

Iran's Judiciary chief to visit Iraq on Monday *Page 3*

Iran matches against Hong Kong, Cambodia may be postponed *Page 3*

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Madrid university to host virtual conference of Khayyam millennium *Page 8*

Ayatollah Khamenei crafts Iran's JCPOA strategy

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Railway projects worth over \$344m inaugurated across Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated 105 railway projects worth 14.45 trillion rials (over \$344 million) in various provinces through videoconference on Sunday.

Inaugurated on the occasion of the Fajr Ten-Day celebrations (this year from January 31 until February 10), the mentioned projects were put into operation in a variety of areas including infrastructure, railway

fleet, services, as well as smartening and data analyzing.

Held at the place of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) in Tehran, the inauguration ceremony was also attended by the RAI Head Saeed Rasouli.

As reported, 10 of the mentioned projects with a total investment of 3.179 billion rials (about \$75.6 million) went operational in Tehran Province.

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UN envoy on Yemen visits Iran to discuss political solution

TEHRAN - The United Nations special envoy on Yemen, Martin Griffiths, began a two-day visit to Iran on Sunday to discuss issues related to the Yemen crisis.

During his first visit, the UN official is expected to meet with senior Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, according to a statement issued

by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

"The Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths has begun today a two-day visit to Iran where he is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and other Iranian officials," the statement said.

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IIDO releases books on "Second Phase of the Revolution"

TEHRAN – The Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization (IIDO) has published a collection of books on the "Second Phase of the Revolution", a statement published by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in February 2019.

The collection, which is composed of seven books, was unveiled on Sunday during a special ceremony attended by IIDO

director Hojjatolislam Mohammad Qomi.

"Topics such as lifestyle, science and research, spirituality and morals, economy, justice, struggle against corruption, independence and freedom, national dignity, foreign relations, and awareness of the enemies, which have been outlined earlier by the Leader, have been discussed in these books," Qomi said at the ceremony.

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"Domestic Production" materialized in mining sector

BY MAHNAZ ABDI

This month last year, the previous head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), which is the country's major state-owned holding active in the mining sector, announced the organization's top 10 targets to be followed up through some programs for domestic production of parts and equipment used in the mining sector as well as indigenizing required technology of this sector.

Elaborating on the mentioned objectives in a meeting of the IMIDRO's Indigenizing Committee in early February 2020, Khodadad Gharibpour said achieving the technology required in designing and establishing the production lines with the aim of boosting productivity, reducing foreign currency expenditures, and promoting employment are the major aims pursued by the "domestic production" strategy.

The official stressed that befitting from domestic capabilities and potential in manufacturing of parts, equipment, and machinery, as well as production of raw materials is a necessity for the country in the current condition.

Increasing the profit making status of the enterprises through reducing the production costs is another major objective of the domestic production approach, he added, and said that benefitting from domestic technical knowledge and creating a platform on which the enterprises active in the mining sector can exchange their experiences in this due is the other important target.

Supporting innovative ideas, creating opportunities for domestic manufacturers, stable supply of the mining industries' requirements, and reducing the existing risks were named as the other targets by the official.

Stressing his organization's facilitating approach, Gharibpour said, "Our mission is to expand mining exploration through more cooperation with the private sector, supporting the knowledge-based companies, and achieving the technical knowledge for completing the production chain."

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Analyst says S. Arabia playing destructive role in Lebanon

BY MOHAMMAD ALI SAKI

TEHRAN - In an attempt to undermine Hezbollah, Saudi Arabia has been playing a vicious role in Lebanon, a Lebanese military analyst says.

"There is no doubt that recently Saudi Arabia played an overt destructive role in relation to Lebanon, especially after it considered Hezbollah a terrorist organization," Omar Maarabouni tells the Tehran Times.

Over the last week, hundreds of the Lebanese people poured into the streets to denounce lack of economic aid despite a nationwide coronavirus lockdown, which has forced almost all businesses to close and almost everyone to remain at home.

While people's demands have been mostly economic, some Lebanese figures, backed by Saudi Arabia, are trying to politicize any movement or protest.

According to Maarabouni, the Saudi moves in Lebanon "led to an escalation of the situation in the Lebanese political scene and internal rift

which resulted in more economic pressures."

"Saudi Arabia, along with the United States of America and many countries, help putting pressure on the Lebanese economy in a close collaboration with a team in Lebanon, a team that has been controlling for a long time the basic financial and economic centers, especially the banking sector," the Lebanese expert notes.

The following is the text of the interview: **Which regions in Lebanon witnessed protests and what were the causes?**

In fact, almost most regions of the country have been witnessing protests since October 17, 2019.

Of course, these protests were motivated for purely socio-economic reasons, and therefore at the beginning of the protests, we saw a real flow of people who came to the streets and raised slogans and demanding a better economic situation.

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As more and more black people are jailed in Britain

New figures have revealed that a disproportionate number of BAME (used to refer to members of non-white communities in the UK) people are being detained in UK prisons.

'Racist' policing is often blamed, but a court system weighted heavily against ethnic minorities has become a major problem, RT reported.

I've lost count of the number of times I've been to jail – as a visitor, that is. Whether interviewing terrorists languishing at 'her majesty's pleasure,' interrogating war criminals in Sierra Leone or hopping on a gurney inside Mississippi State Penitentiary's lethal injection chamber, I've seen enough of the global penal system to know that, despite what the average Sun reader thinks, prison is no 'holiday camp.'

Even in sleepy Britain, where cynics view 'doing bird' as akin to a city break or a spell at boarding school, people forget that the primary purpose of prison is to protect the public from

dishonest and dangerous miscreants while denying said culprits of a basic human need: freedom.

Basic punishment aside, having spoken to countless staff inside British jails – from seasoned governors to fresh-faced newbie prison officers – all seem in favor of rehabilitative programmes that can help keep the majority of their 84,000 'clients' from becoming recidivists. As over 60 percent of prisoners serving a sentence of less than 12 months reoffend within a year of release, it's obvious that Britain's jails aren't exactly overpopulated with master criminals. But expecting a short-staffed and under-resourced prison service to turn every petty lag into a Jonathan Aitken and rehabilitate them into the promised land isn't just naive – it's a case of slamming the cell door after the prisoner has bolted.

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Iran warns against Israeli provocative statements

TEHRAN - Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, has warned against the provocative and warmongering statements by the Zionist regime, saying Iran will definitely respond to "any threat or wrong action" by the occupying regime, according to ISNA news agency.

In a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council president on Saturday, Takht-Ravanchi said, "The

Israeli regime has recently not only doubled down on its provocative, warmongering statements against the Islamic Republic of Iran, but has also been planning to carry out its belligerent threats against Iran."

"The most recent example of such threats is the remarks made by the Israeli military chief of staff on January 26, 2021, in which, in addition to frivolous claims on Iran's peaceful nuclear program, he also said that Israeli armed forces are preparing a number of operational

plans, in addition to those already in place, to develop them for the next year, because these plans 'need to be on the table'," the ambassador added.

"These threats are in grave breach of Chapter 2 the UN Charter and necessitates proportionate answer from the world community, given the dark history of the Israeli regime's strikes against the countries in the region," the Iranian envoy went on to say.

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American governance model has gone into decline: researcher

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN - A Lebanese political researcher believes that the U.S. as a model of capitalist democracy has failed to present itself as a republic that relies on values.

"The United States tried, through its political rhetoric, to present itself as a republic that relies on values and principles, but it drifted towards power and interests," Tariq Aboud, a university professor, tells the Tehran Times.

According to Aboud, liberal capitalism opposes medical support for people who cannot afford to pay for insurance, leaving them to die.

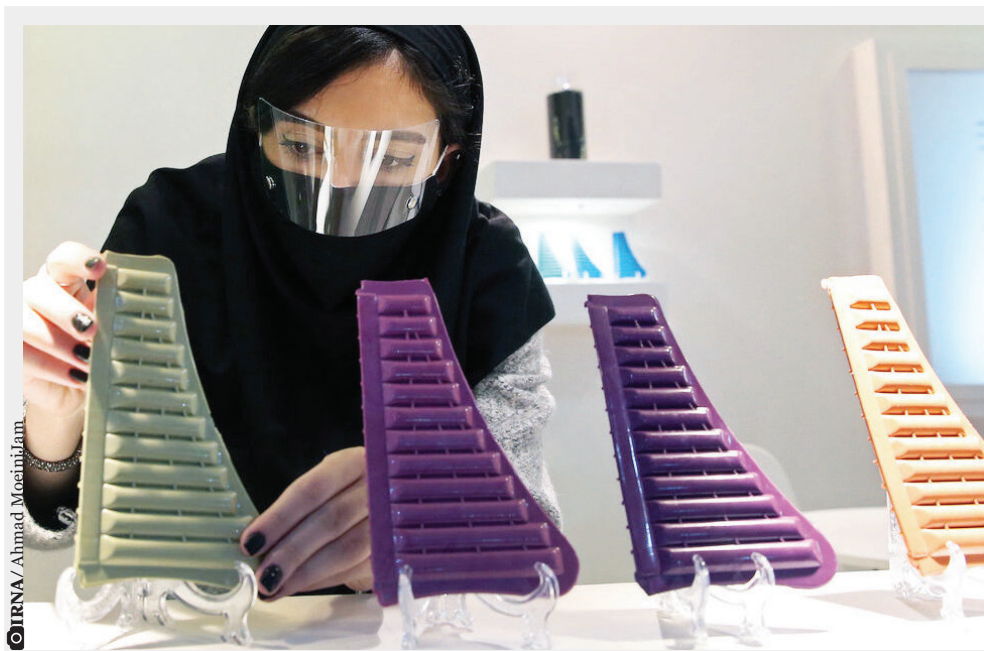
In this political system "the wealth is concentrated in the hands of a minority, while there are millions who cannot afford to pay for their daily food," the Lebanese academic notes.

"The American model as a pioneering and impressive example has gone into decline, a process that may ultimately lead to a great collapse," he adds.

The following is the text of the interview: **Is America still the dominant power in the world, or is it in the process of declining?**

Yes. To this day, the United States is still the first power in the world, based on a number of indicators adopted in international relations, through both soft and hard powers. America is still ahead of rival countries, as it has the most powerful army in the globe, and it possesses the largest economy, while its companies are the largest and the most giant. The U.S. has controlled the field of technology to this day, through Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Instagram, Intel, and others, whilst its military budget is equivalent to budgets of ten countries that follow in order.

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Iran Plast expo running in Tehran

TEHRAN - The 14th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) of Iran was opened at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Sunday, Shana reported.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials including the Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh and the heads of the parliament's energy and industry committees, as well as the ambassadors of various countries in Tehran.

As reported, more than 200 domestic companies, as well as 250 foreign company representatives and businessmen, are participating in this four-day exhibition.

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Ex-EU politician says Europe can mediate between Iran and U.S. to revive JCPOA

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Tarja Cronberg, a former member of the European Parliament, says Europe can play a key role in breaking the current deadlock between Tehran and Washington over the JCPOA, according to Tasnim news agency.

Concerning the revival of the nuclear deal, Cronberg said, "The critical question right now is sequencing, that is who goes first. The Americans want Iran to be in compliance with the JCPOA before considering sanctions relief, Iran wants sanctions relief first and has a law defining a deadline as February 21st. There is unique political will on both sides to solve the problem, but time is a critical factor."

