the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program. Our positions are identical. We are interested in its complete preservation,” the statement said.

Lavrov expressed hope that “the current efforts will produce a result and lead to the preservation of the JCPOA and that the U.S. will resume full implementation of the said resolution.” He even said Russia believes that all signatories to the JCPOA will “resume the fulfillment of their commitments” under the 2015 nuclear deal.

Following the meeting, Lavrov and Zarif held a joint press conference during which the top Russian diplomat explained why he was so optimistic about the revival of the JCPOA.

“We are doing our best to ensure that, based on the statements by President Biden and his staff about their willingness to return to the JCPOA, all of us, including Iran, the EU and the People’s Republic of China, find concrete ways to have all JCPOA participants fulfill their obliga-



tions in full. By doing so, we would return this greatest achievement in nonproliferation to the ‘treasure trove’ of international diplomacy and knock the trump cards out of the hands of those who wanted to push this situation to the limit and bring it to a ‘hot’ stage. Russia will do whatever it takes to prevent such a scenario from materializing,” Lavrov noted.

Simultaneously with Zarif’s visit to Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin picked up the phone to speak with his American counterpart Joe Biden for the first time about the JCPOA among other issues.

“As for international issues, the presidents reviewed the U.S.’s unilateral withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty, the problem of preserving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program, the domestic settlement in Ukraine and the Russian initiative to hold

a summit of the permanent members of the UN Security Council,” the Kremlin said in a statement on January 26.

A day later, Russia expressed readiness to export “excess enriched uranium” from Iran. Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergei Ryabkov told RIA Novosti that is ready to export Iran’s enriched uranium produced above the limit set by the JCPOA.

“We don’t exclude that Russia will be ready to export excess enriched uranium from Iran, should the US return to the Nuclear Deal. However, it’s way too premature to speak about it at the moment,” Ryabkov told the Russian news agency, according to a Wednesday tweet by Russian Mission to Vienna.

Ryabkov got it tight. It’s too early to speak about such technical issues as Iran’s stockpile of low-enriched uranium as Iran and the U.S. are yet to even embark on political talks, not to mention technical ones.

But is Russia aware of something going on behind the scenes? Pretty possible. Because Russia is in close contact with Iran and the U.S. on the JCPOA. It even held “serious and meaningful” talks with the U.S. about the nuclear deal, according to U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan.

Sputnik News reported on Saturday that Sullivan said in an interview with TV Rain that the Biden administration was carefully considering the prospect of the United States returning to the nuclear deal. When asked about the U.S. position on Iran, Sullivan said that Washington was carefully considering the issue of returning to the JCPOA, adding that there was a serious and meaningful dialogue on this topic with Russia.

Saudi Arabia has nothing to do with JCPOA: senior MP

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has responded to a French call to include Saudi Arabia in any future talks with Iran about the nuclear issue by saying that there is no links between Riyadh and the issue.

“Saudi Arabia has nothing to do with the nuclear agreement,” Amouei told the Qatari-owned Al Arabi Al Jadid newspaper, declaring his country’s refusal to include Riyadh in any possible talks with the parties to the nuclear agreement reached with Iran in 2015.

He stressed, “The Islamic Republic will not negotiate again about this agreement.”

According to Amouei, Riyadh did not have a place in the nuclear negotiations and that it has nothing to do with the issues related to the nuclear agreement between Iran and major world powers, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

However, the lawmaker expressed Iran’s readiness to hold talks with Saudi Arabia. Tehran is “ready for a dialogue with Saudi Arabia if it so desires, whether bilaterally or with the neighboring Arab countries,” Amouei noted.

The spokesman of the parliamentary committee reiterated this position in a separate interview with Al Jazeera TV, saying Iran is in dialogue with its neighbors, not with the United States. He considered that regional issues are one thing and the nuclear agreement is another.

“With respect to the conversation between Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other regional countries, we believe that talking between neighbors is a normal issue, and has nothing to do with the Iranian nuclear agreement. The nuclear agreement is an issue that has ended, while regional issues are another issue,” Amouei said.

Regarding the nuclear agreement, the lawmaker pointed out that there is no need for new members to join the JCPOA, but he indicated that if any party wants to join the nuclear agreement, they must accept the agreement first, adding that “there is no

chance for Saudi Arabia to join the agreement, and we do not accept talking about our defense policies with anyone.”

The comments come after French President Emmanuel Macron demanded that Saudi Arabia be involved in any new negotiations with Iran about the 2015 nuclear deal.

“Dialogue with Iran will be rigorous, and they will need to include our allies in the region for a nuclear deal, and this includes Saudi Arabia,” Macron told Al Arabiya on Friday while speaking to reporters in Paris.

The French President also noted that there needed to be trust and confidence with Saudi Arabia, and “they need to be included in any [potential] agreement with Iran.” Macron went so far as to say that it was necessary to refrain from making the same mistakes made in 2015 when the first Iran nuclear deal was signed, one of which was distancing regional powers from the JCPOA.

France did not refute the controversial remarks, which were carried by Saudi media outlets, a move that elicited a strong response from Iran.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, put out a statement dismissing the French president’s recent remarks about the need for a new nuclear deal with Tehran. He called on Macron to “exercise self-restraint and refrain from hasty and ill-advised stances.”

“The JCPOA is a multilateral international agreement that has been endorsed and stabilized by the (UN) Security Council Resolution 2231. It is by no means re-negotiable, and its parties are also definite and unchangeable,” Khatibzadeh noted.

Pointing to the U.S.’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal and Europe’s failure to maintain it, the spokesman said, “If there is any willingness to revive and save the JCPOA, the solution is easy. The U.S. should return to the JCPOA and lift the whole JCPOA and non-JCPOA sanctions that have been imposed (on Iran) during the tenure of the previous president of that country.”

“If the French officials are worried about

the huge arms sales to the Persian Gulf Arab states, they had better revise their policies,” he continued.

“The French arms, along with other Western weapons, have not only massacred and killed thousands of Yemenis but are also the main reason behind instability in the Persian Gulf region. Without a halt to the flood of arms exports from France, the UK, the U.S. and others, one cannot expect stability and calm in this delicate region,” Khatibzadeh remarked.

“U.S. and Europe must make the first move to revive the JCPOA”

MP Amouei also addressed the issue of holding negotiations with the new U.S. administration, saying the U.S. and Europe must make the first move to revive the JCPOA.

Amouei added that Iran “has implemented all of its commitments stipulated in the nuclear agreement, and the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed this commitment in 15 reports,” noting that it “began to reduce its commitments based on Article 36 of the nuclear agreement in response to America’s breach of its obligations through the illegal American withdrawal from the nuclear deal and Europe’s failure to implement its 11 commitments.”

He said that the European position after Washington’s withdrawal from the agreement “was frustrating to Iran,” stressing that “if the West wants to preserve the previous nuclear agreement, it must first effectively implement its commitments.”

The Iranian lawmaker underlined that “the Islamic Republic of Iran will not negotiate again on the nuclear agreement,” noting that “we are not willing to conduct bilateral negotiations with America due to its negative precedents in this regard and lack of confidence in it.”

Regarding Iran’s strategy to tackle the current situation, he said that “the priority is to thwart U.S. sanctions,” adding that “four years of Trump’s maximum pressure policy have not made any change in the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

SPORTS

Foolad change field dimensions to prevent opponents’ somersault throw

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian football club Foolad extended the width of their field to prevent somersault throw of the Paykan player.

The Iran Professional League side have been also accused of turning the touchline slippery to prevent Nader Mohammadi to throw the long ball.

The Match Commissioner didn’t let the match start until the stadium workers redrew the lines.

Mohammadi scored with a somersault throw in match against Gol Gohar Sirjan in early December. Paykan use the long throw-ins as a tactic in their matches against the opponents.

Foolad general manager Saeid Azari apologized for the incident and said that he didn’t know anything about that and it was shameful.

Paykan have filed a complaint against Foolad to the Ethics Committee of Iran Football Federation.

Foolad were held to a goalless draw by Paykan in Match-day 13 of Iran league.

Foolad, headed by former Osasuna midfielder Javad Nekounam, will play Al Ain of the UAE in the 2021 AFC Champions League play-off round.

Gholizadeh, Karimi dedicate their goals to late Minavand

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Ali Gholizadeh and Fereshteh Karimi dedicated their goals to former

Persepolis and Iran midfielder Mehrdad Minavand.

