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## NIDC digs 117 oil, gas wells in 10 months

TEHRAN- National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed digging operation of 117 oil and gas wells during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), according to the managing director of the company.

Abdollah Mousavi said the drilled wells consisted of 27 development wells, one appraisal well, 85 workover wells, and four exploratory wells.

The official stated that during this period, 18 wells were drilled 326 days earlier than the schedule and handed over to the applicant company for operation, adding that the early production of the wells, rig clearance and cost reduction, which are resulted through cooperation between the experts of NIDC and the operating company is economically viable significantly.

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## Symphonic poem “The Bright Path” released

TEHRAN – “The Bright Path”, a symphonic poem produced by the Art and Cultural Organization of the Tehran Municipality to promote “Second Phase of the Revolution”, was released on Sunday.

The Second Phase of the Revolution statement, also known as the Second Step of the Revolution statement, was issued by Leader of the Islam-

ic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to the country, particularly to the youth on the fortieth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in February 2019.

Hossein Parsafar is the composer of the symphonic poem with lyrics by Milad Erfanpur, and Bahram Payiz is the singer of one of the pieces.

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## Hundreds of new speedboats delivered to IRGC Navy

## Iran handball rocked by match-fixing claims

BY FARROKH HESABI

TEHRAN - Iran's Handball Premier League has been hit with reports of match-fixing in the last weeks.

Several Iranian media reported that the match between Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan and Farazbam Dehdasht Khaiez in the last day of premiere league's Group B, raised strong suspicious that the game might be fixed.

Foolad Mobarakeh had already qualified for the next round as the second team of the group, while Farazbam needed at least one point to make it to the next round.

The match ended with a 24-24 draw on Jan. 7 and Farazbam qualified as the third team.

However, Zoghal Sang Tabas club, another team that had a chance to advance to the next stage but failed as they stand fourth, immediately filed a complaint to the Iranian Handball Federation regarding alleged match-fixing at the match between Foolad and Farazbam.

Suspicious scenes in the mentioned match have been published in social media and Iranian press, which show that some players move away from each other in a strange way during the game to let the ball go into the goal and some other intentionally throw the ball out!

The Disciplinary Committee of the handball federation examined the match and subsequently passed its judgment on all disciplinary matters relating to the match-fixing.

The federation suspended two players of Farazbam team for six months and one player of Foolad Mobarakeh for three months. In a strange decision, the federation also announced that instead of three teams, four teams from each group will advance to next round, and Zoghal Sang qualified for the next stage as a result of the decision.

However, President of Iran Handball Federation Alireza Pakdel did not confirmed match-fixing at the mentioned match and considered it as 'negative cooperation' between some players which is nonsense.

"Zoghal Sang team expressed some issues about the match, and the handball federation and even the Ministry of Sports' officials investigated the case. There were some negative cooperations between some players that had some bad effects on the match. However, we don't consider it as an organized and scheduled match-fixing," Pakdel said in an interview with Tehran Times.

"The priority in handball, and sports in general, is to observe fair play issues. In our handball community, there are a lot of honest athletes and coaches who are not deserved to be questioned by such unethical rumors. There is no match-fixing in the Iranian handball," he added.

## Iran a successful model for the region: ex-Lebanese minister

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – Noting that the world is looking to Iran as an inspiring example for Islamic movements, former Lebanese labor minister Tarad Hamadeh says that the Islamic Republic founded a successful model for the region.

"There is no doubt that the Islamic Revolution due to importance and status of Iran will have an impact on politics, economy, culture, and the strategic military balances, as well as on culture, production of ideas and advancement of science," Hamadeh tells the Tehran Times.

"Iran is now the center of attention of states and peoples in the entire region, and it deserves to be the model and example," the Lebanese politician points out.

The following is the text of the interview:  
**What is the message of the Islamic Revolution to the region and the world? What are the links between the Islamic**

**Revolution and the idea of resistance?**

The Islamic Revolution took place in Iran at a time when the world was living under the international bipolar struggle. It was in the time of the Cold War and arms race, including what was known as Star Wars, as well as competing economic systems to achieve sustainable development.

The first thing that the Islamic Revolution presented to the world was the right of peoples to freedom, sovereignty, independence, self-determination, and the fight against colonial domination and the tyranny of the great powers over the world.

These goals are achieved through building self-sufficient forces, expelling the colonialists, and putting forward the slogan "neither East, nor West, the Islamic Republic," which is the symbol of freedom and dignity.