She highlighted the role of the EU as a mediator between Iran and the U.S. and said, "The Europeans should be able to help in this deadlock. The U.S. return to the deal requires the acceptance of all the parties, not only Iran, the U.S. and the Europeans but also Russia and China."



The former MEP suggested "the Europeans as the chair of the Joint Commission in charge of the implementation of the deal can take the initiative. It is a good sign that the U.S. is now consulting its allies, instead of going alone."

In an interview with the CNN on February 1, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell as the coordinator of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA can "choreograph" the process of reviving the deal.

Cronberg, a distinguished associate fellow at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and Finland's former labor minister, further noted there are "concerns whether a smaller step, for example a freeze on both sides should be the first step. This would delay the process and time is short. Both parties should avoid any provocations in order to achieve an immediate re-entry to the deal of the U.S."

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, stressed on Sunday that Iran will retrace its nuclear countermeasures once the U.S. lifts its sanctions in a manner that could be verifiable by Tehran.

"Iran will return to its JCOPA obligations once the U.S. fully lifts its sanctions in action and not in words or on paper, and once the sanction relief is verified by Iran," Ayatollah Khamenei asserted.

The Leader added, "The Americans and the Europeans have no right to set any conditions as they violated their JCPOA commitments."

Iran warns against Israeli provocative statements

1 → Warning against any military adventure against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Tel Aviv regime, Takht Ravanchi stated, "We are entitled to self-defense and respond definitely to any threat or wrong action by the Israeli regime."

"It is totally obvious that the Israeli regime must shoulder full responsibility for the consequences of its unbridled, wrong actions," he remarked.

The Iranian envoy also noted that the Security Council, as a body mainly in charge of international peace and security, must confront Israel's destabilizing, warmongering actions and make the regime avoid its dangerous plans against the region.



Takht Ravanchi asked his letter be registered as a Security Council document.

In late January, as an unusual and open hostile remarks, Israeli general Aviv Kochavi said, "With the changing of the administration in the United States, the Iranians have said they want to return to the previous agreement."

"I want to state my position, the position that I give to all my colleagues when I meet them around the world: Returning to the 2015 nuclear agreement or even to an agreement that is similar but with a few improvements is a bad thing and it is not the right thing to do," he added.

However, Iranian political and military officials downplayed threats by Kochavi.

Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's presidential chief of staff, dismissed the Israeli general's claim as "psychological war" and said, "In action, they neither have a plan nor the ability to carry it out". Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri also said Israel is not in a position to make military threats against Iran.

Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan, a military advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and former defense minister, said Israel does not dare to fire even a single bullet at Iran.

"They do not even dare to fire a bullet at dear Iran," General Dehqan tweeted.

Emphasizing that Iran's doctrine is defensive, yet he said Iran's strategy is "based on severe punishment for the aggressors."

According to Fars, he also warned Israelis, "Do not rush for annihilation."

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman for the Iranian Armed Forces, also said, "The threats of the Chief of Staff of the Zionist regime's army have psychological warfare aspects, and if they are true, they are really illusions."

"They are not aware of the capabilities of the Islamic Republic. The capabilities have not been revealed yet and part of it was revealed in the recent exercises," Shekarchi remarked.

Predicting a collapse of Israel in the near future, he said, "The Zionist regime should not think of anything other than its collapse and should not talk of its plans for future."

General Salami says Iranians firm to overcome sanctions

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Major General Hossein Salami, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, says the Iranian nation is seriously determined to "leave behind" the sanctions by focusing on domestic capacities.

Former U.S. president Donald Trump imposed the harshest sanctions on Iran under his "maximum pressure" policy to strangle the Iranian economy.

Analysts and politicians all around the world believe that sanctions pressure against Iran has ended in failure though they have put economic pressure on ordinary people.

"We believe the sanctions are the greatest opportunity for Iran," Salami remarked.

"Today, the sanctions create an opportunity to motivate the Iranian people to meet their needs," he added.

Criticizing dependence on other countries, the top general said, "We cannot depend on any country, and Iran differs from other countries because the world imposed the sanction on us."

Also, speaking during a ceremony in the northwestern Province of Ardabil on Thursday, Salami said, "The most amazing progress that the country has made so far has taken place under sanctions," according to Mehr news agency.

Reminding the achievements made during Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s through reliance on internal resources, the general said, "Whenever there has been sanctions, there has been more progress in Iran."



The IRGC chief went on to say that the enemies will not change course and will not lift the sanctions through negotiations and called on the government to mobilize all its energy to tackle the problems.

"The sanctions will be neutralized through relying on internal resources, and the enemy will not change its foreign policy towards Iran even when a new administration comes to power," the general said in an open reference to the new Biden administration which has replaced the Trump administration in the United States.

The top commander added, "The enemies' pressures will remain unchanged, calling for intensifying efforts to solve the problems by looking inside the country for solutions."

"By looking for solutions inside the country, the dependency on the outside world will end."

He also said Iran is the "most independent country" in the world.

In remarks in December, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave the officials a set of advices that if implemented, would make Iran immune to foreign pressure.

The first advice is that Iran should become strong in all areas, including in the defense, science and technology sectors, the Leader noted.

"Because as long as we are not strong the enemies will continue to commit aggressions against [us]," the Leader pointed out.

The second advice is that officials must not trust the enemies, he insisted.

"My definite advice is that do not trust the enemy. Do not trust the promises of the enemy to resolve the people's problems."

Ayatollah Khamenei called on officials to refrain from pinning hope on the lifting of sanctions and, instead, work to "nullify" the sanctions.

"Lifting sanctions is in the enemy's hands. Nullifying them is in ours. We should work more on nullifying than removing them. I don't say we shouldn't pursue removing sanctions. But sanctions that were supposed to be lifted according to the JCPOA, 4 years ago, have intensified," he noted.

In November, the Leader also said, "There are two ways to tackle sanctions: 1) removing sanctions 2) nullifying and overcoming them. We tried the first option, removing sanctions, by negotiating for a few years, but to no use. The second option may have difficulties in the beginning but will have a favorable end." Ayatollah Khamenei said, "If succeed, through hard work and innovation, in overcoming the sanctions and the other side witnesses how sanctions were nullified, it will abandon sanctions gradually."

Leader: Iran will reverse nuclear steps only if U.S. lifts sanctions

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution said on Sunday that Iran will reverse its nuclear steps only if the United States lifts its sanctions in a way that Iran can verify them.

"Iran will return to its JCOPA obligations once the U.S. fully lifts its sanctions in action and not in words or on paper, and once the sanction relief is verified by Iran," Ayatollah Khamenei said during a meeting with commanders, pilots, and staff members of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF).

In response to the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPO), Iran started to gradually decrease its commitments to the agreement. Iran took the decision on May 8, 2019, exactly one year after the Trump administration quit the nuclear deal and introduced sweeping sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

At the time Iran said its "strategic patience" is over and told the remaining JCPOA parties, especially Europeans, if they protect Iran from sanctions Iran will reverse its decision. However, this never happened. The European side, especially Germany, France and Britain, paid lip service to the importance of keeping the JCPOA alive.

Iran took these steps in accordance to paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which provides "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."

In late November the Iranian parliament also passed a legislation according to which the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) is obligated to increase the level of enrichment to 20 percent and install advanced centrifuges.

The AEOI started the project of enriching uranium to purity of 20 percent on January 4 under the supervision of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Organization.

The parliament has also tasked the government to suspend the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the NPT if sanctions are not lifted by February 21.

Trump's abandoning of the multilateral agreement was illegal under international law as the JCPOA has been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council in the form of Resolution 2231.

In his Sunday's remarks, the Leader said it was the "definitive and irreversible" policy of the Islamic Republic that the United States ought to first fully eliminate the sanctions before Iran could reverse its retaliatory measures.

Trump's successor, Joe Biden, has signaled a willingness to rejoin the JCPOA, which was inked when he was vice president. However, his foreign policy team has said Iran should take the first step by coming back into "full compliance" with the deal, a condition Tehran says is unacceptable.

"The Americans and the Europeans have no right to set any conditions [of their own] as they violated their JCPOA commitments," Ayatollah Khamenei said, according to Press TV.

The Leader adding that Iran would pay no heed to the "idle talk" of some "undeserving" American and European officials in this regard.

"They initially put some of the sanctions in abeyance for a brief period, but then reimposed and even intensified them," Ayatollah Khamenei said in reference to Washington and its allies' initial limited compliance with the JCPOA.

Therefore, they have no right to come up with any conditions, the Leader reiterated.

'First-class idiots'
Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to Washington's past failures to hurt Iran's Islamic establishment as one of its numerous miscalculations concerning the country.

The Leader particularly recalled Trump's national security advisor John Bolton's failed prediction that Washington would successfully enable a "regime change" in Iran by early 2019. "One of those very first-class idiots had said two years ago that they would be celebrating the New Year in Tehran in January 2019," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

'Trump kicked out of the White House in humiliating manner'

"Now, that person has entered the dustbin of history and his boss (Trump) has been kicked out of the White House in a humiliating manner. By God's grace, though, the Islamic Republic still stands tall," the Leader noted.

The Leader also hailed the recent back-to-back military exercises featuring the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as attempts by "the children of this country to boost national security," calling the maneuvers "a cause for pride."

Ayatollah Khamenei, meanwhile, denounced certain regional states for relying on extra-regional sources for their own security, noting that those very same foreign powers would desert them when their assistance is required.

The Leader cited Egypt's Hosni Mubarak or Tunisia's Zine El Abidine Ben Ali as examples of regional rulers who mistakenly placed their trust in foreign powers.

Politico suggests three solutions to Biden to break nuclear stalemate with Iran

"Iranian rejection of Blinken's proposal is understandable"

POLITICAL TEHRAN — In an op-ed published on February 5, the Politico magazine proposes three solutions to new U.S. President Joe Biden to break the deadlock to restore the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

The article is written by founder and CEO of the Bourse and Bazaar Foundation Esfandyar Batmanghelidj and policy fellow at the European Leadership Network (ELN) Sahil Shah.

Following is the text of the article:

Joe Biden has promised for months to reverse Donald Trump's policy on Iran, saying Trump pulled out "recklessly" from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—the Iran nuclear deal—and that the rest of Trump's approach was a "dangerous failure."

The issue is becoming only more urgent. Three reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency this week highlight dangerous, albeit reversible, advances in Iran's nuclear program. Iran will continue to roll back its implementation of the deal if it does not see economic benefits of the agreement restored.

But it's far from obvious how to restart nuclear talks in the current environment, never mind revive the full deal. In his first press conference as U.S. Secretary of State last month, Antony Blinken declared that "if Iran comes back into full compliance with its obligations under the JCPOA, the U.S. will do the same thing." However, Iranian officials have publicly questioned why they should be the first to move when the U.S. is the country that left. Iran contends that notwithstanding its moves to increase its capabilities and uranium stockpile, it remains in full compliance with the deal, interpreting paragraph 36 of the agreement to mean that Iran can "cease performing its commitments" should another party do the same.

In the current political context, Iranian rejection of Blinken's proposal is understandable. The Trump administration eroded American diplomatic credibility, not only on the Iran nuclear deal, but across a wide range of international agreements. Even those Iranian leaders who remain strongly in favor of the nuclear deal are concerned that the Biden administration will lack the political will to provide Iran the full range of sanctions relief it was promised. Conservatives in Tehran continue to mock deal supporters for being naive.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani once stated that the JCPOA would either persist as a "win-win" agreement for all parties or end up as a "lose-lose." As the U.S. looks toward reviving it, it's important to remember that Iran's experience of sanctions relief following implementation of the JCPOA was disappointing. Lifting sanctions proved complex, and Iran's economy had been thoroughly stigmatized. The Obama administration struggled to deliver Iran the economic benefits it had promised. In a nod to this bitter experience, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei recently stated that "getting sanctions lifted has failed" and that Iran should instead seek to "nullify" sanctions pressure.