Minavand passed away Wednesday night at the age of 45 after losing battle against COVID-19. He started his career at Tehran based football club Pas in 1994 but joined Persepolis a year later.

The left winger also played for Austrian club Sturm Graz and Charleroi from Belgium before returning to Persepolis once again in 2002.

Minavand was a member of Iran national football team in the 1998 FIFA World Cup, where they registered their first-ever victory in the competition against the U.S. in France. He also won a bronze medal with the Persians in the 1996 AFC Asian Cup.

Karimi scored for Qadsia against Al Fatat in first leg of Kuwait Futsal League semis and dedicated her goal to Minavand.

Qadsia won the match 3-2.

And Charleroi winger Gholizadeh scored their first goal against Kortrijk in Jupiler Pro League, helping his team win the match 3-1.

The Iranian international player also dedicated his goal to former Iran midfielder.

The Persepolis players also didn’t celebrate their goal against Machine Sazi in Iran league on Saturday and dedicated that to their former No.25.



Former Esteghlal coach Schaefer named Al Khor coach

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Former Esteghlal coach Winfried Schaefer has been named as new head coach of Qatari football club Al-Khor.

The German coach has announced his appointment on his Instagram account.

The 71-year-old coach headed Iranian club Esteghlal from 2017 to 2019. He was sacked following poor results in the league.

Schaefer penned a contract with Emirati football club Baniyas.

Al Khor compete in the Qatar Stars League. The team play their home games at Al Khor Stadium.

Farshid Bagheri allowed to return to Esteghlal

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team midfielder Farshid Bagheri has been allowed to return to the team.

The player was forced to sit out a number of matches with the order of the team’s Disciplinary Committee.

On Sunday, the Iranian club announced that Bagheri has no problem to return to the trainings.

Esteghlal sit top of the table with 23 points, one point ahead of Sanat Naft.

The Blues are scheduled to play struggling Nassaji on Friday.

Iran coaching staff attends a league match

TASNIM — Iran national football team coaching staff watched the match between Persepolis and Foolad in Iran Professional League (IPL) from the stands.

Dragan Skocic along with his assistants attended the match held at the Azadi Stadium.

Iran prepares for the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

Team Melli will first host Hong Kong national football team on March 25 in Tehran.

Dragon Skocic’s men will travel to Phnom Penh to meet Cambodia five days later.

Iran, who sits third in Group C, will also host Bahrain and Iraq on June 7 and 15, respectively.

The eight group winners of the World Cup qualification’s group stage and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Water, electricity projects worth \$1.13b put into operation

1 → A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020), during which the minister made several trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).



Since the beginning of the second phase of the scheme in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20, 2020), every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

According to Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, in the second phase of the program 250 projects were going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) of which so far 240 have gone operational.

500 transport, urban development projects to be inaugurated within 3 weeks

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said on Sunday his ministry is going to inaugurate 500 projects worth 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) within the next three weeks, on the occasion of Ten-Day Dawn (this year from January 31 until February 10).

Eslami made the announcement on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of several development projects at Mehrabad International Airport.

Every year, during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, numerous infrastructure projects are inaugurated or commenced to mark the development of the country after the Islamic Revolution.

30 idle industrial units revived in Qom Province

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The governor-general of Iran's central Qom Province said that 30 idle industrial units have been revived in the province since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020).

Bahram Sarmast said the mentioned units returning to the production cycle have created jobs for 520 persons.

A compiled program is being implemented in Qom Province in line with the surge in production (the motto of this year), and the resistance economy, the official noted.

Maintaining employment capacity and creating new jobs are the main economic priorities of Qom, and in this regard, the red line of the province is to prevent the closure of units and the unemployment of even one worker, he further stressed.

As announced last week by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), 1,160 new industrial units have been established and gone operational in Iran's industrial parks since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year.



Ali Rasoulman put the total investment made in the mentioned industrial units at 150 trillion rials (about \$3.57 billion).

According to Rasoulman, the inaugurated units have created job opportunities for over 20,000 people.

The official noted that his organization will take all the necessary measures to support the newly established units and also to help those who want to establish new units put their projects into operation.

"Fortunately, this year's budget bill has allocated a good amount for providing the necessary infrastructure in industrial parks," he said.

He further noted that although about 22-24 percent of the country's industrial units were inactive and semi-active in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020) the figure has decreased to 18.7 percent this year.

According to Rasoulman, 1,170 idle industrial units have been revived in the country since the beginning of the current year, crating 19,400 job opportunities.

Based on the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry data, the ministry was initially planning to revive 1,500 idle units in the current year, but then it revised its programs to revive 2,000 units.

Iran's industrial parks play a significant role in making the country independent through boosting production, which is a major strategy of Iran to combat the U.S. sanctions.

In fact, strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

In this due, the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) has been named the year of "Surge in Production", and all governmental bodies, as well as the private sector, are moving in line with the materialization of this motto.

Over \$47m of development projects inaugurated at Mehrabad Airport

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian

Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated 12 development projects worth 2 trillion rials (about \$47.6 million) at Mehrabad International Airport on Sunday, in a ceremony held on the occasion of Imam Khomeini's arrival in Tehran in 1979.

As reported by IRNA, the inaugurated projects include the installation of a new switching system for the airport flight control tower and the proximity control unit, improvement of flight control tower and proximity control unit, renovation of the entrance of terminal one, installation of air bridges of terminals one and two, and the improvement of road services, ramp, and four airplane stands.



Implementing a pier project and installing new elevators and escalators in the airport, improvement and developing of the mechanical infrastructure of terminals one and two and the technical block building, improvement and equipping of technical block building facilities, improvement and equipping of the airport information center, the landscaping of the taxi station and the general administration area, improvement of Imam Ali prayer hall, the installation of a bird repellent system, the construction of the first airport food court in the country, as well as the reconstruction and improvement of the sanitary services of the terminals were also among the projects inaugurated by the minister.

Over \$4.5b of bank loans paid to knowledge-based firms in 9 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian banking system has paid 191 trillion rials (about \$4.54 billion) of facilities to knowledge-based companies during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 20, 2020).

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) data, the amount of the mentioned facilities, paid to 763 companies, has increased by 128 percent compared to the previous year's same period.

Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) accounted for the biggest share of the paid facilities with 35.3 trillion rials (about \$840.4 million), followed by Bank Mellat with 33.2 trillion rials (about \$790.4 million) of offered facilities.

Iranian banks paid 137.6 trillion rials (about \$3.27 billion) of facilities to 1,108 knowledge-based companies in the past Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19, 2020), to register a 74.5 percent rise compared to the preceding year 1397.

Iran has developed plans to support and empower knowledge-based companies as a step forward to materialize the goal of a surge in production, as the economy is grappling with the U.S. sanctions.

According to Rouhollah Zolfaghari, deputy head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, a total budget of 63 trillion rials (nearly \$1.5 billion) has been allocated to support the knowledge-based companies in the current Iranian calendar year.

Back in August 2020, Rouhollah Estiri, director of the international development and business at the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, said more than 130 knowledge-based companies were established in the country by Iranian expatriates thanks to the incentives and supportive programs of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

According to the official, knowledge-based companies exported products worth over \$800 million in the past



Iranian calendar year.

Detailed plans have also been prepared to support knowledge-based companies in the upcoming year.

Iran's annual copper output to hit new record high

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of

National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) has said the country's copper production is going to break new records in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Speaking on the sidelines of the 16th International Exhibition for Mines, Construction Machinery and Related Industry and Equipment (Iran ConMin), Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi announced a 12-percent increase in the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex's production in the current year.

"The complex will reach a production record of 280,000 tons by the end of this year," the official told IRIB.

He also noted that the production of the



copper anode is also going to hit a new record by the yearend.

"This year, the production of the copper anode in the country will grow by 16 percent," he said.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, Iran's copper production capacity is going to reach

550,000 tons by the Iranian calendar year 1403 (begins on March 20, 2024).

"Considering €2.5 billion of new investment made in Sarcheshmeh Copper complex, and the implementation of 29 new projects in this industry, we hope that the country's copper production capacity will reach 550,000 tons by the year 1403."

He pointed to the high quality of the Iranian copper, saying: "Iranian copper has a very good quality and with 99.999 percent purity, has its own customers around the world and we hope with this quality of products we can improve our global position in the copper industry."