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## Netanyahu appears in court to answer corruption charges

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has appeared in court to formally respond to corruption charges against him, as his trial resumes weeks before legislative elections in the occupied territories.

He arrived at the Jerusalem al-Quds district court for a hearing on Monday morning under heavy security and after several delays due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Dozens of protesters demanding his resignation gathered near the court house, following weekly demonstrations held in recent months.

Netanyahu, who is the first Israeli prime minister to be indicted while in office, will likely be required to verbally confirm the defense filed by his lawyers. In 2019, he was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust stemming from three long-running cases.

According to Press TV, case 1,000 involves allegations that Netanyahu received luxury gifts from international billionaires in exchange for favors.

## Digital economy is the dream world of extremist liberal capitalism: professor

BY M.A. SAKI

TEHRAN - Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, says the digital economy "is the dream world of extremist liberal capitalism."

Noting that the man is entering "the age of supersonic power," Professor Adib-Moghaddam says "technology has sped up power projections to the degree that we are even haunted in our living rooms."

Adib-Moghaddam has introduced the first course on "Artificial Intelligence and Human Security" to the curriculum of SOAS University of London. The Module presents a critical analysis of Artificial Intelligence with a particular emphasis on its implication for human security. It connects current research into the ethics of AI, to comparative philosophies including the socio-economic theories of the Frankfurt School and their emphasis on the perils of modern forms of production for human existence

and the threat of "perfectionism" in capitalist societies. In addition, the course considers the "techno-politics" of Paul Virilio and the critical approaches of Iranian philosophers such as Jalal Al-e Ahmad.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Professor Adib-Moghaddam says even "biggest theoreticians of power such as the French philosopher Michel Foucault and Antonio Gramsci couldn't realize" this "supersonic" power.

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## Ruins of majestic historical gateway unearthed near Persepolis

BY AFSHIN MAJLESI

TEHRAN – The ruins of a majestic historical gateway, built upon the order of Cyrus the Great, who was the founder of the mighty Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550 – 330 BC), have been unearthed near the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran, Iranian researchers said on Monday.

Supervised by a joint mission of Iranian and Italian archaeologists and cultural heritage experts, the dig uncovered vestiges of a massive gateway measuring 30 by 40 meters with a height

of approximately 12 meters.

They (archaeologists) succeeded in proving that Cyrus had ordered the construction of the gateway near Persepolis in Tall-e Ajori and that this magnificent gateway had been put into operation during the reign of his son Cambyses.

"The building had a corridor in the center, which was in form of a rectangular room measuring eight by twelve meters, and inside this central room, there were four living chairs. And the central corridor opened on both sides to the

Achaemenid campus," IRNA quoted senior Iranian archaeologist Alireza Askari-Charoudi as saying on Monday.

The discovery was made during the tenth excavation season jointly supervised by the Italian archaeologist Pierfrancesco Callieri from the University of Bologna, and his Iranian counterpart Askari-Charoudi from the University of Shiraz. The first season was held in the Iranian calendar year 1390 (2011).

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## Islamic Revolution a brilliant example of triumph over authoritarianism and imperialism: American professor

BY AMIR MOHAMMAD ESMAEILI

TEHRAN - David Yaghoubian, a professor of history at California State University San Bernardino, tells the Tehran Times that the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 serves as a shining example for all people and movements around the world who seeking to maintain "hard-won independence and sovereignty".

"On the national level, the revolution brought together Iranians of all backgrounds to collectively oppose the Pahlavi regime and its American enablers, which rendered the Shah's military strength and U.S. backing essentially irrelevant. Thus it is a brilliant example of indigenous popular will triumphing over authoritarianism and imperialism. On a global level, the revolution's core message of Islamic unity and anti-imperialism resonated deeply outside of Iran and served as an arguably modular approach for other societies to emulate in their quest for justice, dignity, independence, and sovereignty," states Yaghoubian, who is author of "Ethnicity, Identity, and the Development of Nationalism in Iran".

He also believes that the Western powers have adopted a hostile approach to Iran since the revolution, because "it simultaneously exposed their imperialistic avarice, while demonstrating their actual weakness in the face of national unity and mass popular opposition."