But if Iran stands pat, the U.S. is unlikely to be the first to restore its own commitments under the deal. Moving first would go a long way to restoring American credibility with European allies and the wider international community and would be consistent with Biden's vow to restore multilateral diplomacy. But any such move will worry some U.S. allies and members of Congress about the Biden administration's willingness to drive a tough bargain with Iran, both on its current nuclear program and on future regional security issues such as ballistic

missiles.

With neither Washington nor Tehran aiming to be the first to come back into full compliance with the deal, Biden needs to find a way to do something artful and difficult: Get both sides to restore compliance at the same time. This approach may be the most palatable option, but it will require significant technical discussions between the two sides. Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has indicated Iran would be open to such an approach, stating that it may be possible to "choreograph" the mutual restoration of commitments with the Biden administration.

But Biden must open the door for these direct talks. His first step must be significant enough to restore belief in the original "win-win" logic of the deal and offer Iranian officials a credible rationale for engagement with the U.S. At the same time, it may be limited enough to keep the U.S. outside of the deal, offering him political cover with critics and underscoring the necessity for Iran to also take reciprocal steps.

Taking this kind of first step could, in its way, be a signal of strength for Biden: He'd be showing domestic opponents of the JCPOA that he will not be bullied into compromising his Iran policy. The fight over the appointment of Robert Malley as Iran envoy showed that hawks will "play dirty" to undermine the credibility of Biden's outreach to Iran. Biden ought to nip this kind of cynical politics in the bud.

If Biden goes this route, officials in the U.S., Europe, and Iran are currently deliberating what a reasonable first move could be. Our conversations with officials suggest that there is awareness that breaking out of the political deadlock may require Biden to be bold. He has a few options.

First, the Biden administration could

restore temporary waivers that enable Iran to sell oil while U.S. sanctions remain in place. Iran's oil production and exports are rising faster than projected despite the Covid-19 crisis and U.S. sanctions. This trend has reduced the perceived urgency of restoring the nuclear deal among key political stakeholders in Tehran who may gain more power after the upcoming Iranian presidential election. The Biden administration's efforts to re-enter the JCPOA would be best served by making already increasing oil sales once again subject to the "win-win" logic of the nuclear deal. Iran's earnings from these oil sales would be accrued in escrow accounts and subject to strict oversight as per the waiver terms. Revenues would be used by Iran for sanctions-exempt trade with the country in which the funds are held. Such a step would serve to remove a key piece of tension with U.S. allies such as South Korea, Japan, and India whose energy security has been impacted by U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Second, the Biden administration could support Iran's loan request for funds from the International Monetary Fund. Iran's request has languished despite the IMF's technical assessment that Iran qualifies for financial support to address the balance of payments crisis created by the pandemic. Iran has indicated it is ready for these funds to be disbursed to its accounts outside of the country to be used for paying for sanctions-exempt imports. The funds would not flow directly into Iranian government coffers, but rather be used to address trade deficits. The Biden administration should grant this loan as part of its commitment to address the humanitarian impact of sanctions and a wider push to encourage the IMF to use its full financial capacities to address the ongoing economic crisis brought on by the pandemic.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Ayatollah Khamenei crafts Iran's JCPOA strategy

POLITICAL TEHRAN — In a carefully worded address on Sunday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei outlined how Iran would accept a U.S. return to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers.

He said the United States must lift all the sanctions it imposed on Iran and then rejoin the nuclear deal, something that the new U.S. administration assiduously tries to avoid, though U.S. President Joe Biden had vowed to rejoin the deal during his election campaign.

Before and after the U.S. presidential election, Biden ambiguously said he is willing to rejoin the nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — but he refrained from laying out any plan to do so. The new U.S. president has been tight-lipped about the JCPOA ever since he won the presidential election in November. He has seemingly tasked his national security and foreign policy team to make calibrated remarks on Iran and the JCPOA. This was pretty much obvious in the past few weeks since Biden moved into the White House. Biden strikingly refrained from alluding to the JCPOA in the recent speech he delivered at the State Department.

Meanwhile, Biden officials deliberately sought to set the stage for a protracted process of reviving the JCPOA. First of all, they dampened widespread expectations for a quick JCPOA revival by saying that the U.S. was still “a long way” from getting to the point of reviving the nuclear deal. Then, they said the ball is in Iran’s court and that Iran must make the first move toward resuscitating the JCPOA by reversing the nuclear measures it adopted in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal in the first place. In other words, Iran must reverse all the nuclear steps it has taken over the past year and then get gradual sanctions relief in a phased-out process.

In his first comments on Iran as the chief U.S. diplomat, Antony Blinken made it clear



that Washington expects Iran to come back into what he called full compliance with its obligations under the JCPOA first. If Iran returns to the deal, Blinken said, the U.S. would “assess whether it was meeting its obligations” before rejoining the JCPOA. And even if Iran goes along with this process, the U.S. will still use the JCPOA as a starting point to reach a “longer and stronger agreement” that would deal with other “deeply problematic” issues.

Bloomberg has recently unveiled what the Biden administration would give Iran if it agreed to such a process: some conditional sanctions relief related to humanitarian trade that the U.S. must have not restricted in the first place. Bloomberg reported that the U.S. is weighing options to ease economic pressure on Iran without lifting key sanctions — including on oil sales — as a step toward reviving the 2015 nuclear deal abandoned by former President Donald Trump.

Citing four people familiar with the Biden administration’s thinking, Bloomberg said the options U.S. officials are debating include

providing backing for International Monetary Fund lending to Tehran for coronavirus relief and easing up on sanctions that have stymied international coronavirus aid from getting into Iran. Such moves could be justified on humanitarian grounds.

The people said Biden could also sign an executive order reversing Trump’s decision to quit the multinational deal, but issuing sanctions waivers to allow Iran to sell oil on the international market isn’t currently under serious consideration.

The U.S. officials may have even wasted time drawing up plans to cajole Iran into accepting a step-by-step process to revive the JCPOA. But Iran is not going to accept this process. Ayatollah Khamenei made it crystal clear that Iran will reject any offer to revive the deal without giving Iran a verifiable sanctions relief.

“If they want Iran to return to its JCPOA commitments, the U.S. should lift all sanctions in action. After they have done this, we will check if the sanctions have truly been lifted. Once this is done, we will resume our

JCPOA commitments,” the Leader wisely said in remarks delivered at a meeting with a number of commanders and staff of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army on Sunday.

He added, “On the issue of sanctions, first of all, no one in the Islamic Republic believes what those incompetent prattlers say — whether they are in European countries or in the U.S. Secondly, if we want to be reasonable, the U.S. and the three European countries do not have the right to set terms and conditions because they have violated all of their JCPOA commitments. They have not honored any of their commitments.”

Ayatollah Khamenei described the imposition of unprecedented sanctions on Iran as another miscalculation aimed at bringing Iran to its knees.

“One of those ‘first-rate fools’ said that they would celebrate New Year 2019 in Tehran. That person has been sent to history’s trash can, and his boss has also been kicked out of the White House with disgrace, but the Islamic Republic is still standing strong on its feet, with God’s grace,” the Leader said in an apparent reference to former U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton and his former boss Donald Trump.

The remarks were another reiteration from Iran that the U.S. should take the first step toward reviving the JCPOA and it should not use the deal to pursue other issues that are not included in it. Besides, they were also a reminder of what awaits the U.S. if it failed to take the first step. Washington has a period of about three weeks to salvage the JCPOA. Iran will take a further step away from the deal on February 21 when the Iranian government will be obligated to implement a nuclear law passed by the Parliament in early November. The law compels the government to reduce international inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has already said the government is determined to implement the deal. Therefore, now it’s up to the U.S. to change tack and save the day.

UN envoy on Yemen visits Iran to discuss political solution

→ “The visit is part of the Special Envoy’s diplomatic efforts to support a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Yemen that meets the aspirations of the Yemeni people. The Special Envoy’s immediate priority is to support agreement between the parties to the conflict on a nationwide ceasefire, urgent humanitarian measures and the resumption of the political process,” the statement continued.

The visit came a few days after the new U.S. administration made remarkable decisions on Yemen such as suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia and notifying Congress of its decision to remove Yemen’s Ansarullah movement from the U.S. government’s list of foreign terrorist organizations as well as ending U.S. support for Saudi military operations in Yemen.

“This war has to end. And to underscore our commitment, we’re ending all American support for offensive operations in the war in Yemen, including relevant arm sales,” President Biden said in a recent speech at the State Department while underlining the U.S. commitment to ensuring Saudi Arabia’s security and territorial integrity.

The U.S. has also named veteran U.S. diplomat Timothy Lenderking as the U.S. special envoy for Yemen in a bid to step up American diplomacy “to end the war in Yemen, a war which has created humanitarian and strategic catastrophe,” according to a Reuters report.



Iran has cautiously welcomed these steps, saying they are a step towards correcting past mistakes if they are not a political gambit.

“Dropping support for, and refusing to sell weapons to the Saudi-led coalition can be a step towards correcting past mistakes if it is not a political gambit,” Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Saturday.

“Such a move alone will not resolve the Yemen issue, and it should be followed by the lifting of the air, sea and

land blockade which has led to deaths of thousands Yemeni people due to a shortage of food and medicine,” he added. “The Saudi-led military attacks on Yemen by aggressor countries should stop, too.”

The spokesman pointed out that the international community and some countries which are accessories to Saudi crimes against Yemeni people by providing arms should stop their support for Saudi Arabia as well and not allow this humanitarian disaster to go on.

“Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia became more vulnerable by launching a war on Yemen, and, by leveling unfounded accusations against other countries in line with the United States’ maximum pressure policy, seeks to absolve itself from [any blame for] the military aggression on Yemen and the killing of thousands of women and children,” Khatibzadeh noted.

He stated, “Meanwhile, we hope hawkish countries will come to realize their strategic mistake regarding the aggression on Yemen, and, by admitting to their mistake over the past six years, put an end to the war and blockade on Yemen and go for a peaceful solution. Iran welcomes any efforts by the international community to back Yemen and cut off aggressors’ support, and believes its proposed four-point solution is still effective in solving the problem.”

Iran’s Judiciary chief to visit Iraq on Monday

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iran’s Judiciary chief Ayatollah Seyed Ibrahim Raisi will pay a two-day visit to Iraq to sign a number of memoranda of understanding, Iraq’s Judiciary said in a statement on Sunday.

“At the invitation of the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, Judge Dr. Faiq Zidan, the head of the Judiciary in the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence, Ayatollah Ibrahim Raisi, will arrive in Bag-

dad tomorrow, Monday 8-2-2021, at the head of a high-level judicial delegation,” the statement said.

The Iranian delegation will visit the headquarters of the Supreme Judicial Council on Tuesday to sign a number of memoranda of understanding between the two countries in the framework of judicial and legal cooperation, the statement added.

“On the sidelines of the visit, memoranda of understanding will be signed with the Ministry



of Justice, the Federal Integrity Commission and the High Commission for Human Rights in Iraq,” the statement concluded.