Production of the copper anode in Iran rose 16 percent during the first eight months

of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20, 2020), from the same period of time in the previous year.

Some 235,379 tons of the product were produced in the eight-month period of this year.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

A senior official at Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year.

IME's value of weekly trade rises 26%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value and weight of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) has increased 26 percent and 62 percent, respectively, in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations Department, the exchange witnessed trade of 689,307 tons of commodities worth more than \$306 million in the past week.

IME traded on its mineral and industrial trading floor 183,231 tons of various types of commodities valued at more than \$102 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 180,395 tons of steel, 1,600 tons of copper, 1,000 tons of aluminum, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 6 tons of precious metals concentrate, 10 tons of lead and 100 tons of cast iron.

The next trading floor of the IME was the oil and petrochemical, which traded on its domestic and export rings 502,388 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$204 million.

On this floor, customers purchased 204,200 tons of vacuum bottom, 143,964 tons of bitumen, 65,899 tons of polymeric products, 32,126 tons of chemicals, 55,500 tons of lube cut, 1,560 tons of base oil and 325 tons of sulfur.

It's also worth noting that 3,688 tons of commodities changed hands on the IME's side market.



As previously reported, over 2,893 tons of commodities worth nearly \$1.5 billion have been traded at IME during the past Iranian calendar month of Dey (December 21, 2020-January 19, 2021).

The exchange hosted trading of 1,176,000 tons of commodities with a trading value of more than \$740 million on its mineral and industrial trading floor.

On this floor the IME sold 1,093,000 tons of steel, 5,160 tons of copper, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate, 480 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 15,955 tons of aluminum, 800 tons of coke, 20,500 tons of zinc dust, 40,000 tons of iron

TEDPIX gains 3,000 points on Sunday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 3,839 points to 1.25 million on Sunday.

Over 13.207 billion securities worth 142.416 trillion rials (about \$3.39 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index fell 292 points, while the second market's index rose 18,599 points.

After several weeks of drop, TEDPIX could finally register growth in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index rose two percent to stand at 1.207 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

In early August 2020, when all the major stocks around the world were experiencing serious declines, TEDPIX surpassed two million points.

This situation created some skepticism among investors regarding the creation of a bubble in the market, and some economists and market analysts also warned about the

government's over-interfering in this market.

The government, however, continued offering more and more of its entities on the market and further encouraged people to invest in the market.

Turning the fears of the investors into reality, TEDPIX started a downward trend in mid-August and has since slumped about 38 percent.

What President Rouhani called one of the most "astounding rises" in the history of the stock market, became one of the most dramatic swings on record.

Now, the big question would be "what is on the horizon for the Iranian stock market?"

Farhang Hosseini, a capital market expert, has told the Tehran Times that although several external factors, including the disputes between the oil and economy ministries over the offering of the second ETF (dubbed First Refinery, or Dara Second), increase in interest rates, the ambiguities in the next year's national budget bill, and etc. have contributed to the

decline of the TSE's main index over the past few months, the main reason for this decline is the unconventional valuation (to be more precise the over-valuation) of entities in this market for encouraging liquidity inflow.

"The market is correcting itself and most of the companies, enterprises, and funds are getting closer and closer to their real values," Hosseini explained, adding: "The market has quickly returned to a logical valuation level and more than half of the market is within the reasonable value range."

Behzad Samadi, a market analyst and board member of a major broker in Iran, believes that the recent declines in the main index of the TSE has nothing to do with the fundamental and technical issues of the market.

He is of the opinion that the main reason for this situation is the interference of the government and over-encouraging of the masses for entering the market without having the slightest knowledge even about the fundamentals of this market.



"Like its decline, the drastic growth of the market did not have any technical and standard basis," he told the Tehran Times in an interview on Tuesday.

According to Samadi, the bubble created in the TSE's main index was partly the result of the excitement instilled by the government, and partly due to the huge gap between some entities' real value and the prices for which they were offering their shares.

Iran's military power not a threat to other nations: Venezuelan ambassador

1 → This is a fair act and should therefore be recognized by the international community. It also demonstrates the strength of bilateral economic cooperation and trade relations between the two countries, which promises a new era of exchange and response to unilateral actions by the United States.

Iran has stated that it will continue fuel shipment to Venezuela. What challenges may Iran face in this respect?

The powerful foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been one of the most effective weapons the country possesses to counter any irrational U.S. sanctions.

The policy of fuel shipment to Venezuela means that there are various mechanisms to protect the interests of countries.

President Maduro passed a bill on October 8 under the title of "counteract and mitigate the effects of unilateral and coercive measures taken by other countries," mostly by the United States. According to the text of the bill, it gives the executive authority to "reform the constitutional mechanisms, management, administration and operation of state-owned companies, both in the national territory and abroad."

In addition to fuel shipment, what are the other aspects of Tehran-Caracas cooperation?

Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is very extensive. Nearly 70 years have passed since the diplomatic relations between the two countries started, and today we can say that these relations have reached a strategic stage.

Collaboration in the field of energy and trade is at the highest level and we have also exchanged experiences in various topics including technical, educational, cultural, housing, aerospace, industrial and especially health fields due to the spread of coronavirus.



The field of security and defense is also an important exchange channel, which we are following with high motivation, and we will soon hold the ninth joint commission between the two countries. This cooperation, which is based on trust and solidarity between the two countries, shows a strong relationship.

What happened to ships seized by the U.S. under the pretext of carrying fuel for Venezuela?

As Venezuelan and Iranian officials said at the time, the move was part of a U.S. lie and psychological warfare. These ships were not Iranian and their flag had nothing to do with Iran. Under these circumstances, the U.S. government's efforts to increase economic pressure on Iran and Venezuela did not yield the results they intended.

The only thing that stood out was the U.S. defeat at the UN Security Council in extending the arms embargo against Iran.

In the tumult of lies and threats broadcast by imperialism, it is possible to find out

independently who owns the seized ships. The world is witnessing a government that acts rudely in encroaching on and seizing the property and assets of other countries. This is what the United States has shown so far.

What options does Venezuela have to deal with U.S. piracy?

If the Americans disturb Iranian tankers heading to Venezuela, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, like the Islamic Republic of Iran, has all the options on the table to respond.

At the same time, all our options and answers are in accordance with the Law on Maritime Freedoms. We are committed to protecting navigation against any infringement in open international waters, as well as the piracy of the United States, which has a long history of such acts.

The first shipment of five fuel tankers to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under White House threats carries many messages. They plunder the natural wealth of independent countries not only by trying to subjugate free nations and by using crimi-

nal sanctions, but also by stealing countries' funds in foreign banks and freezing assets. Remember how they stole a consignment of medical equipment from one of their allies. As I mentioned before, we now have a counter-sanctions law that allows us to take any legal action or negotiate in this regard.

Is Venezuela going to form a defense alliance with friendly countries to counter U.S. interventions?

The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela enshrines the inalienable rights of every nation, including independence, freedom, sovereignty, and self-determination.

We also have the right to defend ourselves against those who threaten our land. According to human rights law and international conventions, we are free to form alliances with countries that respect the sovereignty of other countries. Creating a defensive platform in our country is a right that cannot be ignored. It is not difficult to know which countries are supporting Venezuela in critical moments.

The geopolitical map of the region is also changing in the wake of the recent elections in Bolivia, which returned the line of constitution and democracy to a friendly and brotherly country.

It should also be noted that on December 6, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will hold its parliamentary elections and will continue the path of democracy with power.

Cooperation in the security and defense sector between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is important to us. We are aware of Iran's technological and scientific advances over the last 42 years. In the defense sector, Iran has become self-sufficient in the production of basic military equipment and systems thanks to the Islamic Revolution. We know that Iran's military power is not a threat to other nations, but is based on the doctrine of deterrence.

Iraq's popular forces repel Daesh attack on Jurf al-Sakhar

Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), better known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, have thwarted an attack launched by the remnants of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group on Jurf al-Sakhar region in the central Babil province.

In a short statement on Saturday night, the communication office of Hashd al-Sha'abi announced that the attack was repelled by the Al-Jazirah Operation Headquarters Command.

Terrorists had earlier attacked a number of high-voltage AC transmission towers in this region, Press TV reported.

Jurf al-Sakhar, which is part of the southwestern protective belt of Baghdad, is a strategic region for access and entrance into the holy city of Karbala.