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### TENDER INVITATION NO. 99-1018

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of **100 MT Magnesium pure** on tender basis. Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till **27-Feb-2021** Based on our required instruction to following address: **PO Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Arak- Iran Postal code: 3818998116 Attention: Mr. Omidi - Mr. Nabuini**  
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NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran- Iran, Postal code: 1991614581 Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminum Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049024  
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## Leader pardons, commutes sentences of 3,840 inmates

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has pardoned or commuted prison terms of 3,840 inmates as Iran is marking the 42 anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

The amnesty was announced ahead of the 42nd anniversary of victory of the Islamic Revolution that led to the formation of the Islamic Republic in Iran.

The prisoners subject to Leader's amnesty include those who had received sentences from public courts, the Judicial Organization of Armed Forces, etc.

Article 110 of the Iranian Constitution grants the Leader the right to pardon or reduce the sentences of convicts upon a recommendation from the head of the Judiciary.

The Leader's decision came in response to a letter from Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi regarding prisoners found eligible for receiving the clemency by the relevant judicial authority.

The clemency, however, does not apply to certain types of convicts, including those who have been sentenced for their role in armed smuggling of narcotics, arms trafficking, kidnapping, acid attacks, rape, armed robbery, bribery, embezzlement, counterfeit money forgery, money laundering, disruption of economy, smuggling of alcoholic drinks, and organized smuggling of commodities.

## Digital economy is the dream world of extremist liberal capitalism: professor

“We are entering the age of supersonic power”

➡ On whether this will downplay the traditional aspects of power, Adib-Moghaddam says, “We are entering the age of “supersonic” power. Power, including the might to discipline and control, has been galvanized, accelerated and magnified. This is something even the biggest theoreticians of power such as the French philosopher Michel Foucault and Antonio Gramsci couldn’t realize.”

‘We are even haunted in our living rooms’

The professor says, “Technology has sped up power projections to the degree that we are even haunted in our living rooms. Unless we will develop equally supersonic forms of resistance, our ability to think independently and to empathize compassionately will be substituted by a robotic subjectivity that is compliant, docile and dispensable.”

On the fact that the digital economy is determining the economic power of countries, the professor says, “As our current technologies, in particular AI-based systems, are based on supersonic hyper-speed, everything is accelerated including the economy of course.”

The distinguished scholar says the digital economy is promoting capitalism.

“The digital economy is not only a reality that is already determining the global economic system, it is an indispensable factor in the dissemination of capitalism. Exactly because it is supersonic like a projectile that one doesn’t see coming, the digital economy is opaque, unseen – it blurs the boundaries of states, it transcends them and by that impinges on the sovereignty of national governments. It’s the dream world of extremist liberal capitalism. The invisible hand of Adam Smith has been substituted by bionic tentacles of an opaque avatar with no real location and material structure.”

The professor cites some examples of the unseen digital economy.

“Uber became the world’s largest taxi company without owning any taxis. Facebook, the world’s most popular social media site, creates no content. Amazon has no inventory. And Airbnb, the world’s largest accommodation provider, does not own any real estate.”

‘Humanity is at threat like never before’

Technology and the digital age have emerged as a revolution that is shaping human destiny.

About where the digital revolution is taking humanity, the professor notes, “Humanity is at threat like never before. This is a part of my research projects, now and it is based on my new SOAS postgraduate seminar on Artificial Intelligence and Human Security, flanked by a great cast of SOAS students. In this seminar we are discussing how the new inventions in AI based technologies affect our individual security.

“We look at trends that are post-human, in warfare, in forms of surveillance and data gathering. AI is affording companies and governments the great luxury of direct penetration into our private lives. We are under a huge microscope, a constant MRI that scans our cognition, body and preferences.

“What is needed is a strong regulatory framework that is anchored in local, national, regional and most importantly global institutions to supervise how all of this is used. We need a comprehensive ban on killer-bots for instance, in the same way that we have the Geneva Convention.”

He also predicts that countries that won’t develop their digital infrastructure will be dominated by “this new assemblage.”

Professor Adib-Moghaddam says Iranian intellectual Jalal al-e Ahmad had rightly pointed to the threats and opportunities of the digital age even before Artificial Intelligence-based technologies were invented.

“Jalal al-e Ahmad rightly referred to the threats and opportunities of this ‘machine’, even before AI-based technologies were invented. As I mentioned in a recent article: If we can program our machines to understand our ethical standards, then AI research has the capacity to improve our lives which should be the ultimate aim of any technological advance. But if AI research yields a new ideology centered around the notion of perfectionism and maximum productivity, then it will be a destructive force that will lead to more wars, more famines and more social and economic distress, especially for the poor and vulnerable.