During his visit, Raisi is expected to meet with Iraq’s leaders including President Barham Salih and Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, according to the Iraqi Middle East News website.

Iran’s top judge will also pay a visit to holy shrines in the Iraqi provinces of Najaf and Karbala.

Iran-Russia ties not subject to external factors: ambassador

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali has hailed the relations between Tehran and Moscow, saying these relations are not subject to any foreign influence, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The Iranian ambassador said the visit of the speaker of Iran’s parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, to Russia was a further sign that the two countries’ relations are on the path of strategic development.

“Mr. Ghalibaf’s first foreign visit to Russia indicates the high position of the Russian Federation in Iran’s foreign relations and foreign policy. These relations are not subject to any external factors and are on the path of strategic development according to the requirements of the neighborhood, as well as regional and international requirements,” Jalali said in a Twitter thread.

The ambassador added, “The invitation of the chairman of the Russian State Duma to the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to visit Moscow will open a new chapter in the political, economic, cultural and security relations between the two countries in bilateral, regional and international spheres.”

On Sunday, Ghalibaf left Tehran for Moscow to hold

talks with Russian officials and deliver a message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei to Russian President Vladimir Putin. He is visiting Russia at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Vyacheslav Volodin.

Mohammad Hossein Farhangi, the spokesman for the Parliament’s presiding board, said the visit is part of Iran’s parliamentary diplomacy.

“Russia has been one of our supporters in the international arena, and this trip will definitely be aimed at strengthening relations. The visits of the speaker of the Parliament are based on protocols such as official invitations and some trips are also made in the form of parliamentary friendship groups,” Farhangi said on Saturday.

During his three-day visit, Ghalibaf is scheduled to meet with his Russian counterpart and hold talks with Russian economic, commercial, political and security officials, according to Iran’s state news agency IRNA. Various meetings in the field of economic issues and trade relations are an important part of the speaker’s visit to Russia.

Ghalibaf also plans to attend events at foreign policy and international relations think tanks. He is accompanied by four senior lawmakers.

He spoke to reporters at Tehran’s Mehrabad Airport before leaving for Moscow.

“My today’s visit to Russia is being done at the invitation of the chairman of Russian State Duma. The Leader has always underlined our strategic relations with Russia.... One of the outstanding aspects of this visit is that I’m carrying an important message about strategic issues,” the speaker told reporters.

“I am pleased to say that the relations between Tehran and Moscow in economic, political, defense and security spheres as well as in the field of industrial, technological, scientific and academic issues are very appropriate and good,” he continued.

He said parliamentary relations between the two countries have deepened.

According to the top lawmaker, Iran and Russia have a lot of commonalities regarding regional and international issues.

“During this trip, we will meet with the chairman of the Russian Duma and the Russian Senate, as well as with high-ranking government officials and we will hold consultations on bilateral regional and global issues,” Ghalibaf explained.

SPORTS

Iran matches against Hong Kong, Cambodia may be postponed

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran national football team matches against Hong Kong and Cambodia at the 2022 World Cup qualifiers may be postponed.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will likely reschedule the matches due to coronavirus concerns.



Iran football team are scheduled to meet Hong Kong team on March 25 in Tehran.

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

However, because of coronavirus concerns, the remaining matches will likely be centralized but no date has yet been specified for the matches.

Iran, who sit 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.

The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The FIFA World Cup in Qatar will run from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18, 2022.

Iranian teams ready to host 2021 ACL group stage

SPORTS TEHRAN — Four Iranian football clubs have announced their readiness to host the 2021 AFC Champions League group stages.

Esteghlal, Persepolis, Foolad and Tractor, who will represent Iran in the new season of the AFC Champions League, have sent their request to host their group stage matches.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League will be played in centralized group stages in the 2021 season due to coronavirus concerns. The AFC Champions League will be held in the West and East Regions.

With the continued support of the Member Associations and participating clubs, the AFC has agreed that the ACL Group Stage West Region matches will be scheduled between April 14-30 while the East Region are planned for April 21-May 7, 2021.

Nidal Bahrani, the official spokesman for the Asian Football Confederation, has said the teams can send their request to host the group stage until Feb. 15.

“The AFC will provide support in the amount of \$550,000 for hosting each group. The last two matches of each group should be held simultaneously,” he said.

The 2020 AFC Champions League 2020 group stages as well quarterfinals, semifinals and final were held in Doha, Qatar.

Rahmani set to be stripped of World Beach Games gold

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran’s Pouya Rahmani is set to be stripped of the gold medal he won at the 1st ANOC World Beach Games 2019 in Doha, Qatar.

Rahmani claimed a gold medal at the men’s 90kg category after beating Ufuk Yilmaz of Turkey 3-0 in the final match.

The wrestler has tested positive for anabolic steroids. Rahmani will be stripped of the gold medal by Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) Disciplinary Committee’s decision.

Pouya Rahmani is the first gold medalist in Iran’s sport history at the World Beach Games.

Zob Ahan part ways with Rahman Rezaei: IPL

SPORTS TEHRAN — Zob Ahan football club parted ways with their head coach Rahman Rezaei after a poor run of form for the club.

Rezaei was appointed as head coach of the Isfahan based football club in early September but failed to meet the club’s expectations in the Iran Professional League (IPL).

Rezaei had served as technical director of the Isfahan based football team last season.

Rezaei, who played for Zob Ahan five years from 1996 to 2001, had been appointed as Zob Ahan head coach on a one-year contract. He has played in Serie A football team Perugia, Messina and Livorno from 2001 to 2008.

Rezaei replaced Croatian coach Luka Bonacic who avoided the relegation last season.

Under leadership of Rezaei, Zob Ahan earned just one win out of 14 matches. Zob Ahan lost five times and registered eight draws which left the team in the 14th place in the 16-team league.

Throrer Hadadi to hold camp in Chula Vista

SPORTS TEHRAN — Olympic medal winner Hamed Hadadi will hold a training camp in Chula Vista, San Diego, the U.S.

Hadadi will travel to the U.S. on Tuesday. He has previously participated at the USSD competitions in Chula Vista.

The four-time Asian Games gold medalist is going to compete at his fourth Olympic Games in Tokyo, and possibly Paris 2024. Hadadi trains under American coach Mac Wilkins.

TEDPIX climbs 35,000 points on Sunday

ECONOMY TEHRAN — TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 35,151 points to 1.17 million on Sunday.

The first market's index gained 30,780 points, and the second market's index rose 53,435 points on Sunday.

Following Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO)'s passing new regulations on Friday in order to facilitate and adjust transactions in the capital market, it seems that growth has returned to the TSE.

Agricultural projects worth over \$1b go operational

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Some 372 greenhouse projects as well as two livestock complexes worth 49 trillion rials (about \$1.16 billion) were put into operation across Iran by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani through video conference on Sunday, in the 47th series of inauguration ceremonies in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20, 2020).



The mentioned projects, inaugurated concurrently with the Fajr Ten-Day celebrations (this year from January 31 until February 10), are going to create direct job opportunities for 11,850 people.

As reported, the inaugurated greenhouses cover a total area of 954 hectares.

Of the total investment made in the mentioned projects 15.4 trillion rials (about \$366.6 million) has been provided by the private sector and the rest is made by the government.

In addition to the mentioned projects, 32 studios for producing agricultural TV programs and 42 broadcast channels for agricultural education were also unveiled throughout the country.

Back in July 2020, Agriculture Ministry had announced plans for creating 2,500 hectares of new greenhouses in the country during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20), which is named the year of "Surge in Production".

Also as announced by the managing director of Iran's Agricultural Parks Company (APC), over 7,250 hectares of land have been allocated to be developed as agricultural parks.

Some 1,500 hectares of fishery parks and 600 hectares of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture parks are also planned to be inaugurated this year, Ali Ashraf Mansouri said.

Provincial investment companies to be set up in line with regional development

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The new head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said that his organization is planning to set up provincial investment companies that will help provincial and regional development.

Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi made the remarks in a meeting with the chairmen of the provinces' chambers of commerce, industries, mines, and agriculture on Sunday, when elaborating on the policies that his organization is following up.



SEO Head Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi (L) and ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie

The meeting was also attended by the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie.

The SEO head said, "With the aim of provincial development and focus on the implementation of regional projects, it was decided to establish provincial investment companies", adding, "The shareholders of these companies are those who have decided not to have direct management of their Justice Shares."

He considered the main problem of the country's economy today as the investment situation and emphasized, "In the last 10 years, we have witnessed a positive growth of investment for only one or two years. Unfortunately, during this period, the depreciation of capital in the country has always been more than investment, which means that the country's capital has decreased and we had to consume our assets. Continuation of this process means that the country falls into poverty."

"Domestic Production" materialized in mining sector

ECONOMY IMIDRO's strong will for materializing the domestic production target bore fruit as one month ago the organization announced that the domestic production policy followed up by nine large mining companies saved the country \$350 million during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21, 2020).

Through supplying the required parts and equipment from the domestic manufacturers, the mentioned nine companies, which were Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company, Khuzestan Steel Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Esfahan Steel Company, Hormozgan Steel Company, Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, Khorasan Steel Company, and Iran Alumina Company, managed to support Iranian producers as well as implement the domestic production plan successfully.

Railway projects worth over \$344m inaugurated across Iran

ECONOMY Construction of intersections, installation of concrete boxes, reconstruction and improvement of railway lines in Tehran, and Semnan provinces, reconstruction, and commissioning of mechanized railway equipment, marking stations in seven projects in Isfahan, Yazd, and Khorasan provinces, as well as 11 projects in the field of fleet renovation including the purchase of 197 freight wagons were among the inaugurated projects.

In Iran, the development of the railway industry has been among the top-priority plans of the governments in recent years.

The country's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021) has envisaged that the railway will account for at least 30 percent of cargo transportation and 20 percent of passenger transportation in Iran. Such a target requires at least 850 trillion rials (about \$20.238 billion) of investment. Every year during the Fajr Ten-Day cel-



Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami (L) and RAI Head Saeed Rasouli

ebrations numerous projects are inaugurated across the country in various sectors to mark the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Like the previous years, this year too billions worth of projects have been inaugurated all over the country over the past few days.

Iran Plast expo running in Tehran

ECONOMY The exhibition which is held in full compliance with health and safety protocols, covers four major areas including raw materials, machinery and equipment, final products and semi-finished products as well as services.

The distinguishing feature of this year's exhibition is the strong presence of knowledge-based companies as well as the holding of an online exhibition which is being held concurrently with the physical exhibition and will continue for three weeks.

Holding meetings and conferences to introduce products and services and to present the latest technologies and achievements of domestic companies is said to be the main goal of this online exhibition.

Last week, the Exhibition Organizer Ayoub Banavi

said that invitations and information regarding the virtual exhibition have been sent to more than 22,000 foreign visitors all around the world, adding: "Although in the past editions of the exhibition there was a virtual exhibition section on the IranPlast website, this year the platform is upgraded and fully complies with the standards of a modern online exhibition."

IRAN PLAST is a platform to make connections between the petrochemical industry and enterprises, while flourishing downstream industries, according to the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Managing Director Behzad Mohammadi.

Due to the special conditions caused by the pandemic, only managers, businessmen, scholars, and experts have been allowed to participate and visit this exhibition.



Iranian ports' capacity to hit 280m tons by August

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The capacity of Iranian ports is expected to increase to 280 million tons by the end of the current government's incumbency (early August), according to the head of the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

Mohammad Rastad put the current loading and unloading capacity of the country's ports at 250 million tons, IRIB reported.