The city was liberated from Daesh terrorists in 2014 in Operation Ashura, which was commanded by Iranian anti-terror commander Lt. General Qassem Soleimani.

In that operation, 40 senior Daesh forces and over 200 Takfiri terrorists were killed, and their plots for 136 bombings were disclosed. Iraq declared victory over Daesh in December 2017 after a three-year counter-terrorism military campaign.

Foreign troops to stay in Afghanistan beyond May deadline

International troops plan to stay in Afghanistan beyond the May deadline envisaged by the insurgent Taliban's deal with the United States, four senior NATO officials said, a move that could escalate tensions with the Taliban demanding full withdrawal.

"There will be no full withdrawal by allies by April-end," one of the officials told Reuters.

"Conditions have not been met," he said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. "And with the new U.S. administration, there will be tweaks in the policy, the sense of hasty withdrawal which was prevalent will be addressed and we could see a much more calculated exit strategy."

The administration of then-President Donald Trump signed an agreement with the Taliban early last year calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops by May in return for the insurgents fulfilling certain security guarantees.

Trump hailed the accord - which did not include the Afghan government - as the end of two decades of war. He reduced U.S. troops to 2,500 by this month, the fewest since 2001.

Hamas calls for confronting Israeli terrorism in W. Bank

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN-** The Hamas Movement has described Israeli forces' on-site execution of a Palestinian young man in southern Bethlehem as "the same gang behavior that is systematically practiced by the Israeli occupation army and Jewish settlers against the Palestinian people in

the West Bank."

"Such terrorism that is practiced by the occupation army and settlers entails escalating all forms of resistance to fend off this aggression, engaging in a real and joint confrontation, halting the security coordination, and implementing the decisions taken by the secretar-

ies general [of the Palestinian factions] about the need to activate the popular resistance," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem said in a press release on Sunday.

A Palestinian young man was shot dead in the morning after he allegedly tried to stab Israeli soldiers at the junction of Gush Etzion in the occupied West Bank.

JCPOA is not renegotiable: American foreign policy expert

1 → "Why on earth should Iran—a country that stood firm & defeated 4 years of a brutal US economic terrorism imposed in violation of JCPOA & UNSC Resolution—show goodwill gesture first? It was the U.S. that broke the deal—for no reason. It must remedy its wrong; then Iran will respond," Zarif wrote on his Twitter account on January 26.

In May 2019, exactly one year after Donald Trump officially withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA and imposed the harshest ever sanctions on Iran in line with his "maximum pressure" campaign, the Islamic Republic announced that its "strategic patience" is over and started to gradually remove cap its nuclear activities at bi-monthly intervals. At the time Iran announced if the JCPOA parties honor their commitments, Iran will immediately reverse its decisions.

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

Iran has said reducing its nuclear commitments are in accordance to paragraph 36 of the JCPOA.

(Paragraph 36 provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.)

Iranian officials also insist that Tehran won't accept any renegotiation over the existing deal or discuss its defensive missile program.

The U.S. administration pulled out of the nuclear deal in May 2018, claiming it failed to curtail Iran's missile program and regional influence.

When asked if isn't it more reasonable if the side that breached the deal to take the first step, the American foreign pol-



icy expert assures that "it should not be difficult to sequence mutual steps back into compliance."

"The Biden administration, which has already lifted the so-called Muslim ban, could take some other steps to show goodwill such as dropping formal opposition to a \$5 billion loan to Iran from the IMF for COVID-19 relief and reinstating waivers for Iran to sell oil to certain countries," Slavin says.

Despite President Biden's decision to reverse Trump's policies like "Muslim ban"—a Trump administration-imposed ban on allowing people from seven Muslim-majority countries to travel to the United States—it seems the new president has inherited a formidable toolkit when it comes to Iran.

However, Slavin calls for freedom of dual nationals and pausing any further steps out of the JCPOA by Tehran.

"The U.S. and Iran can work out a schedule for more sanctions lifting and for Iran's return to compliance on nuclear steps," Slavin remarks.

Some hawkish politicians in the U.S. are encouraging Biden to continue Trump's "maximum pressure" policy as a leverage to win more concessions from Iran.

Nevertheless, the American expert emphasizes that "Biden opposed the Trump policy and will seek a return to diplomacy with Iran."

Slavin is of the opinion that the presence of so many JCPOA negotiators in the Biden administration is a good sign that shows

Biden won't follow Trump's mistakes.

"Rob Malley, an extremely experienced diplomat with wide knowledge of the Middle East (West Asia), will be in charge of implementing U.S. policy toward Iran. He is a familiar face for Iranian diplomats. Wendy Sherman, who was our chief negotiator, is deputy secretary of state and Jake Sullivan, another important figure in U.S.-Iran relations, is national security adviser."

However, it will be simplistic to underestimate attempts by certain regimes like Saudi Arabia and Israel which are trying hard to hinder reviving the JCPOA.

While some Western countries like France talk about the need to include their regional allies like Saudi Arabia in a possible nuclear talks, Slavin predicts that "Saudi Arabia will face a much more skeptical audience in Washington than it did under Donald Trump and we've already seen the Biden administration pause arms sales to both Saudi and the UAE."

"While U.S. relations with Israel remain strong, Bibi Netanyahu is very unpopular among Democrats and will not be able to dictate policy as he did under Trump," she points out.

Regarding the initiative of a nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) in West Asia, the director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council notes that "Israel has never acknowledged its possession of nuclear weapons."

Slavin argues if Iran modifies its rhetoric, "it might be possible to convince Israel to come clean on its program. That would be a first step toward a nuclear weapons free Middle East (West Asia)."

Israel is widely believed to possess more than 200 nuclear warheads. It has also refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Ansarullah welcomes Italy's decision to block arms exports to Saudi Arabia, UAE

The popular Houthi Ansarullah movement has praised Italy's decision to halt arms exports to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates which have been waging a devastating war on impoverished Yemen for years.

"Italy's announcement to stop selling weapons to countries that launch aggression against Yemen is a positive step, which contributes to protecting civilians and supporting the peace process," Mohammed Abdul-Salam, the Ansarullah spokesman, wrote in a post published on his official Twitter page late Friday.

Earlier Friday, Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said, "Today I am announcing that the government has revoked the authorizations under way for the export of missiles and

aircraft bombs to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates."


He added, "[This is] an act that we considered due, a clear message of peace coming from our country. For us, respect for human rights is an unbreakable commitment."

According to Press TV, Italy's Peace and Disarmament Network, a campaign group, hailed the move as "historic" and said the move would stop the supply of at least 12,700 bombs.

It "puts an end, once and for all, to the possibility that thousands of ordnance manufactured in Italy could strike civilian facilities, cause casualties among the population or contribute to worsening the already serious humanitarian situation", the group said.

FOR RENT
Duplex villa, 340 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2000 sq.m gardens, in Velenjak + 120 sq.m suite
09121230904

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER No:99/108-59/10

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :
Purchasing MV & LV SWITCHGEAR , Dry transformer with enclosure , MV & LV voltage power cable, UPS & Battery , Isolated trans , Duct Split, Industrial laptop ... plus Installation and Commissioning in accordance with the technical specifications and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:
from 2th Feb 2021 (1399/11/14) by 14 p.m. until on Saturday 8th Feb 2021 (1399/11/20) with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. , 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex , Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave, Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account No.4101029171204273 (IBAN: IR310100004101029171204273) with CENTRAL.BANK OF IRAN in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:
The amount of deposit for participant in tender is USD24800 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 6/200/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering priced bid:
The sealed evaluation qualitative envelop in addition A, B&C packages/envelopes should be submitted no later than **9 a.m. on 13th Mar 2021 (1399/12/23)** and at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening evaluation qualitative envelopes:
The date of opening the evaluation qualitative envelopes is on **13th Mar.2021 (1399/12/23)** at **10 a.m.** in the office of purchasing manager .

Time and place of opening envelopes:
The date of opening the envelopes A&B is on **14th Mar.2021 (1399/12/24)** at **3 p.m.** in the office of Financial Vice President. The bidders must have independent auditor's report and also qualification documents from related authorities for acting in the Field of the Tender Subject in obligatory
Fore more information please see : www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and <http://iets.mporg.ir/>

Purchasing (Kala) Dept., IRIB

Iran ready to help restore al-Biruni's mausoleum in Afghanistan

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Sunday said that the Islamic Republic is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan to restore and renovate the mausoleum of Persian scholar and polymath Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, which is located in the city of Ghazni.