# Ayatollah Khamenei’s important message submitted to Putin

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Mohammad

Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran’s Parliament speaker, delivered the written message of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to chairman of the State Duma Vyacheslav Viktorovich Volodin on Monday.

Volodin also expressed his hope to submit the message to President Vladimir Putin as soon as possible.

Ghalibaf started a three-day visit to Russia on Sunday. He is accompanied by parliamentary team. The head and the spokesman of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, as well as heads of energy and agriculture committees are accompanying Ghalibaf.

On Sunday Ghalibaf said he was carrying an “important message” from Leader of the Islamic Revolution to Putin on his visit to Moscow.

It was the first official foreign trip by Ghalibaf.

Upon arrival in Moscow on Sunday night, Ghalibaf said, “On my first official visit, I am carrying message of Supreme Leader to Mr. Putin, president of Russia.”

In a meeting with the Iranian diplomats serving in Russia, Ghalibaf said he has been told by the Leader not to delay the trip to Russia.

The message concerns the “strategic ties” be-



tween the two states, the senior MP remarked.

Prior to the visit, Ghalibaf’s special assistant in foreign affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian had described relations between Iran and Russia as strategic. Amir-Abdollahian also said both sides have decided to boost their cooperation in economic, trade, industrial and cultural fields.

Regarding relations between the Islamic Republic and the Russian Federation, he

noted, “It is based on a long-term strategic approach, and accordingly, the parliaments of the two countries will negotiate and cooperate to deepen, direct and lay the groundwork for bilateral ties,” Ghalibaf told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Volodin.

“I traveled to Moscow to give an assurance that Iran’s relations with Russia would not be influenced by the developments in the West,” he stressed.

## Hundreds of new speedboats delivered to IRGC Navy

➡ The top commander also highlighted Iran’s success in boosting naval power under the pressure of sanctions and said, “The speedboats play a unique role in the sea with agility, high maneuverability, and stealth technology.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Hossein Salami, the commander-in-chief of the IRGC, also advised American politicians to “abdicate the failed policy of maximum pressure.”

Salami praised resistance against the U.S. maximum pressure against Iran, saying resistance has born fruits. “The resistance has been useful. Our path is to strengthen

ourselves,” the top commander remarked.

Last month, General Ramezan Zirahi, a senior commander at the IRGC Navy, reminded the enemies of the severe reaction they would face for making any miscalculations in the Persian Gulf.

“The illegitimate presence of extra-regional countries as the only factor behind insecurity in the Persian Gulf,” he noted.

Zirahi also warned the enemies that any miscalculation in the Persian Gulf region will be dealt with seriously by Iranian naval forces.

The top commander emphasized “the foreign vessels in

the Persian Gulf are being monitored constantly.”

He added, “An acceptable level of security prevails in the strategic waters whose sustainable security could be ensured by the regional countries alone.”

In January, the Iranian Navy staged a maneuver named “Authority”. The drill involved various naval units covering the Makran coasts in the Sea of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean.

Iran’s Armed Forces hold routine military exercises throughout the year in order to enhance capabilities to defend the country and its interests.

## Iran resubmits its four-point plan on Yemen to UN

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A four-point plan that Iran had proposed some six years ago to the United Nations to ensure peace in Yemen is still a viable option, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, Khatibzadeh highlighted on Iran’s position toward the crisis in Yemen, saying, “Tehran’s four-point plan can be carried out even today,” according to Tasnim news agency.

Iran’s plan includes a cessation of war in Yemen, immediate medical aid, inclusive Yemeni-Yemeni talks, and the subsequent formation of an inclusive government.

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia and some of its Arab allies have been carrying out dead-

ly airstrikes against the Houthi Ansarullah movement in an attempt to restore power to fugitive former president Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh.

The UN has described the crisis in Yemen as the world’s worst humanitarian disaster in modern history. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the war had already caused an estimated 233,000 deaths, including 131,000 from indirect causes such as lack of food, health services and infrastructure.

“There will be no peace in Yemen unless foreign governments facilitate that process,” Khatibzadeh remarked.

“The Saudi invasion is the root cause of the Yemen crisis. If Saudi Arabia stops

the massacre today, cessation of hostilities will take place tomorrow,” the spokesman pointed out.