"We have signed 300 contracts with the private sector for conducting development projects including construction of structures, equipment, and even infrastructure in ports," Rastad said.

According to the official the private sector has currently invested over 160 trillion rials (about \$3.8 billion) in the



country's ports.

Mentioning the restrictions created by the U.S. sanctions in the country's ports and maritime activities, the official said: "In all areas which were affected by the

U.S. sanctions we tried to rely on domestic capacities and managed to keep the ports active and the country's imports and exports afloat."

The capacity, infrastructure, and equipment of the ports have made it possible for them to be able to load and unload goods in accordance with international standards, he stressed.

"For all kinds of goods and all types of vessels, including light to heavy goods and also super-sized commodities and vessels, there are berths and special terminals in the country that can provide the necessary services," Rastad added.

The official put the total length of the Iranian port wharves at 39 kilometers, saying that this has made it possible for

different types of ships and vessels to be able to dock and load or unload their cargoes.

"Today, we have no problems regarding the loading and unloading of basic goods, bulk goods, and containers in the country's ports, and the commodity owners are not obliged to pay demurrage charges (damages for delayed unloading and loading) to ships because of port operations, and this shows how standard the Iranian ports are," the PMO head added.

Over the past eight years, the capacity of Iranian ports has increased by more than 80 million tons, which means on average every year 10 million tons have been added to the capacity of the country's southern and northern ports.

72 idle industrial units revived in Markazi Province

ECONOMY TEHRAN — According to a provincial official, 72 idle industrial units have been revived in Markazi Province, central Iran, during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021).

Jafar Karahroudi, the deputy head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the main reasons for the downturn in the production units of Markazi Province were found by the specialized industrial teams and then the units returned to the production cycle with various supports such as payment of facilities, working capital, supply of raw materials and manpower and providing market.

The official said that over 2,800 industrial units are active in Markazi Province.

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

According to Rasoulian, 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.

IME's value of weekly trades increases 42%

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) has risen 42 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), the IME's Public Relations Department reported.

As reported, 718,572 tons of commodities worth \$424 million were traded at the exchange in the past week, also indicating a four-percent growth in terms of weight.

The IME traded 400,688 tons of commodities on its mineral and industrial trading floor valued at almost \$260 million.

On this floor the IME sold 336,798 tons of steel products, 7,200 tons of copper, 6,555 tons of aluminum, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 15 tons of precious metals concentrate, 50,000 tons of fine iron ore and 41 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the exchange played host to trading of 313,691 tons of commodities on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor with a trading value of nearly \$165 million,

which included 55,050 tons of vacuum bottom, 99,770 tons of bitumen, 84,843 tons of polymeric products, 35,006 tons of chemicals, 34,500 tons of lube cut, 3,162 tons of base oil, 50 tons of argon and 325 tons of sulfur.

It's worth noting that the IME's side market was also a platform to trading of 4,193 tons of various types of non-exchange-listed commodities.

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



ore concentrate, 300 tons of cast iron and 54 kg of gold bars.

On its oil and petrochemical trading floor, the IME traded more than 1,707,000 tons of commodities worth nearly \$749 million, which included 602,855 tons of various types of bitumen, 257,511 tons of polymeric products, 124,965 tons of chemicals, 6,300 tons of slop wax and 503,760 tons of vacuum bottom. Moreover, the exchange sold on this floor

11,825 tons of base oil, 69,725 tons of sulfur, 200 tons of argon and 129,000 tons of lube cut.

The next trading floor of the IME was the agricultural with 10,500 kg of saffron sold on it.

Last but not least, the IME's side market saw trade of 9,510 tons of various types of commodities within the same month.

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

In last April, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market's new outlook plan, which depicts IME's development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 2020-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production" is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

American governance model has gone into decline: researcher

1 → It still owns the largest naval fleet in the world. In addition, its universities are among fifty top universities in the world. More than 750 thousand foreign students study in its universities annually. We can add to this a number of elements in which the United States is still superior to other countries.

But America's problem today is the rapid progress that China is making and its competition with the United States in a number of areas.

China is going to occupy the first place in size of economy in the near future.

Not to mention that China is not an indebted country, unlike the United States that faces a debt of approximately 26,000 billion dollars and an annual budget deficit of about 2,000 billion dollars.

What factors shape America's foreign policy? Is it relying on values or interests?

The United States tried, through its political rhetoric, to present itself as a republic that relies on values and principles, but it drifted towards power and interests.

So the empirical values and principles imposed themselves on U.S. policies, where it adopts expansionist approaches to endorse occupation, colonialism, and destruction of opponents.

What are the main elements of U.S. soft power? Hasn't this power declined under the Trump presidency?

At the first step we should study five elements, including the size of spending on universities, the number of foreign students studying in national universities, in addition to the number of students graduating annually with a bachelor's degree, as well as the volume of funding scientific research centers and investment in minds.



"The American model as a pioneering and impressive example has gone into decline, a process that may ultimately lead to the great collapse."

If a system wants to be a model followed by others, it should be committed to some standards like credibility in its media and presenting a democratic civilized model based on justice, in addition to its leaders' charisma and ability to directly persuade people.

However, a great weakness emerged in the presidency of Donald Trump, who presented the United States as an expansionist colonial state, openly seeking to exploit people's wealth, explicitly interfering in other countries' domestic affairs, and trying to subjugate them through harsh and unjust economic sanctions that contributed to peoples' starvation and depriving them of medical aid.

America failed miserably in controlling the Coronavirus, and it appeared as a weak, powerless, and miserable country.

This called for a great discussion over the efficiency of the liberal capitalist system, while it prevents the state from aiding its citizens and mitigates corporate huge profits at the

expense of people.

Liberal capitalism opposes medical support for people who do not have money to pay for insurance, leaving them to die alone. Not to mention the wealth that is concentrated in the hands of a minority, while there are millions who cannot afford to pay for their daily food.

Therefore, the American model as a pioneering and impressive example has gone into decline, a process that may ultimately lead to the great collapse.

How do you describe the social rift in America after the presidential election?

It was evident in the recent elections that the United States suffers from a severe and vertical division in the society.

America faces a clear and large-scale racial discrimination, in addition to the class differences between the center and the peripheral areas, or the so-called Rust Belts, and this will reflect a great and dangerous challenge to President Joe Biden's administration.

How could the disputes over the results of the November presidential elections affect the international position of the U.S. administration and its domestic legitimacy?

What happened in the recent elections and when the former President Donald Trump accused Democrats of rigging the elections and stealing the victory from the Republicans, will constitute a major and deep stab in the reputation of American democracy.

This can hamper American efforts to promote its democratic model, through which it calls on the world to follow its example and approach.

What happened on the sixth of last month, from the storming of the Capitol building, will be a milestone and will separate American history of democracy to before and after 2021.

Analyst says S. Arabia playing destructive role in Lebanon

1 → These protests continued for a month until the emergence of a group of politicians who tried to divert the demands, with different political motives, whether internally or externally.

Do you see any track of foreign interference in the recent events in Lebanon?

Yes, foreign interference in Lebanon is clear and obvious. The recent protests in Lebanon started after Pompeo's visit in March 2019 to Beirut, during which he met with Lebanese officials, especially the President of the Republic, General Michel Aoun.

At the time, the American minister made five demands from Lebanon, on top of which was privatization of the

public sector and meeting the conditions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which if implemented, it will lead to the collapse of the state.

The second item was establishing a form of cooperation between Lebanon and the Zionist regime with regard to the management of two disputed sub-sea gas fields via indirect negotiations in the southern maritime domain.

The third item was the integration of the displaced Syrians into the Lebanese society, and this is impossible and unenforceable because it will certainly change the Lebanese demography, and at the same time it may be used as a pressure card on Lebanon and the Syrian government.

The fourth item was finding the final settlement for the

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, of course with the aim of resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, or using it as a tool to undermine the Palestinian cause.

The fifth item was related to the government formation without Hezbollah participation. But this is impossible because Hezbollah is an integral part of the Lebanese society. Therefore, based on these five demands, we were facing a series of pressures that reached the point of declaring an unannounced siege on Lebanon and sanctions against the Lebanese state, not to mention sanctions announced on multiple Lebanese figures.

What are the main obstacles that hinder the formation of government in Lebanon?

Regarding the issue of government formation, I do not think that things will proceed as the Lebanese hope, as the matter is surrounded by many complications, problems, and conflicts.

Hence, I do not expect a smooth path to form a government in the near future at the minimum. The only agenda that has been discussed is the French initiative, which was stopped when it failed to create an understanding or remove barriers or alleviate concerns of all Lebanese parties, due to the composition of the Lebanese society and political disputes.

What is the role of Saudi Arabia in the economic crisis in Lebanon? Is it a kind of blackmail?

There is no doubt that recently Saudi Arabia has been playing an overt negative role in relation to Lebanon, especially after it considered Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

This measure led to an escalation in the Lebanese political scene and internal rift which resulted in more economic pressures. Saudi Arabia, along with the United States of America and many countries, helps putting pressure on the Lebanese economy in close collaboration with a team in Lebanon, a team that has been controlling for a long time the basic financial and economic centers, especially the banking sector.

On this basis, it can be said that the process of extortion is continuing by Saudi Arabia, especially as it has set out a series of conditions to help Lebanon out of the crisis.

What are Lebanon's plans to counter the poverty crisis and contain the spread of COVID-19?

This question cannot be answered scientifically because the Lebanese government, with all its components, has been absent for a long time.

It is quite known that Lebanon has been living in a state of "vertical division" since 2005, after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and thus this situation has negatively affected all aspects of the government and management in the country.

Nevertheless, there is a basic factor, which is the rampant corruption within the Lebanese government, which at this time led to a socio-economic disaster. As a result, the government went bankrupt and the banks have started seizing people's assets and money, and as the country is in a state of quarrel and bitter political conflict.

Some studies estimated that the poverty crisis will keep rising to include 80 percent of the Lebanese people by the end of 2021.

Of course, this will affect managing the health crisis when it comes to the Coronavirus, which we can say is inevitable with regard to the bad political and economic reality in the country.

Of course, we cannot expect the Lebanese Ministry of Health more than that, especially since the political quarrels intensified the Corona crisis and yielded negative results with dangerous repercussions.

First Announcement



International Invitation for Qualitative Evaluation of Suppliers (Second Notice)

Subject: Purchasing, Installing and Commissioning of Railway Signaling System along Esfahan-Yazd-Bafgh Double-Track Line

Re-Tender no. 19-94-1

The Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI) intend to entrust the supplying, installing and commissioning of railway signaling system along Esfahan-Yazd-Bafgh double-track line to the competent companies through utilization of foreign financial facilities (Finance) and within framework of the "Tenders Holding Law" approved by the Iranian parliament in 06.06.2004 and also in compliance with the Law "Maximum utilization of local production/service capabilities of Iran and promotion of Iranian products" approved by the Iranian parliament in 05.05.2019. Hence, all qualified companies who have related records in this field are hereby invited to receive the Qualitative Evaluation Documents.