Furthermore, Mounesan tasked his deputy for cultural heritage affairs to make the necessary arrangements with Afghanistan for the reconstruction of the mausoleum as soon as possible, CHTN reported.



“As the mausoleum has been destroyed and is in a bad condition. And Iranian restorers and experts could soon start the reconstruction and restoration of the historical structure,” the minister added.

He also noted that Iranian experts have a worthy knowledge in the field of restoration of the historical and aging monuments and structures; therefore they could be a good asset to their Afghan counterparts.

Born in the 10th century in Iran's Khorasan, Al-Biruni was a Muslim astronomer, mathematician, ethnographer, anthropologist, historian, and geographer. He became the most original polymath the Islamic world had ever known.

The top scholar wrote tens of books, most of which were on astronomical and mathematical subjects. His book on Indian culture is by far the most important of his encyclopedic works. Listing his works is relatively easy, for he himself produced an index of his works up to when he was about 60 years old. However, he lived well into his seventies, and, since some of his surviving works are not mentioned in this index, the index is a partial list at best. Adding all the titles in the index, as well as those found later, brings his total production to 146 titles, each averaging about 90 folios. Almost half of the titles were on astronomical and mathematical subjects. Only a minuscule number of his output, 22 titles, has survived, and only about half of that has been published.

Isfahan province to boost tourism infrastructure

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** - A total of 22 tourism-related projects are scheduled to be inaugurated soon across the central province of Isfahan on the occasion of Ten-Day Dawn (Jan. 31- Feb. 10, marking the victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution).

The projects include eco-lodge units, hotels, tourist camps, tourist complexes, as well as some historical mansions, which are repurposed to traditional accommodation units, the provincial tourism chief has said.

They have been developed in various cities including Shahreza, Ardestan, Khansar, Kashan, Golpayegan, Mobarakeh, and Natanz, Fereydoun Allahyari announced on Sunday.

Despite the outbreak of the coronavirus and the damages it has caused to the tourism industry, the volume of investment in this sector across the province has grown significantly, the official explained.



A budget of one trillion rials (about \$23.8 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the projects, which are being carried out in collaboration with the private sector, he said.

He also noted that the projects will also add 633 beds to the hospitality sector of the province, while they will generate 329 job opportunities as well.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a cross-roads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into “half the world”; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghshe Jahan Sq. (literary meaning “Image of the World”), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

Ecbatana, once summer capital of Achaemenid Empire, one step closer to UNESCO status

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran is further moving towards inscribing Ecbatana, which was once the summer capital of the Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550 – 330BC), on the UNESCO World Heritage list as the country has recently completed an all-inclusive dossier to be presented to the UN cultural body.

“The dossier on Hegmataneh (Ecbatana) has been finalized and is ready to be presented to UNESCO,” Governor-General of Hamedan province, Seyyed Saeid Shahrokhi, announced on Sunday.

The registration [as a World Heritage] would have a profound effect on the development and progress of Hamedan province, the official added.

The ruined Ecbatana, which is partly beneath the modern city of Hamedan (the capital city) in west-central Iran, is widely believed to be once a mysterious capital of Medes. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by Deioces, who was the first king of the Medes.

French Assyriologist Charles Fossey (1869 – 1946) directed the first excavation in Tepe Hegmateneh for six months in 1913. Erich Friedrich Schmidt (1897



– 1964), who was a German and American-naturalized archaeologist, took some aerial photos from Hamedan between 1935 and 1937.

According to the Greek historian Xenophon of Athens (c.430-c.355), Ecbatana became the summer residence of the Achaemenid kings. Their palace is de-

scribed by the Greek historian Polybius of Megalopolis. He writes that the city was richer and more beautiful than all other cities in the world; although it had no wall, the palace, built on an artificial terrace, according to Livius, a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona

Lendering.

An inscription, unearthed in 2000, indications that Achaemenid king Artaxerxes II Mnemon (404-358) built a terrace with columns in Ecbatana. Some twelve kilometers southwest of Hamedan is Gandj Nameh, where Darius I and his son Xerxes had inscriptions cut into the rock.

Polybius, a Greek historian of the Hellenistic period noted for his work The Histories, tells that the builders used cedar and cypress wood, which was covered with silver and gold. The roof tiles, columns, and ceilings were plated with silver and gold. He adds that the palace was stripped of its precious metals in the invasion of the Macedonian king Alexander the Great and that the rest was seized during the reigns of Antigonos and Seleucus. Later, Ecbatana was one of the capitals of the Seleucid and the Parthian Empires, sometimes called Epiphaneia.

Ecbatana is deemed to be remaining a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, for decades or even centuries to come as the site of the ancient city lies partly within the modern city of Hamedan, which has never been excavated before.

Tilting minaret of Shams mausoleum comes under scrutiny

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Years of underground developments have contributed to the tilt of a brick minaret, which stands tall at the mausoleum of Shams-e Tabrizi, the celebrated Persian mystic who is credited as the spiritual instructor of Rumi.

The minaret stands tall in the northwestern Iranian city of Khoy in West Azarbaijan province, where the mystic was born and passed away in a span from 1185 to 1248.

The tilt is now being scrutinized firmly as its some-degree lean has given serious cause of concern to cultural heritage experts, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The tilt of the building has happened in recent years, and to prevent further damage and the possible risk of destruction, the edifice is being controlled and monitored regularly, Jalil Jabbari said on Sunday.

A panel of experts is also studying carefully to find a proper way for preserving the minaret, the official added.

He also noted that Shams-e Tabrizi cultural-his-

torical complex is being constructed in an area of 3.5 hectares, with a budget of 200 billion rials (\$4.7 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar).

The minaret, named after the renowned Iranian poet and mystic who lived between 1185 and 1248, is one of the popular tourist attractions of Khoy. The centuries-old monument is somehow hidden in the maze of some alleys northeast of Qamsal Square.

The city is also a destination for lovers of Persian literature, who come visit the mausoleum of the 13th-century poet. Encircled with vast sunflower farms and snowcapped towering mountains, khoy has long been a destination for those who are interested in its virgin nature, genuine culture, and architecture.

The northwestern Iranian city is also filled with centuries-old mosques, churches, caravanserais, bath-houses, fortresses, and ramparts, each telling their tales.

Khoy may not be on every traveler's radar, but it is a natural fit for eco-tourists as it offers loads of scenic hikes, panoramic views besides colorful geological fea-



tures. Therapeutic warm-water spas, salt mines, and Christian centers are among its other charms.

Restoration project to revive ancient monuments on Silk Road

→ 1 This vast network carried more than just merchandise and precious commodities however: the constant movement and mixing of populations also brought about the transmission of knowledge, ideas, cultures, and beliefs, which had a profound impact on the history and civilizations of the Eurasian peoples.

For thousands of years, the ancient Silk Road passed through many different



empires, kingdoms, reigns, and societies. According to UNESCO, the Silk Road enriched the countries it passed through, transporting cultures, religions, languages, and of course material goods into societies across Europe, Asia, and Africa, and uniting them all with a common thread of cultural heritage and plural identities.

Travelers along the Silk Road were attracted not only by trade but also by

the intellectual and cultural exchange that was taking place in cities along the Silk Road, many of which developed into hubs of culture and learning. Science, arts, and literature, as well as crafts and technologies, were thus shared and disseminated into societies along the lengths of these routes, and in this way, languages, religions, and cultures developed and influenced each other.

Living museum of oil extraction to get off the ground near Kashan

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A centuries-old Assarkhane, a traditional factory where special mills were used to grind oilseeds, is set to be turned into a living museum of oil extraction near the oasis city of Kashan, central Iran.

“The Safavid-era (1501–1736) Assarkhane in Aran-va-Bidgol is set to be turned into the country's first living museum of oil extraction,” Aran-va-Bidgol's tourism chief Seyyed Hossein Chakeri said on Saturday.

“It is the oldest and most important Assarkhane in [whole] Isfahan province,” the official added.

The museum is expected to turn the spotlight on early technology and the everyday life of the people who lived in the last centuries. It would demonstrate how roasted seeds such as castor, sesame, poppy, and sunflower were ground and the extracted oils used in food preparation, soap production, and oil lamps.

Large round millstones revolved on each other by ox or camel to grind the seeds; the plantain's trunks that fastened together used for pressing the grinding seeds are generally amongst highlights of each Assarkhane.