Martin Griffiths, the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Yemen, was in Tehran to negotiate with Ali-Asghar Khaji, a senior assistant to the Iranian foreign minister. He was also scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

In the meeting which began on Sunday, the two sides discussed issues and various aspects of the Yemen crisis and explored ways to achieve peace in the country.

Highlighting the catastrophic situation in Yemen due to the war on the country coupled with a cruel economic siege, Khaji called for further efforts by the UN and the

international community to end the war and lift the inhumane blockade.

He also expressed Iran’s preparedness to offer humanitarian and medical aid to the Yemeni nation in fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The Iranian diplomat reiterated Tehran’s long-held policy for a political resolution of the Yemen crisis including Yemeni-Yemeni talks and the establishment of an inclusive government in Yemen.

The UN envoy, in turn, highlighted Iran’s major role in helping the establishment of peace in Yemen and the region, and elaborated on the United Nations’ measures to establish a ceasefire, end the economic siege and resume political dialogue in Yemen.

## Biden administration intends to control Saudi Arabia: analyst

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Ali Bigdeli, an expert on American politics, says President Joe Biden’s appointment of a skillful diplomat for Yemen indicates the new U.S. president intends to control Saudi Arabia and take a diplomatic approach towards Iran.

Pointing to the speech of President Joe Biden in the Department of State Bigdeli said, “Joe Biden made a speech on U.S. foreign policy which indicates his administration has adopted a classic diplomatic strategy.”

In an interview with ILNA news agency, he said, “Trump delivered his speeches in American military base which shows he didn’t want to take classic diplomatic approach. Trump’s moves indicates he took offensive strategies against U.S. friends and enemies.”

“Biden’s move indicates his advisors have well convinced the president about U.S. foreign policy. Biden made no comments on his policy towards West Asia. It could have resulted from three reasons,” he remarked.

“First of all, the Biden administration has not improved its relations with the European Union after three weeks that it has taken power,” he said, adding that they Biden team seeks to involve the Europeans in the developments in the West Asia region.

“Secondly, the Biden administration has not taken a final decision on the JCPOA, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Thirdly, Biden knows Persian Gulf countries have normalized their relations

with Israel. Therefore, Biden prefers to not talk about U.S. policy towards West Asia.”

Pressed to express his view about Biden’s approach towards West Asia, the expert said, “Biden’s statements on Saudi Arabia shows that Democrats intend to stabilize the region. I think he made a good decision not to talk about West Asia and the Persian Gulf.”

He also suggested Iran needs to take a logical diplomatic approach toward the new U.S. administration. “Biden’s team has a good experience in foreign policy and they hope the U.S. can interact with Persian Gulf monarchies through hidden diplomacy.”

Iran’s Foreign Ministry said on Saturday a new U.S. stand on the Yemen war can be a “step towards correcting past mistakes”, after Biden said Washington was ending its support for a Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen.

“Stopping support ... for the Saudi coalition, if not a political maneuver, could be a step towards correcting past mistakes,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

Biden said on Thursday that the more than six-year war on Yemen “has to end.” He 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 try to end the war.

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

## Zarif: Iran supports efforts made by UN to resolve crisis in Yemen

Iran’s foreign minister says the Islamic Republic is ready to support special efforts made by the United Nations to resolve the ongoing crisis in the war-torn Yemen.

Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks in a Monday meeting with the visiting UN special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, during which the two sides discussed the latest developments in Yemen as well as ways to restore peace and stability to the war-ravaged country.

Referring to the developments in Yemen after the Saudi-led conflict plunged the country into chaos, the top Iranian diplomat stressed the need to reduce the suffering and hardships of the impoverished people of Yemen, saying that the sole solution to the Yemeni crisis is a political one, because the situation cannot be

improved through imposition of war.

During the meeting, Zarif also expressed Iran’s full readiness to support any effective measure taken by the UN to resolve the crisis in Yemen in view of the very difficult conditions that plague the country as a result of the war and economic siege imposed on the Yemeni people by Saudi Arabia and its allies.

Griffiths, for his part, highlighted the importance of being informed of the Islamic Republic’s views on ways of restoring peace and stability to Yemen.

He also explained the UN’s viewpoints on the Yemeni crisis with special emphasis on the need to establish ceasefire, provide economic aid to the impoverished country and help resume political dialog among all involved parties.