1- General specifications of the tender scope as follows:

1- Purchasing, installing and commissioning of railway signaling system along Esfahan-Yazd-Bafgh double-track line

2- Place of project execution: Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI)

3- Deadline for purchase of tender qualitative evaluation documents: utmost by 16:00 on Saturday 27. February. 2021 corresponding to 09.12.1399

4- Deadline and place of submission of completed qualitative evaluation documents: The Bidders can complete the qualitative evaluation documents utmost by 16:00 on Saturday 03. April. 2021 corresponding to 14.01.1400 and submit them to the RAI Procurement and Logistics General Dept. (Foreign Orders Dept.). Address: 2nd Floor Iranian Railways Central Building; Argentina Sq., Africa Blvd., Tehran - Iran; P.O. Box 15197-13111.

5- Receipt of Documents and method of payment: The bidders shall pay RLS 500,000 to the account no. IR710100004001064004005747 by mentioning remittance code of 234064074280500885134499810000 opened in name Iranian Railways at the Central Bank of Iran (payable at all the branches of Bank Mellī Iran) in order to receive the qualitative evaluation documents personally from the above address by submitting an introduction letter or receive the said documents free-of-charge through web site of National Tenders Informatic Base/ [HTTP://IETS.MPORG.IR](http://IETS.MPORG.IR).

**Procurement and Logistics General Department
Iranian Islamic Republic Railways (RAI)**

3724

As more and more black people are jailed in Britain

1 → Prison culture undoubtedly has a radicalizing influence on the most impressionable inmates – be that through religious fundamentalism, gang initiation or classic 'tricks of the trade' schooling in how to commit a particular form of crime (and invariably get caught). But it's greed, stupidity, impulsiveness and more often than not poverty that puts a man or woman behind bars in the first place.

To say that poverty breeds crime is to elicit a 'no shit Sherlock' response from anyone with a modicum of respect for the relationship between social deprivation and criminality. According to London Mayor Sadiq Khan, figures show that "three-quarters of the capital's boroughs with the highest levels of violent offending are also in the top 10 most deprived, while the same boroughs also have higher proportions of children under 20 living in poverty than the London average."

Himalayan glacier breaks in India, up to 150 feared dead in floods

As many as 150 people were feared dead in northern India after a Himalayan glacier broke and swept away a hydroelectric dam on Sunday, with floods forcing the evacuation of villages downstream.

A witness reported a wall of dust, rock and water as an avalanche roared down the Dhauli Ganga river valley located more than 500 km (310 miles) in Uttarakhand, north of New Delhi, Reuters reported.

Om Prakash, chief secretary of Uttarakhand, said 100 to 150 people were feared dead but the actual number had not yet been confirmed.

UAE hired U.S. intelligence hackers to spy on 'enemies'

A group of hackers, who once worked for U.S. intelligence agencies, helped the United Arab Emirates (UAE) spy on its neighbor Qatar and other countries, the New York Times reports.

David Evenenden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) analyst, and other U.S. operatives were lured to Abu Dhabi by a boutique Beltway contractor with offers to double, even quadruple, their salaries and promises of a tax-free lifestyle.

The former U.S. intelligence officials were initially requested to spy on dissidents and political opponents of the UAE monarchy, according to the Times.

Soon, though, they were assigned to a new project and asked to find out whether there were any connections between the Qatari government and the Muslim Brotherhood, and whether Qatar was funding the movement.

Evenenden told his bosses that the only way to know would be to hack Qatar and launch spying operations on the tiny energy-rich nation. "Go for it," they told him.

U.S. convoy carrying logistic supplies targeted in Iraq's Babil

A military convoy carrying logistic supplies for American forces has been targeted in Babil province, central Iraq.

The convoy was targeted on Saturday night near the Iraqi city of Musayyib in Babil province, according to the Lebanese TV channel Al Mayadeen.

A few hours ago, sources close to the Iraqi resistance forces said a military convoy carrying logistic supplies and equipment for the U.S. forces has been targeted in Hillah, south of Iraq.

According to Press TV, over the past few months, attacks on U.S. convoys in the Arab country have become a regular occurrence and their intensity has been growing. 20 U.S. convoys have been targeted in the past two months, according to Iraqi media reports.

On December 31, a roadside bomb exploded in the southern province of Basra, targeting a U.S. military coalition's logistics support convoy.

Resistance News

Fatah, Hamas to discuss elections

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN— The key Palestinian factions **d e s k** -- Fatah, which controls the West Bank, and Gaza's Hamas -- plan to meet in Cairo this week to tackle issues that could threaten long-awaited Palestinian elections.

Technical, legal and security issues must be resolved first, observers say, to ensure the first Palestinian votes in 15 years are not derailed by acrimony between the former enemies, AFP reported.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas last month announced the dates for the first polls since 2006, setting a legislative vote for May 22 and a presidential election on July 31.

They come in a year when veteran Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a hardliner in the conflict, also faces new elections, months after the White House departure of his close U.S. ally Donald Trump.

The last Palestinian parliamentary vote saw Hamas win an unexpected landslide, a victory not recognized by Abbas's Fatah, which ultimately led to bloody clashes and a damaging split in Palestinian governance.

Fatah has since held control of the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank, and Hamas has been in power in Gaza since 2007, the year Israel imposed a devastating blockade on the Mediterranean enclave.

Hera trading group need business consultant in Iran.

We are building a new team to support more countries in our import and export company.

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Iran extends UK flight ban to Feb. 19

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Iran has extended the ban on passenger flights to Britain until February 19 due to the spread of a new variant of the coronavirus, the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran announced.

According to a statement by CAO on Saturday, the flights to and from the UK will remain suspended for another month, due to the new Covid-19 strain that is spreading rapidly in that country, Mehr reported.

The measure was initially enforced on Dec. 22, 2020, for a fortnight at the request of the Health Ministry and the National Coronavirus Headquarters.



The statement adds that in addition to the cancellations, the connection flights from other countries, especially European countries, have been completely restricted and controlled, and these restrictions continue until further notice.

It is also specified that countries such as Japan, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, and several other countries where alarming mutant variants were reported as of January 21 were also subject to strict health laws, and those visiting or residing in such countries within the past two weeks were also banned from entering Iran.

Achaemenid-era objects discovered in western Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Iranian authorities have confiscated 18 prehistoric objects, which are estimated to date back to Achaemenid times, from three smugglers in Delfan county, western province of Lorestan, a senior police official has announced.



The objects were recovered during a police inspection after a passing car attracted suspicion at a local checkpoint, IRNA quoted Mohammad Mahdian-Nasab as saying on Sunday.

Thirteen coins, two necklaces, a metal jug, a cup, and a stamp, which according to cultural heritage experts date back to the Achaemenid era, were discovered in that regard, the official added.

The culprits were detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, he noted.

The Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550–330 BC) was the largest and most durable empire of its time, stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and to India.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

Eco-lodge units inaugurated in southwest Iran

TOURISM TEHRAN — Several eco-lodge units have recently been inaugurated in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, which is teeming with pristine natural and rural landscapes in southwest Iran.



Establishing eco-lodge units could help boost tourism in the region, while it generates job opportunities in the rural areas, according to local officials.

The lesser-known province is the birthplace of many unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

Yazd historical neighborhoods being restored, trimmed off

TOURISM TEHRAN — The mud-brick neighborhoods, thoroughfares, and narrow alleys, situated in the historical texture of the UNESCO-listed Yazd, have undergone some rehabilitation works, the tourism chief of the central Iranian city has announced.

"To maintain the dynamism of the historical texture of Yazd, to preserve it and create better conditions for living in it, some of the old neighborhoods including New Kushk, Shah Abolqasem, New Bazaar, and Fahadan are currently being restored and trimmed off," Mohammadreza Falahati said on Sunday.

The project involves painting the doors of historical mansions, strengthening walls using cob material, and repairing the gutters, the official added.

With an area of 945 hectares, the historical texture of Yazd is the only [urban] texture in the country, whose original mud-brick body is preserved and social life is going on inside it, therefore such projects are being carried out to improve the living standards of its residents, he explained.

In July 2017, the historical texture of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage.



Wedge between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates

from different eras. Yazd is a living testimony to intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each

district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal centre.

Buildings are built of earth. The use of earth in buildings includes walls, and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate. Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality.

The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism.

With its winding lanes, forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

Virtual exhibit of Persian architecture underway in India

TOURISM TEHRAN — An on-line exhibition of 3D photos, featuring specimens of traditional Iranian architecture, is currently underway in India on the occasion of Fajr ceremonies (Jan. 31- Feb. 10, marking the victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution).

Entitled "Architecture and Historical Buildings of Iran", the exhibit has been organized by the Iranian cultural office in Mumbai, Iranian cultural attaché Mohsen Ashuri said, Mehr reported on Sunday.

The exhibit aims at promoting and introducing high tourism capacities of Iran by displaying a part of its tourist attractions, the official added.

Due to the global outbreak of the coronavirus, such exhibitions are necessary to be held online, he explained.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to c. 4000 BC. From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end

to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019).



First 'house of handicrafts' makes debut in Alborz province

HERITAGE TEHRAN — A 'house of handicrafts', which according to cultural heritage officials is first of its kind in Alborz province, was officially inaugurated on Sunday in the city of Karaj, the capital of the northcentral Iranian province.

"The first house of handicrafts in Alborz province was inaugurated in a space of 600 square meters," said Freydoon Mohammadi, the provincial tourism chief, CHTN reported.

The house of handicrafts will be running as a comprehensive and all-inclusive center for specialized training in various fields of art, marketing, and



sale of products. And it will be also a forum for organizing festivals and

exhibitions, etc, the official said.

"The center will be providing necessary facilities and infrastructures for the marketing, the supply of raw materials, and it will be organizing specialized training courses in 40 fields of Iranian handicrafts by experienced professors."

Amongst other duties of the "house" are taking exams and presenting certificates, advertising campaigns, support for online sales, and special packaging for exports according to international standards, Mohammadi said.

The handicrafts house will create 250 direct jobs, he added.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

Alborz province is surrounded by Mazandaran, Tehran, Markazi, and Qazvin provinces. Its name is driven by the Alborz Mountains. A significant part of the mountains is located in the north part of the province. Historical resources and documents as well as archeological studies indicate that Alborz has a rich culture dating back to prehistoric times.

Shah-Abbasi caravanserai in Ardebil joins shortlist for collective UNESCO tag

TOURISM TEHRAN — A Safavid era (1501-1736) caravanserai in Saein village, northwestern Ardebil province, has recently received cultural heritage experts' preliminary approval to join the shortlist of historical Iranian caravanserais being prepared for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The Shah-Abbasi caravanserai, which was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1983, played a significant role in the economic prosperity of the Silk Road, and due to its historical importance, efforts were being made to register the structure on the prestigious list, provincial tourism chief has announced.

The documentation of the caravanserai has been completed and it is expected to gain UNESCO tag along with some other historical caravanserais, Nader Fallahi said on Sunday.

The structure is named after Shah Abbas the Great (r. 1588 – 1629), who ordered the construction of such



roadside inns across the country.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its his-

torical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining "caravan" with "Sara". The first stand for a group of travelers and Sara means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a wide experience as they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

Soleimanieh Palace wins permit to host sightseers, travelers

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Soleimanieh Palace, a Qajar-era (1789–1925) royal complex in Karaj, west of Tehran, has been granted activity permission to host sightseers and travelers as a palace museum.

Over the past couple of months, works of restoration have been carried out on various parts and premises of the lavish palace, which is an amalgam of the successful integration of earlier Persian crafts and architecture with Western influences.

The mud-brick palace was built in the

early 19th century upon the order of Fath Ali Shah, a Qajar monarch who reigned from 1797 to 1834. It was named after the king's 34th son Soleiman Mirza.