It's interesting to know that the Assarkhane was built afterward the plantain's trunks had been housed



there due to the enormous size of the trunks.

The entrance to the Assarkhane, like many other of its counterparts, takes you few steps down to reach the lower basement (or pillar room) which you can encounter stones, barrels, and... showing you clearly the hustles and bustles of the aged company during

Tourism projects worth \$71.4m to be inaugurated in Bushehr

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — A total of eight tourism-related projects, worth three trillion rials (about \$71.4 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) are scheduled to come on stream in southwestern Bushehr province.

President Hassan Rouhani, and Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan are scheduled to inaugurate the projects via a video conference by the end of this week, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The projects will help create 275 job opportunities for the locals directly. Moreover, they will be adding 400 rooms

and 1088 beds to the hospitality sector of the province, Mohammad-Hossein Arastuzadeh said on Sunday.

Last April, the official announced that the tourism sector of the province is ready to jumpstart after the coronavirus crisis ends. He also stressed that the province needs innovative plans and programs to attract more tourists and travelers to its tourist attractions and historical sites.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr Province is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful



beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

Boosting 'technology diplomacy' on agenda: VP

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The vice presidency for science and technology in cooperation with the ministry of foreign affairs is planning to boost 'technology diplomacy' through expanding innovation and technology centers in export target countries.

Knowledge-based companies are seriously collaborating with the ministry of foreign affairs to expand target markets, IRNA quoted Sourena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, as saying on Sunday.

He referred to the recent inauguration of an innovation center in the African country of Kenya as a good example of technology diplomacy.

During a three-day visit to Kenya, Sattari met with Betty Mania, Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, discussing



ways to expand bilateral relations, IRNA reported on Friday.

Currently, some 6,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Sattari told the Tehran Times in October 2020 that although U.S. sanctions have caused exports of knowledge-based companies to decline over the past three years, the exports are projected to reach the pre-sanctions level of more than \$1 billion by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 20).



1 → Infectious diseases toll declines

With the development of the health system, the causes of mortality have decreased and deaths due to infectious diseases, pregnancy and childbirth have decreased, according to the Islamic Revolution Document Center.

According to statistics, the crude death rate in Iran has decreased from 13 people per 1000 live births in (1970- 1976) to 5 people in 2007.

According to studies, there has been a decrease in child mortality in the country over the last four decades, as 200 infants and 250 children under five died per 1000 live births before the revolution, which dropped to 7 deaths in 2017.

According to the World Bank, more than 140,000 infants died annually since 1979, a figure that has dropped to less than 20,000 in recent years.

Hospitals and medical centers expanded

Before the Islamic Revolution, there were about 558 medical institutions with 57,927 beds in the country, which was insufficient in comparison to the country's population.

Meanwhile, after the fourth decades of the Islamic Rev-

Health sector growth after Islamic Revolution

olution, primary health care (PHC) has reached a coverage of 93 percent for the urban population and over 97 percent for the rural residents. At the same time, the establishment of the health care network system as a global model has taken place with more than 31,400 Health Houses and 7,400 healthcare centers.

Moreover, the distribution of hospitals in different provinces and regions demonstrates the observance of health justice in all parts of the country.

While in 1978, only 37 percent of the country's cities had hospitals, this figure has now reached more than 94 percent. In 2017, the number of hospitals in the country and hospital beds was 910 and 148,000, respectively. While in 1978, these figures were 556 and 56,000.

Growing number of doctors, specialists

Before the Revolution, there were only a limited number of physicians for the entire population of 36 million in Iran, so all the cities of the country and the country's villages were suffering from the lack of doctors and specialists in 1,500 rural health centers.

The number of physicians in the country, including general practitioners and specialists in various fields, amounted to about 14,000, while a significant number of whom were foreign physicians. So, there were still about 9.3 physicians per 10,000 people.

According to the World Bank, the physician-to-population ratio improved six-fold in the post-revolutionary period.

In 1978, some 33 million Iranians were in need of foreign physicians, but now, with a population more than doubled, the number of physicians is growing, meeting the whole country's needs.

Also the specialized physicians were 7000 in 1979 who reached up to 72,792 in 2017, and it is noteworthy to say that people from many countries travel to Iran to receive

treatment from Iranian physicians.

Medical universities growth

Before the Islamic Revolution, four medical faculties were established in universities, but now there are about 59 medical universities across the country.

The number of medical students increased from 600 to 3,000 a year, after the Revolution.

Over the last four decades, the outstanding growth of the number of medical universities in all provinces of the country, especially the deprived areas, the increase in the number of graduates of medical sciences, especially women, and the laws related to the presence of medical graduates in deprived areas are among the most important achievements in medical education.

Self-sufficiency in medical supplies

Before 1979, there were about 50 manufacturing companies in the field of medical equipment across Iran, all of which imported raw materials from abroad and assembled them inside Iran. These companies were only able to supply 3 percent of the domestic needs.

According to the statistics in 2017, medical equipment companies reached 500, which supplied over 80 percent of hospitals' needs across the country, producing more than 8,000 types of medical equipment and supplying them to domestic and foreign markets.

Being the leading medicine producer in the region, production of 97 percent of medicine and export of pharmaceuticals including biotechnology drugs, self-sufficiency in the production of vaccines, eradication of polio and other epidemics, vaccination coverage from 30 to 100 percent are among other achievements of the country.

Also, Iran is now ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of biotechnology, by producing 27 biotech medicines.

Shadegan wetland becoming a better habitat for migratory birds

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Measures are being taken in Shadegan wetland to improve living conditions for migratory birds, Issa Kalantari, head of the Department of Environment (DOE), has stated.

Culverts are being constructed which will fill the wetland all year round so that it will prevent the rise of dust and improve the living conditions of birds, he noted.

"Some 20 million dollars has been earmarked for sand and dust control in the next year's national budget bill (beginning on March 21), the internal dust hotspots in Khuzestan province have been contained, but the external sources, namely Iraq,

Saudi Arabia, and Syria are out of our control," he explained.

"Municipal waste around the wetland should be managed so that we plan to take up waste to energy activities."

Shadegan wetland covers 530,000 hectares, 400,000 hectares of which has been designated as a Ramsar site (defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value).

The wetland feeds on Marun and Karun rivers both crossing Kohgiluyeh and Boy-



er-Ahmad province, but after dam construction over the Karun river, the wetland went dry not receiving its water right.

After the torrential rains and flooding started on March 19, 2020, the wetland

has been saturated.

Last winter (December 2019- March 2020), 150,000 migratory birds were observed in the wetlands and reservoirs of Khuzestan. And the highest number of birds was counted in Hour al-Azim wetland, the highest diversity in the Shadegan wetland, and the highest population decrease in Bandoon wetland.

In January 2020, IRNA quoted Mostafa Kenarkoobi, the director-general of Khuzestan province's veterinary department, as saying that fourteen types of indigenous and migratory birds are living in the wetland and they are monitored constantly in terms of health.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

Literacy rate in rural areas grows significantly

The difference in literacy rate between urban and rural areas has decreased from 34.9 percent in 1976 to about 12 percent in 2019, which demonstrates a significant rise in the literacy rate of rural areas.

According to the censuses conducted between 1976 and 2016, the literacy rate of urban areas has increased from 65.5 percent to 99.8 percent. At the same time, the literacy rate in rural areas has increased from 30.5 percent to 78.5 percent.

Moreover, the country's population aged 6 and above was estimated at 71.5 million, of which more than 62 million declared themselves literate and over 8 million were illiterate. Accordingly, the literacy rate has increased from 47.5 percent in 1976 to 87.6 percent in 2016, which reached up to 89 percent in 2019.

رشد قابل توجه درصد باسوادی در مناطق روستایی

تفاوت درصد باسوادی در بین مناطق شهری و روستایی از ۳۴.۹ درصد سال ۱۳۵۵ به حدود ۱۲.۳ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ کاهش یافته است و این رقم در سال ۱۳۹۸ به ۱۲ درصد رسیده است. بر اساس سرشماری های انجام شده بین سالهای ۱۳۵۵ تا ۹۵ میزان باسوادی مناطق شهری از ۶۵.۵ درصد در سال ۱۳۵۵ به ۹۹.۸ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ افزایش یافته است. در همین زمان نرخ باسوادی مناطق روستایی از ۳۰.۵ درصد به ۷۸.۵ درصد افزایش یافته است.