The UN special envoy for Yemen arrived in Tehran on Sunday for consultations about the ongoing crisis in the Arab world’s poorest country, which has endured almost six years of incessant military aggression by a Saudi-led coalition.

During his stay, Griffiths has held meetings and exchanged ideas with top Iranian officials on the means of ending the crisis in Yemen.

Tehran devised a four-point plan aimed at restoration of peace to Yemen and submitted the proposal to the United Nations no later than a month after the Saudi-led coalition launched its attacks.

The plan proposes the establishment of a ceasefire, the transfer of humanitarian assistance to the war-hit nation, the launching of

intra-Yemeni dialog, and the establishment of a broad-based government.

Backed by the U.S., the UK and other Western states, Saudi regime and a coalition of its allies have been engaged in a military against Yemen since early 2015 with the aim of reinstalling a Riyadh-friendly government there.

Saudi Arabia, UAE used cluster bombs in military offensives against Yemen’s Hudaydah: UN official

The campaign has failed to achieve its goals, thanks to the resistance put up by the Yemeni army and allied popular groups, but it has left the poorest Arabian Peninsula state mired in the “world’s worst humanitarian crisis,” as the United Nations put it.

(Source: Press TV)



# Who needs to rejoin JCPOA?

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — U.S. President Joe Biden appeared to be following in the footsteps of his predecessor after he said that the United States will not be lifting its sanctions before Iran resuming full implementation of its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In a Friday interview with CBS that was aired on Sunday, Biden said the U.S. will not lift sanctions first in order to get Iran back to the negotiating table. He also said that the Iranians should first have to stop enriching uranium.

Biden's remarks dampened hopes that the new U.S. administrations would correct the failed policies of former President Donald Trump toward Iran, which Biden had vowed to change during his election campaign.

Although a senior U.S. official sought to downplay Biden's controversial remarks on Iran's right to enrich uranium, the damage was already done. The official told Reuters that Biden meant Iran must stop enriching uranium beyond the limits under the JCPOA, not the entire enrichment process.

But the official did not correct what Biden said about the sanctions, which are now the major stumbling block to reaching a settlement.

While Iran said the U.S. return to the JCPOA is contingent on lifting all the sanctions that were imposed after Trump pulled the White House out of the JCPOA, the Biden administration called on Iran to return to the nuclear deal without first getting a sanctions relief, something that Iran roundly rejected.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has made it clear that Iran wants the U.S. to make the first move and lift all sanctions before any Iranian move to revive the JCPOA.

"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.

Iran had also said that it is not in a rush to get the U.S. back to the deal and it has enough tools to force the U.S. into respecting its international obligations under the JCPOA.

With Iran and the U.S. refraining from taking the first step toward resuscitating the JCPOA, pundits have speculated over who needs to get the nuclear deal revived. Aside from these never-ending speculations, the U.S. seems to be desperately seeking to prevent the total collapse of the deal but it apparently lacks the wisdom to make any move in this regard.

Ever since his election campaign, Biden has said he wants to salvage the deal because it is worth preserving. Therefore,

salvaging the nuclear deal is a Biden campaign promise that if he doesn't keep, he will only be signaling his failure to deliver on his promises.

All U.S. elections politics aside, the salvation of the JCPOA is pretty much in U.S.'s national interests. Biden officials have said the nuclear deal is an urgent issue for the U.S. and that they will place it high on their foreign policy agenda. Therefore, Biden's remarks on the sanctions will only make things even more difficult for his national security team to resolve the Iran nuclear issue.

Because Iran seems to be determined to implement its stated strategy of further reducing nuclear commitments.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh once again reiterated that Iran will stop implementing inspections and monitoring access beyond the IAEA safeguards. He also noted that Iran will stop implementing the Additional Protocol to the nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"If the other parties [to the JCPOA] do not fulfill their obligations, according to the law of the parliament, Iran will suspend the implementation of inspections beyond [IAEA] safeguards on February 21, and if the other parties return to their obligations, the implementation of the Additional Protocol can be done voluntarily. Everything depends on the choice of the Americans and Europeans," Khatibzadeh said at a Monday press briefing.

The spokesman was referring to a nuclear law passed by the Iranian Parliament in early November that obligates the Iranian government to stop international inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities by February 21 if the U.S. refrained from lifting its sanctions on Iran.