Experts say the monument is considered as an innovative model of architecture though its façade has no special decoration. It was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1948.

After the turmoil and strife of the eighteenth century in Persia (Iran), the rise to power of the Qajar dynasty signaled a new peace and unity for the country. The Qajar shahs relied heavily

on the visual arts to confirm and solidify their new position. One aspect of their public image tied them to the long history of Persia and its ancient dynasties, but another component of their identity was as modernizers and reformers.

This involved both changes to the government and the acceptance of new technologies such as the railroad and the telegraph. In the arts, this meant support of the new techniques of lithography and photography, as well as innovative applications of existing forms in Iran such as portraiture and oil painting.



'Iran, Russia have high potential for medical co-op'

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran and Russia have high potential for cooperation in the field of medicine and vaccines, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Iranian Food and Drug Administration, has said.

Heading a delegation, Shanehsaz traveled to Moscow on Sunday to finalize a joint cooperation agreement for the production of the coronavirus vaccine after talks with Russian officials.

Negotiations for a purchase agreement and joint cooperation for the production of Sputnik V vaccine with Russia have been underway for several months, he said, adding that during the trip, an agreement will be signed between the two countries.

"With the efforts made, we are going to turn the potential and mutual capacities into actual cooperation," Shanehsaz highlighted.

"Iran has high capacity in vaccine production, with Russia's knowledge, can strengthen pharmaceutical technology as well as export," he noted.

He said that 98 percent of the country's pharmaceutical needs are met domestically, adding that by activating the



Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Iranian Food and Drug Administration.

private sector, we are trying to meet the full pharmaceutical needs of the country.

The first consignment of Sputnik V, the Russian-made vaccine for the

coronavirus, was imported on Thursday. Mass vaccination against COVID-19 will begin this week, with the priority given to medical staff, the elderly, and people with underlying diseases,

President Hassan Rouhani announced on Saturday.

Importing vaccine from COVAX, a global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, is also on the agenda, Shanehsaz said.

On January 27, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that there are four different ways to supply the coronavirus vaccine, including direct purchase from a foreign country, procurement from the World Health Organization's COVAX facility, a joint production with a Cuban company as well as domestic production of the vaccine.

He emphasized that Iran will soon be one of the world's important manufacturers of the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by Iranian researchers of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, was unveiled and injected into three volunteers during a ceremony on December 29, 2020.

Meanwhile, Iran and Cuba have formed a 'strategic alliance' through working jointly on a project for producing a potential coronavirus vaccine.

Two Arab countries order to buy Iranian COVID-19 vaccine

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Pharmaceutical companies from two Arab countries have officially put in a request for buying the Iranian-made COVIRAN BAREKAT vaccine.

"God willing, after successfully passing the clinical trial, the issue of exporting the vaccine will be studied, only and if only it fully meets the domestic market's needs," Hojjat Niki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, which is in charge of developing the vaccine, wrote on his Twitter account on Sunday.

However, Niki-Maleki did not provide any further information on the countries.

On January 10, IRIB reported that the Swiss health ministry was negotiating with twenty countries, including Iran, to buy the coronavirus vaccine, and has established 'special contacts' in this regard.

"We have good relations with the Iranian health sector. Health institutions in Iran are well organized and fully



equipped for clinical trials and data sets," Nora Kronig, Vice-Director General of the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland, said.

Five Iranian institutions are on the list of the World

Health Organization's candidates for the vaccine, she noted.

The Iranian Food and Drug Administration spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said on January 10 that production of COVID-19 vaccine is being followed by 16 Iranian companies since the beginning of the outbreak, and so far 12 companies applied to produce the vaccine, 8 of which are operating, one of the companies have entered the human trial phase, and two more companies will soon test the vaccines on human.

COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by Iranian researchers of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, was unveiled and injected into three volunteers during a ceremony on December 29, 2020.

Mohammad Mokhber, the head of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam said on January 19 that over the next month, 2-4 million doses of vaccine will be produced monthly, which will soon reach up to 4-24 million doses.

IRCS develops services significantly after Islamic Revolution

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is one of the most effective and credible international relief organizations, having the largest number of young volunteers, providing medical care in several countries, and producing pharmaceutical products, medical and relief equipment.

In forty-two years since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Red Crescent Society has expanded significantly its humanitarian services across the country and abroad by strengthening its voluntary and relief infrastructure, and in recent years, despite cruel sanctions, not only the Red Crescent services not halted, but with service innovation, its activities expanded.

Established in 1922, IRCS operates as a humanitarian organization in the fields of rescue and relief in disasters, health, treatment, and rehabilitation, educating the public, youth, and volunteers, as well as the production of medicine and medical equipment.

In 2005, the IRCS received the Henry

Davison Award for outstanding humanitarian services, and the IRCS initiative of volunteers was selected as the best project (out of 50 projects from 45 national societies), by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The establishment of "crescent houses" in rural areas to facilitate access for people in remote areas is strong proof of the Islamic Revolution approach.

Relief and Rescue

IRCS is one of the first and oldest members of the movement and is currently one of the top five societies in the world due to its significant activities in the national and international arenas Karim Hemmati, head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society said.

Over the last four decades, the number of relief and rescue bases in the country has increased from zero to 561, he added.

Until 1978, there were only two rescue helicopters in the Society, but now 24 helicopters are operating in the rescue system, and one will be added to the air



fleet by the next Iranian calendar year (beginning on March 21), he said, adding, the Red Crescent Society has 27 air rescue bases across the country.

There are currently 60,000 rescuers in IRCS, Hemmati stated, explaining that the Society does not only include rescuers and rescue personnel, there are also 465 rapid reaction forces in the provincial capitals, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Health, treatment and rehabilitation

"After the revolution, the IRCS services have made a significant leap in the field of

rehabilitation for the disabled and people with physical disabilities, as 184 Red Crescent rehabilitation treatment units are currently operating in the country, which has grown by about 254 percent over the past 20 years.

So far, 6 specialized rehabilitation clinics are operating in the provinces of Isfahan and Tehran. Also, three mobile rehabilitation teams (technical orthopedists) have been set up," Hemmati further said.

Medical centers abroad

Prior to 1978, Dubai Hospital in the United Arab Emirates was the only overseas medical center of the IRCS, but after the revolution, the Iranian Red Crescent Society provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries, Hemmati stated.

"Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador."

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Home to home program to be launched to combat COVID-19

The Ministry of Health is to start a home to home program on Tuesday with the aim of finding people suspected of having coronavirus from around the country.

Some 300,000 teams of specialists will visit homes in collaboration with health centers for COVID-19 screening, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said, IRNA reported.

"As one of the leading countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region, we have started a big move and have prepared a plan that will be implemented as part of the national campaign to defeat COVID-19," he explained.

"We are also preparing the health centers and we will identify sporadic cases, and all suspected cases will be referred to health centers for further treatment."

The number of coronavirus cases in the country has risen to 1501, with 66 deaths so far.

آغاز طرح بیماریابی خانه به خانه برای مقابله با کرونا از فردا

وزارت بهداشت طرحی را با هدف یافتن افراد احتمالی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا از فردا در سراسر کشور آغاز می کند.

به گزارش ایرنا، سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت گفت ۳۰۰ هزار اکیپ با همکاری مراکز درمانی برای غربالگری کرونا و بیماریابی خانه به خانه مردم از روز سه شنبه به خانه های مردم مراجعه می کنند.

او افزود: حرکت بزرگی را شروع کرده ایم و طرحی را آماده کرده ایم که در قالب بسیج ملی شکست کووید ۱۹ به عنوان یکی از پیشنهادها کشورهای شرق مدیترانه اجرا می کنیم.

نمکی گفت مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی را نیز آماده می کنیم. در اسرع وقت موارد پراکنده بیماری را شناسایی می کنیم و موارد مشکوک به مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی ارجاع می شوند و تحت پیگیری قرار می گیرند.

Khwarizmi Intl. Award announces winners

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The 34th Khwarizmi International Award ceremony was held in Tehran on Sunday, appreciating winners for their scientific achievements, IRIB reported.

The annual festival is an opportunity for both Iranian and foreign participants to put their scientific achievements on display. Khwarizmi International Award is dedicated to recognizing outstanding scientific achievements made by researchers, inventors, and innovators from all over the world.



The executive process of this festival in five competitive sections includes domestic projects, foreign projects, projects of Iranians living abroad, selected successful projects in national production, commercialized projects from the previous award winners, and special awards (to honor Iranian intellectuals and scientists).

Fields of participation included aerospace, civil engineering, materials and metallurgy, agriculture, natural resources, animal sciences and veterinary medicine, electrical and computer, mechanics, basic sciences, green technology, mechatronics, biotechnology and basic medical sciences, industry and technology management, medical sciences, chemical technology, information technology, and nanotechnology.

Some 202 domestic and 47 foreign projects from 26 countries had registered to participate in the festival.

Nine domestic and two foreign projects from China and Switzerland were selected as the winners of the 34th Khwarizmi International Festival.

Two foreign projects were selected from the chemical technologies section, metallurgical materials, and new energies; and among the national projects, one from the basic sciences group, two from the field of mechanics, three from the electricals and computer group, one from mechanics, one from materials and metallurgy, and an electrical and computer project were selected as the winners of the festival.

Khwarizmi International Award

According to Khwarizmi official website, in 1987, the leading Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, decided to institute an award, which acknowledges the Iranian outstanding achievements in the field of Science and Technology.

IROST proposed the creation of the Khwarizmi Award in memory of Abu Jafar Mohammad Ibn Mousa Khwarizmi, the great Iranian Mathematician, and Astronomer (770-840 C.E.).

The first session of the Khwarizmi Award, in 1987, called for Iranian nationals to present their outstanding contribution, invention, or innovation.

Cacophony of human noise is hurting all marine life, scientists warn

A natural ocean soundscape is fundamental to healthy marine life but is being drowned out by an increasingly loud cacophony of noise from human activities, according to the first comprehensive assessment of the issue.

The damage caused by noise is as harmful as overfishing, pollution and the climate crisis, the scientists said, but is being dangerously overlooked. The good news, they said, is that noise can be stopped instantly and does not have lingering effects, as the other problems do, the Guardian reported.

Marine animals can hear over much greater distances than they can see or smell, making sound crucial to many aspects of life. From whales to shellfish, sealife uses sound to catch prey, navigate, defend territory and attract mates, as well as find homes and warn of attack. Noise pollution increases the risk of death and in extreme cases, such as explosions, kills directly.

Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel burning are also making the oceans more acidic, meaning the water carries sound further, leading to an even noisier ocean, the researchers said. But the movement of marine mammals and sharks into previously noisy areas when the Covid-19 pandemic slashed ocean traffic showed that marine life could recover rapidly from noise pollution, they said.

"Everything from the tiniest plankton up to sharks sense their acoustic environment," said Prof Steve Simpson at the University of Exeter in England, and part of the review team. "As a result, the animals have to produce sound to communicate, but also to receive sound." He said noise pollution was like an "acoustic fog" in the ocean.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 126)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

● تمرین ۲. جمله های صوتی درست کنید:

۱. چه. هتل. بزرگ. دارند

۲. فارسی را. خوب. چه. بلدید

۳. جالب. بازی. چقدر. این. بود

۴. تشنه. بود. بچه. چقدر

۵. چقدر. خنک. بود. دیروز. هوا

۶. است. این. مهم. مقایسه. چقدر

The preposition در may be omitted (especially in speech):

در ساعت یک و ده دقیقه و نه ثانیه = ساعت یک و ...