بر اساس سرشماری سال ۱۳۹۵ جمعیت ۶ سال و بالاتر کشور بالغ بر ۷۱ میلیون و ۵۰۶ هزار نفر بوده که بیش از ۶۲ میلیون نفر آنها خود را با سواد و بیش از ۸ میلیون نفر خود را بی سواد اعلام کردند. بر این اساس درصد باسوادی از ۴۷.۵ درصد در سال ۱۳۵۵ به ۸۷.۶ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ رسیده و این رقم در برآورد سال ۱۳۹۸ به بیش از ۸۹ درصد افزایش یافته است.

Universities of Tehran, Vienna to enhance co-op

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The University of Tehran and d e s k The University of Vienna have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand academic cooperation in the field of humanities over a three-year period, ISNA reported on Sunday.

In a virtual meeting with Heinz Werner Engl, Chancellor of the University of Vienna, and his counterpart Mahmoud Nili-Ahmadabadi emphasized the expansion of joint scientific cooperation.

As per the MOU, three joint German language classes will be held by the two universities in April and a three-year contract was signed to exchange professors and students.



The University of Tehran

Engl, for his part, praised the University of Tehran's capabilities in various scientific fields, expressing readiness for further cooperation.

"We are interested in cooperation with the University of Tehran in the fields of biotechnology, earth sciences, engineering, economics, and philosophy in the doctoral degrees and exchange of professors and students."

Nili-Ahmadabadi also welcomed the proposals made by the President of the University of Vienna regarding cooperation in the field of humanities, and raised the issue of providing a joint doctoral degree between the two universities in the field of humanities.

He also emphasized the need to interact in the field of biotechnology in the fight against coronavirus and suggested holding an online workshop to exchange information between the two universities.

Climate crisis warming up nights faster than days, research suggests

The effects the climate crisis are causing nights to be "disproportionately" warmer than days in many parts of the world, researchers have said.

Night time warming was found to be more common than daytime warming in more than half (54 per cent) of the land surfaces across the planet, in a phenomenon described by scientists as "warming asymmetry".

The study, published in the journal Global Change Biology, warned higher night-time temperatures could have "potentially significant implications" for nocturnal species.

A team of researchers from the University of Exeter looked at warming records for 1983 to 2017.

They found night-time temperatures were, on average, "disproportionately" warmer by more than 0.25C compared to daytime temperatures.

The researchers believe warming asymmetry is being driven primarily by clouds, which cool the planet's surface during the day but retain warmth during the night, leading to greater night-time warming.

In contrast, a lack of clouds allows more warmth to reach the surface during the day, though the heat is lost at night, the Independent reported.

Lead author Dr Daniel Cox, of the Environment and Sustainability Institute on Exeter's Penryn Campus in Cornwall, said: "We demonstrate that greater night-time warming is associated with the climate becoming wetter, and this has been shown to have important consequences for plant growth and how species, such as insects and mammals, interact.

"Conversely, we also show that greater daytime warming is associated with drier conditions, combined with greater levels of overall warming, which increases species vulnerability to heat stress and dehydration.

"Species that are only active at night or during the day will be particularly affected."

He added: "Warming asymmetry has potentially significant implications for the natural world."

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 120)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

تمرین ۴. جمله را با "هر، هرکس، هیچ" یا "هیچکس" کامل کنید:

۱. در آنجا فردگاهی وجود ندارد.
۲. نظر او را نپذیرفت.
۳. دانشجویی می تواند اینجا فیلم تماشا کند.
۴. بخواهد می تواند داخل برج برود.
۵. دیروز معنی این جمله را نفهمید.
۶. ما شب با هم به گردش می رویم.

■ The same

یکی

ما در یک شهر زندگی می کنیم، نه در دو شهر.

مهیاری و مهسا در دو اتاق جدا می خوانند، نه در یک اتاق.

این دو کلمه یک معنی دارند؛ معنی هر دو کلمه یکی است.

درک

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

۱. () بزرگترین میدان تهران، میدان انقلاب است.
۲. () مساحت میدان آزادی حدود ۵۰۰۰ متر مربع است.
۳. () برج آزادی نزدیک میدان آزادی قرار دارد.
۴. () ارتفاع برج آزادی در حدود ۴۵۰ متر است.
۵. () برج آزادی به رنگ سبز است.
۶. () مردم می توانند در آنجا فیلم تماشا کنند.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

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

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

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



GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The elderly are the sources of mercy and
divine blessing.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Art Bureau celebrates Islamic Revolution anniversary with “Days of Victory”

A R T TEHRAN — The Art Bureau is celebrating the 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution by organizing an exhibition of paintings opened on Sunday at its Mostafa Aali Gallery.

The exhibition entitled “Days of Victory” features works by Saeid Khatami, Mohammad-Sadeq Azadnia, Mohammad-Hossein Vahed, Mojtaba Alam Kafshchi and Mehdi Enferadi from the Khorasan Razavi branch of the Art Bureau.



An art enthusiast visits the exhibition “Days of Victory” at the Mostafa Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau on January 31, 2021. (Mehr/Mohammadreza Abbasi)

Speaking from the side section of the exhibit, cartoonist Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai, the director of the Visual Arts Office of the bureau, said that the office mainly tries to focus on artists who are active in other cities and that this exhibit has been organized by the Khorasan Razavi branch of the Art Bureau in Mashhad and Tehran.

“What is of high interest in these paintings is that the artists have beautifully painted the events of the last days before the victory of the Islamic Revolution,” he said.

Majid Asgari, the director of the Khorasan Razavi branch of the bureau, also attending the ceremony said that the artworks have been painted by the artists based on the photos and the oral memories compiled by the bureau.

He hoped that they can display their paintings in other cultural centers.

Keigo Higashino’s “Salvation of a Saint” Published in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — “Salvation of a Saint” by Keigo Higashino, a Japanese author who is chiefly known for his mystery novels, has recently been published in Persian.

Mohammadreza Abbasabadi is the translator of the novel published by Chatrang in Tehran.

An English translation of “Salvation of a Saint” by Alexander O. Smith was published in 2012.

In 2011, “The Devotion of Suspect X” was a hit with critics and readers alike. The first major English language publication from the most popular bestselling writer in Japan, it was acclaimed as “stunning,” “brilliant” and “ingenious.”



Front cover of the Persian translation of Japanese writer Keigo Higashino’s novel “Salvation of a Saint”.

Now physics professor Manabu Yukawa — Detective Galileo — returns in a new case of impossible murder, where instincts clash with facts, and theory with reality.

Yoshitaka, who was about to exit from his marriage and leave his wife, is poisoned by arsenic-laced coffee and dies. His wife, Ayane, is the logical suspect — except that she was hundreds of miles away when he was murdered. The lead detective, Tokyo Police Detective Kusanagi, is immediately smitten with her and refuses to believe that she could have had anything to do with the crime. His assistant, Kaoru Utsumi, however, is convinced Ayane is guilty. While Utsumi’s instincts tell her one thing, the facts of the case are another matter. So she does what her boss has done for years when stymied — she calls upon Professor Manabu Yukawa.

But even the brilliant mind of Dr. Yukawa has trouble with this one, and he must somehow find a way to solve an impossible murder and capture a very real, very deadly murderer.

“Salvation for a Saint” is Higashino at his mind-bending best, pitting emotion against fact in a beautifully plotted crime novel filled with twists and reverses that will astonish and surprise even the most attentive and jaded of readers.

Films on national heroes spice up Fajr lineup

A R T TEHRAN — The official lineup of the 39th edition of the Fajr Film Festival includes “Mansur” and “The Sniper”, which trace two national heroes of contemporary Iran.

Directed by Siavash Sarmadi, “Mansur” is a biopic about the late commander-in-chief of the Iran Air Force, Mansur Sattari, who is portrayed by Mohsen Qassabian.

The film was earlier entitled “Owj 110” and has been produced at the Owj Arts and Media Organization, a major institution that produces revolutionary works in art and cinema.

Sattari was one of the main Iranian commanders during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. He was killed in a plane crash near Isfahan in 1995.

At the time, Sattari and his colleagues were working on the project “Owj 110”, which Iran initiated to make its first jet strike fighter, Azarakhsh.

Ali Ghaffari is the director of the real-life drama “The Sniper”, which portrays Abdorrasul Zarrin who was one of the most lethal snipers in the Iranian forces during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Kambiz Dirbaz stars as Zarrin in the film, which was first titled “Hunting of the Hunter”.