The United States is obviously concerned about this law but it continues to project its concerns onto Iran by implying that it is not in a rush to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The U.S. now can revive the JCPOA or lose it for good. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned the Biden administration against trying to build on Trump's failures.

"The U.S. left & violated the nuclear deal. So it's the US that has to return & implement its obligations. President Biden has a choice: Break with Trump's failed policies, or build on his failures. Building on his failures will only bring further failure," the chief Iranian diplomat said in a tweet on Monday.

Iran did not leave the JCPOA to return to it. Despite having reduced its nuclear commitments, Iran is still abiding by the JCPOA commitments, especially those related to monitoring access and inspections. But this compliance may soon come to an end if the Biden administration continues to procrastinate. The Biden administration signaled that it wants to build on Trump's failed policies against Iran but it needs to know that failure breeds failure.

## Zarif rules out new talks on JCPOA, calls on U.S. to make up its mind

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has ruled out any new talks with the United States on the 2015 nuclear deal, underlining the need for the U.S. to make up its mind about Iran.

In a Sunday interview with CNN's Farid Zakaria, the chief Iranian diplomat said Tehran has never withdrawn from the nuclear deal —officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - but just scaled down its commitments after former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the deal, Press TV reported.

It was Trump that withdrew from the nuclear deal and Biden must return to the same agreement, which has been previously negotiated, the Iranian foreign minister said.

Trump withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, based on allegations that the deal was flawed. Trump then launched what he called a "maximum pressure campaign" against Iran in a bid to squeeze Iran "until the pips squeak," according to the former U.S. national security advisor, John Bolton.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said Sunday that the pressure campaign was aimed at bringing Iran to its knees.

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 Bolton and his former boss Trump.

Trump's pressure campaign failed to achieve its stated goals, something that prompted Biden to publicly oppose Trump's Iran policies and vow to change them.

Biden voiced strong criticism of Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA during his 2020 campaign when he also promised to rejoin the accord signed when he was vice president. However, he has failed to take corrective measures since he assumed office on January 20.

Iran says the United States' potential return to the JCPOA could only be meaningful if Washington removed all of the sanctions.

"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 vi-



olated all of their JCOPA commitments. They have not honored any of their commitments."

**'JCPOA is purely a nuclear deal and cannot include other issues'**

The U.S. and Europe said that they want to see the JCPOA revived only to use it as a starting point to address other non-nuclear issues such as Iran's defensive missile program and its regional activities.

But Zarif said the JCPOA is purely a nuclear deal and cannot include non-nuclear issues.

He pointed to the American officials' remarks about the necessity of including ballistic missiles in any talks with Iran over a new nuclear deal, emphasizing that the JCPOA is an agreement, which has been achieved through negotiations and it cannot be renegotiated.

If you seek to hold talks about weapons, you have to take all aspects of this issue into consideration, the chief Iranian diplomat noted.

Iran's foreign minister pointed out that the U.S. should not talk about Iran's defense capabilities, but rather it should address the whole issue of weapons in the West Asia region, especially those being used against women and children in Yemen.

While Saudi Arabia spent more than 70 billion dollars to buy military hardware last year, the United Arab Emirates, with a population of about 1.5 million, spent about 22 billion dollars on purchasing arms, Zarif noted, quoting figures from the Sweden-based Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

He added that despite having more than one million official military personnel, Iran's military expenditure does not exceed 10-11 billion dollars.

Zarif also called on the U.S. to show some "tough love" to its allies and tell them to stop the war in Yemen, adding that Iran is willing to work with the UN envoy on Yemen and will meet him on Monday.

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.

"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 Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen said in a statement ahead of the visit.

In a separate exclusive interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour on February 2, the Iranian foreign minister had said the JCPOA did not include Iran's defensive capabilities, because the U.S. was not prepared to stop its arms sales to the region as a precondition.

"The nuclear deal was negotiated based on what we could agree and what we could not agree. This is the deal that was made," Zarif said.

**'Meaningless and ambiguous remarks'**

The Iranian foreign minister also said in another televised interview on Sunday night that U.S. President Joe Biden has to make a decision about the JCPOA.

He urged the Biden administration to make up its mind about the policy it seeks to adopt vis-à-vis Iran and the 2015 nuclear deal, and stop making "meaningless and ambiguous" remarks, according to Press TV.

"Biden has yet to make up his mind about what he wants to do. They ought to make a decision whether they are going to continue Trump's policy or adopt a new one," Zarif noted.