در روز دوشنبه، ساعت نه و ربع = روز دوشنبه، ...

در هفته اول ماه = هفته اول ماه

در ماه آخر هر فصل = ماه آخر هر فصل

در سال ۱۳۸۰ = سال ۱۳۸۰

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.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430 Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807 Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603 Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

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



GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be not like the hypocrite who, when he talks, tells lies; when he gives a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he proves dishonest. Prophet Muhammad (S)

Leader's memoirs published in Bengali

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's memoirs "The Pains that Changed into Gains" has been published in the Bengali language. Rodela, a leading publisher in Bangladesh, is the publisher of the book, which has been translated into Bengali by Muhammad Mujahid al-Islam.



Cover of the Bengali translation of the book "The Pains that Changed into Gains". The Islamic Revolution Publications in Tehran published the Persian translation of the book in March 2019. It contains the Leader's memories of imprisonment and exile during the Pahlavi period and his struggles against the regime. "The Pains that Changed into Gains" is a Persian translation of "Inna Ma as-Sabri Nasra" the Leader had written in Arabic. The memories were then compiled by the Iranian Arabic language scholar Mohammad-Ali Azarshab. The Arabic version was unveiled by Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during a ceremony held in Beirut in 2019 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The book also contains unpublished photos of the Leader, his father and his children, in addition to a photo collection of the paintings related to the topics in the book.

International musicians to give performances at Fajr Music Festival

TEHRAN — A number of international musicians will be giving performances at the 36th edition of the Fajr Music Festival, which will go online this year due to the pandemic.



Duo Vila Madalena. The musicians include cellist Martin Melendez from Cuba, pianist Moritz Ernst and saxophonist Timo Vollbrecht from Germany, and pianist Gianna Fratta and violinist Dino Di Palma from Italy. In addition, the Austrian duos Vila Madalena and Sain Mus will also perform at the festival. Accordionist Nikola Zoric and clarinet and saxophone player Franz Oberthaler are the members of Vila Madalena, and the Sain Mus duo features guitarist Phillip Erasmus and cellist Clemens Sainitzer. The performances by Martin Melendez and Vila Madalena have been recorded in their country exclusively for the festival and will be broadcast during the festival. The piano solo Moritz Ernst and the duo by Gianna Fratta, Dino Di Palma, will be recorded in Iran. The organizers of the 36th edition of the Fajr Music Festival have decided to stream the performances online this year due to the pandemic and coronavirus restrictions. The Iranian ensembles have begun recording their performances and the organizers plan to announce the festival schedule in the near future. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi has also called the virtual space an important venue for musical performances and holding the festival online a new experience. The festival will be running from February 16 to 21 this year.

IIDO releases books on "Second Phase of the Revolution"

"The Second Phase of the Revolution statement is a great blessing for the revolution and can be helpful in resolving many problems in the country," he added, calling on the student in universities and Islamic seminaries to study the books. The Second Phase of the Revolution statement, also known as the Second Step of the Revolution statement, was issued by Ayatollah Khamenei to the country, particularly to the youth on the fortieth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in February 2019. An excerpt from the chapter "Justice and fight against corruption" in the statement reads, "These two virtues necessitate each other."

"Economic, moral and political corruption are like tumors in the body of countries and governments; if found in the body of a system of governance, they would constitute a devastating quake and a heavy blow to their legitimacy." Part of the chapter "Independence and Freedom" reads, "National independence means the freedom of the nation and the state from the imposition and bullying of the domineering powers of the world. "And social freedom means the right for every member of the society to decide, act and think; both of which are Islamic values; they are divine gifts bestowed upon humans, and none of them is a gift to be offered to the people by the state."



Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization director Hajjatoleslam Mohammad Qomi (L) and an unidentified person unveil a poster for a collection of books on the Second Phase of the Revolution statement in Tehran on February 7, 2021.

"The Star-Spangled Girl" coming to Tehran center

Cultural Center on Friday. Nasrin Sezavar is the producer of the reading performance, which will be directed by Iman Mosleh at 6 pm, the center announced on Sunday. Translated into Persian by Shahram Zargar, the play will be read by a cast composed of Mohammad Rahmani, Nazanin Tabrizi and Hani Mirbarzegar. "The Star-Spangled Girl" is a story of a love triangle mixed in with politics, which is set in San Francisco during the 1960s. Andy and Norman are roommates and radicals who barely make a living working on their magazine, "Fallout", which is dedicated to fighting "the system" in America. Sophie, a former Olympic swimmer, is an all-American Southern girl who moves into the apartment next door. What is love at first sight for Norman is not reciprocated.

Norman's obsession with Sophie causes Andy to hire her just to sustain the magazine's operation. Then Sophie falls for Andy, though they are at odds politically, threatening to destroy the magazine and the men's friendship. "The Star-Spangled Girl" has earlier been staged by several Iranian directors. The latest one was Ashkan Zare who staged the play at Tehran's Simeq Theater in August 2019. Director and actor Ruzbeh Shafiei's troupe also performed the play at Tehran's Mehregan Theater House in July 2018. "When I read this play I found it in perfect harmony with my character," Shafiei said at that time. "The play is about the people of an intellectual stratum who feel a responsibility toward enlightening ordinary people, but their basic needs thwart their plans to carry out the social duty," he noted.



A poster for a reading performance of Neil Simon's comedy "The Star-Spangled Girl" at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center. A R T TEHRAN — A reading performance of American playwright Neil Simon's comedy "The Star-Spangled Girl" will be held at Tehran's Niavaran

Filmfest Dresden picks DEFC "Gray Body"

TEHRAN — The animated movie "Gray Body" produced at Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) will be competing in the 33rd Filmfest Dresden in Germany in April, the DEFC announced on Sunday. Directed by Samaneh Shojaei, the short movie is about a doctor who is visiting with one of his patients, while there is a room full of psychiatric patients who are waiting for him and are unable to remain calm any longer. The film has been screened in numerous international festivals, including the Show Me Shorts Film Festival in Auckland, New



A scene from "Gray Body" by Iranian director Samaneh Shojaei. Zealard, in April 2020, and received several awards. "Gray Body" received two awards

including best animated effects at the 11th edition of the Iran Independent Animation Celebration in December 2019. The film brought the best writing award for its writer Amin Kafashzadeh, while Shojaei received an honorable mention for directing the animation. "Gray Body" also won the Association Internationale du Film d'Animation (ASIFA) award at the 36th Tehran International Short Film Festival in November 2019. In 2019, the LA Femme International Film Festival in Beverly Hills, California, the U.S., also screened the movie. The festival aims at empowering women working behind the camera as directors,

producers and writers. The film also went on screen at the 30th edition of the New Orleans Film Festival, an Oscar-qualifying event that was held in the U.S. city in September 2019. The 33rd Filmfest Dresden, which had been postponed in September 2020 due to the pandemic, is scheduled to be held from April 13 to 18. Over 2,700 short films from 104 countries, including Germany, France, Spain, South Korea, the United Kingdom, the USA and Canada, have been submitted to the festival, which is dedicated to short cinema. The festival's final selection will be announced by the beginning of March.

Revolutionary poet Ali-Mohammad Moaddab honored at Tehran meeting

TEHRAN — Revolutionary poet Ali-Mohammad Moaddab was honored during a special meeting at the Central Library of Tehran at Park-e Shahr on Saturday. The ceremony was attended by Iran Public Libraries Foundation director Alireza Mokhtarpar and a number of poets. Speaking at the ceremony, the Iran Public Libraries Foundation deputy director Mehdi Ramezani said that holding literary sessions are among the responsibilities of the foundation. He added that there are plans to honor several more revolutionary poets in the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran. Writer Mostafa Mohaddasi Khorasani next said that



Ali-Mohammad Moaddab (R) is honored as a revolutionary poet.

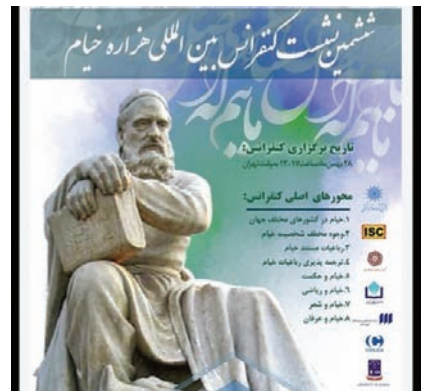
the Islamic Revolution provided a basis for people to become familiar with art, culture and literary heritage of the country. He called revolutionary poetry a kind of comprehensive and dynamic poetry and added, "Revolutionary poetry praises virtue and truth, while the revolutionary poetry is the best critic of other arts." Poet Hossein Esrafilii also said that the revolution was a good opportunity to transfer concepts. For his part, Mokhtarpar also said that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei always has been a friend of the Persian language and literature, and always has emphasized the need for preserving the rules and regulations of poetry.

Madrid university to host virtual conference of Khayyam millennium

TEHRAN — A number of Iranian and world scholars will attend the International Khayyam Millennium Conference, which will be organized online by the Khayyam Center for Iranian Studies at Nebrija University in the Spanish capital of Madrid on February 16. The center opened at Nebrija University in 2018 in collaboration with Iran's Allameh Tabataba'i University. The center, which has been named after the Persian poet Omar Khayyam, also

offers courses on the Persian language. Among the topics to be discussed at the conference are Khayyam's popularity, his connection with Avicenna, the course of philosophical thoughts in the Rubaiyat of Khayyam, Khayyam studies in Turkey, Bangladeshis' knowledge of Khayyam poetry and the problems of the translation of Rubaiyat of Khayyam in German. Experts from China, Russia, Turkey, Spain, Iran, Turkey and Syria will attend the meeting.

Persian litterateur Bahaeddin Khorramshahi, Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries director Hassan Bolkhari, Professor Munit Al Rashid of the University of Dhaka and romance philology professor José Manuel Megias of the Complutense University of Madrid are among the scholars who will speak at the meeting. Khayyam is chiefly known to English-speaking readers through English writer Edward Fitzgerald's translation of a collection of his quatrains in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.



A poster for the International Khayyam Millennium Conference at Nebrija University in Spain.

Iranian bookstores hit by "Influenza Pandemics"

TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Lizabeth Hardman's "Influenza Pandemics" has recently been published by Qoqun Publications in Tehran. The book has been translated into Persian by Fatemeh Shadab. Books in the World History series examine the eras, events, civilizations and movements that have shaped human history, providing readers with insight into the past and its many legacies. Vivid writing, full-color photographs and extensive use of fully cited primary and secondary source quotations

provide a sense of immediacy. Sidebars, visual time lines, indexes and annotated bibliographies, which appear in every volume, offer a wealth of additional information as well as provide launching points for further discussion and study. Hardman was born in Albany, New York, the oldest of five children. In 1978, she graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor of science in nursing. She began writing seriously in 2003. Since then, she has published stories and articles for both children and adults. Today, she devotes most of her time

to her nursing career and her daughters. She writes books for middle grade and high school readers for Lucent Books and is currently working on her ninth book. Hardman is a published author of young adult books. A published credit of Lizabeth is "Dementia" (Diseases and Disorders). "Dementia" offers young readers and researchers a means of understanding various ailments and conditions, explaining what these conditions are, what causes them, how people live with them, and the latest information about treatment and prevention.