Born in 1941 in a village near the town of



A poster for “Mansur” directed by Siavash Sarmadi.

Qalegol, Kohkiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province, Abdorrasul Zarrin lost his parents in childhood and his uncle retained custody of him.

He left his uncle’s home to find a job in the

central Iranian city of Isfahan when he was a young adult. His paternal relatives helped him find a job, and with all his savings, he opened a clothing store.

Shojaei-Tabatabai’s cartoon casts doubt on Pfizer vaccine efficacy

people’s lives, two questions should be raised.

“First why don’t they make use of this vaccine for their own citizens? Larry King died of COVID-19, he was a billionaire and he could easily get access to this vaccine,” he said.

Larry King, who quizzed thousands of world leaders, politicians and entertainers for CNN and other news outlets in a career spanning more than six decades, died aged 87 on January 23.

“Second if this vaccine does not have a positive effect on its citizens, why should the entire world turn into their laboratory mice and die? We should know that England and the U.S. have never been our friends. They should first try to save the lives of their own citizens,” he added.

Shojaei-Tabatabai is the director of the Visual Arts Office of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization. He has organized several cartoon contests so far.



A cartoon by Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai.

A R T TEHRAN — Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai’s latest cartoon shows his doubt on the efficacy of the vaccine produced at Pfizer Inc., an American multinational pharmaceutical corporation.

In a post published on his Instagram on Saturday, he said that if the U.S. has a vaccine that can really then save

Book on war hero Gholamreza Chagharvand released

CULTURE TEHRAN — A biography of the war hero Gholamreza Chagharvand has been recently been published by Suresh Sabz in Tehran.

The biography entitled “Lorestan Sacrifice” has been compiled by his sister Soheila, who also attended a special ceremony the Army Ground Force organized on Sunday to introduce the book.

Speaking at the ceremony Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, commander of the Army Ground Force, pointed to Soheila Chagharvand and said, “She has been living like Hazrat Zeinab (SA) [sister of Imam Hussein (AS)], keeping her brother’s memory alive.”

“Nobody knew Martyr Chagharvand, but



Grave of war hero Gholamreza Chagharvand.

she found people who witnessed how her brother was beheaded; she has accomplished a great cultural task,” he added.

Mehrdad Veis-Karami, an MP who represents Khorramabad in Lorestan

Province, also attended the ceremony.

“The superiority of our air force to Iraq’s was one of the reasons behind our victory in the war; nine pilots from Lorestan were martyred during the war and Martyr Gholamreza Chagharvand was one of them,” he said.

Born in 1953 in Khorramabad, Gholamreza Chagharvand was employed as a helicopter pilot in the Iran Army Aviation Corps in 1975. He participated in several operations in the Kordestan region in the early 1980s to fight against the separatists.

His last operation was carried out on October 4, 1980 when he and his co-pilots Hossein Mesri and Adel Musavi were assigned to a mission in the Dehloran region.

The helicopter was shot down by Iraqi forces, forcing him to land as Mesri was critically injured. Iraqis captured Chagharvand and his comrades. Mesri was transferred to a hospital.

The commander of the Iraqi forces asked Chagharvand to insult Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, to let him join other Iranian prisoners of war in the Iraqi camps. However, he refused to do so. And the commander beheaded Chagharvand.

Chagharvand’s remains were buried by a local old man near the village of Jaliz as his grandchild Divan Jalizi later told his sister.

The region was excavated in 1983 to transfer his body to Khorramabad.

Biography of Allameh Qazi novelized in “Galaxy of Inexistence”

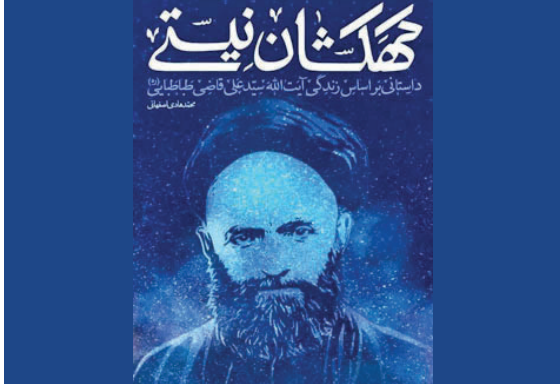
CULTURE TEHRAN — The biography of Ayatollah Mirza Sayyid Ali Tabatabai, also known as Allameh Qazi, has been novelized by Mohammad-Hadi Esfahani in a book titled “Galaxy of Inexistence”.

The book has recently been published by Feyze Foruzan Publications in Tehran.

The story begins in the Iraqi city of Najaf where the grand Ayatollah is buried. The book chronicles the life of Qazi from his arrival in Najaf and his meetings with the grand clerics who were his teachers.

Qazi was born on April 29, 1866 in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz. Having finished his primary studies, he was tutored by his father, the late Hajji Seyyed Hossein Qazi. He then attended the lectures of Mirza Musa Tabrizi, author of the book titled “Hashiyat al-Rasail”.

He also attended the classes of Mirza Mohammad Ali Qarajedaghi and completed classes in Arab and Persian



Front cover of the book “Galaxy of Inexistence” written by Mohammad-Hadi Esfahani.

literature of the famous poet Mirza Mohammad Taqi Tabrizi. He quoted many poetic verses by him in both the Arabic and Persian languages.

In 1891 when he was only 26 years old, he left his hometown to go to Najaf to improve his religious knowledge.

In Najaf, he was taught by Ayatollah Fazel Sharabiani, Sheikh Mohammad-Hassan Mamaqani, Sheikh Shariat, Akhund Khorasani and Hajji Mirza Hassan Khalili.

Qazi was one of the most respected of the students of Hajji Mirza Khalili. He also learned refinement of morals in his presence.

Qazi was a gnostic, faqih, and a man of great stature. He also had divine inspirations and charisma.

In addition to his spiritual and mystic role, he trained many students. His students were Seyyed Mohammad Hassan Elahi, who was his brother, and Mirza Ebrahim Sharifi.

Hajji Sheikh Abbas Quchani and Grand Ayatollah Mohammad-Taqi Bahjat were his other students.

“Monsignor Quixote” comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Graham Greene’s “Monsignor Quixote” has recently been published by Now Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Reza Farrokhfal.

When Father Quixote, a local priest in the Spanish village of El Toboso who claims ancestry to Cervantes’ fictional Don Quixote, is elevated to the rank of monsignor due to a clerical error, he sets out on a journey to Madrid to purchase purple socks appropriate to his new station. Accompanying him on his mission is his best friend, Sancho, the Communist ex-mayor of the village who argues politics and religion with Quixote and rescues him from the various troubles his innocence lands him in along the way.

Originally published in 1932, “Monsignor

Quixote” is Graham Greene’s last religious novel, a fond homage to Cervantes, and a sincere exploration into the meaning of faith in the modern world.

Greene, whose long life nearly spanned the length of the twentieth century, was one of its greatest novelists. Educated at Berkhamsted School and Balliol College, Oxford, he started his career as a sub-editor of The Times of London. He began to attract notice as a novelist with his fourth book, “Orient Express”, in 1932. In 1935, he trekked across northern Liberia, his first experience in Africa, recounted in “A Journey without Maps”.

He converted to Catholicism in 1926, an edifying decision, and reported on religious persecution in Mexico in 1938 in “The Lawless Roads”, which served as a background for his famous “The Power and the Glory”, one

of several “Catholic” novels.

During the war, he worked for the British secret service in Sierra Leone; afterward, he began wide-ranging travels as a journalist, which were reflected in novels such as “The Quiet American”, “Our Man in Havana”, “The Comedians”, “Travels with My Aunt”, “The Honorary Consul”, “The Human Factor”, “Monsignor Quixote” and “The Captain and the Enemy”.

In addition to his many novels, Greene wrote several collections of short stories, four travel books, six plays, two books of autobiography, “A Sort of Life and Ways of Escape”, two biographies and four books for children. He also contributed hundreds of essays and film and book reviews to The Spectator and other journals, many of which appear in the late collection, Reflections.

Most of his novels have been filmed,



Front cover of the Persian translation of Graham Greene’s “Monsignor Quixote”.

including “The Third Man”, which the author first wrote as a film treatment. Greene was named Companion of Honor and received the Order of Merit among numerous other awards.