"The Biden administration has not yet made any decision on what it is going to do, and their words are ambiguous and meaningless. They still have time to correct their remarks," he continued.

Zarif's remarks came after Biden said in a Friday interview with CBS, which was aired on Sunday, that he would not lift sanctions in order to encourage Iran to start new talks with the United States.

Asked whether he would halt sanctions to convince Iran to return to the negotiating table, Biden simply said "No."

The journalist then asked if the Iranians would first have to stop enriching uranium, which drew an affirmative nod from Biden.

However, after hours of debate and controversy over the issue among international experts and journalists, a senior U.S. official later made it clear to Reuters that Biden meant Iran must stop enriching uranium beyond the limits under the JCPOA.

In his Sunday interview, the Iranian foreign minister said before returning to the JCPOA, the U.S. needs to prove it would not happen again.

How should Iran make sure "someone like Trump will not take office and tear apart the deal again?" Zarif asked.

"The Americans must prove the Trump experience will not be repeated. This is not a precondition, this is a subject of talks," he added.

The Iranian foreign minister stressed that the U.S. must guarantee it will not repeat its previous moves, and also deal with the damages it caused on the Iranian nation by leaving the deal and re-imposing its sanctions.

"However, the first step is the implementation of commitments," Zarif said, making it clear that Iran's return to compliance with the deal is merely dependent on the U.S. return.

has abandoned it.

"The US left & violated the nuclear deal. So it's the US that has to return & implement its obligations. President Biden has a choice: Break with Trump's failed policies, or build on his failures. Building on his failures will only bring further failure," the Iranian foreign minister tweeted.

## SPORTS

### Khosravi Vafa: We work together to promote Paralympic sports

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — President of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa says that the Paralympics sports have been promoted in Iran in the last two decades.



In a press conference held at the National Olympic and Paralympic Academy in Tehran on Monday, Khosravi Vafa talked about several issues with the media representatives.

"Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) was established in 1980 and eight years later we participated at the 1988 Paralympic Games in Seoul in four sports events. Since then, the Iranian Para athletes have shone in sitting volleyball, athletics, powerlifting, shooting, archery, table tennis, goalball, and Alpine ski. The Para athletes have gained the trust of our society with their eye-catching performance in the international events," Khosravi Vafa said.

"The Iranian Para athletes have won 957 gold, 832 silver and 655 bronze medals in all international events including Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games, world championships, FESPIC Games, and IWAS over the past years. All of us must work together to promote the Paralympic sports because they belong to all people," he added.

"Iranian women have also proved that how strong they are. Zahra Nemati has won two gold medals in Para archery at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games and has also represented Iran in the 2016 Olympic Games. Sareh Javanmardi has also claimed two gold medals in shooting in Rio. Also, our three Para athletes have passed away over the past years and we are also mourning loss of them. Siamand Rahman was not just a powerlifter who broke the world and Paralympics records, he is remembered because of his chivalrous behavior and sportsmanship. Para archer Razieh Shirmohammadi and Para cyclist Bahman Golbarnejhad have also died.

Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) had already announced that it would not send the football 5-a-side to the Paralympics, however the committee later changed its decision but IBSA said the deadline has expired. Iran football 5-a-side won a silver medal at the 2016 Paralympic Games.

Khosravi Vafa said the Iran's NPC could make a better decision but it was a rushed decision.

Iran will partake in nine sports at the upcoming Games which have been rescheduled to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Iran sent a record 110 athletes to Rio 2016, returning eight golds, nine silvers and seven bronzes to finish 15th in the medals table.

"It's too soon to make a prediction about the performance of our delegation but we are optimistic about our Para athletes," Khosravi Vafa stated.

Due to the U.S. sanctions, Iran failed to import some Paralympic sports' equipment but the NPC President says that they have almost solved the problem.

"We have reached self-sufficiency in manufacturing some equipment. We have made boccia ramps and balls and powerlifting equipment," Khosravi Vafa concluded.

## Zorya Luhansk complete signing of Iran's Zahedi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Ukrainian football club Zorya Luhansk have completed the signing of Iranian forward Shahab Zahedi.

The 25-year-old striker has penned a four-year deal with Zorya Luhansk for an undisclosed fee.

The president of Olimpik Donetsk Vladislav Gelzin had previously confirmed the move during an interview with Footboom:

"Olympic Donetsk have agreed on the transfer details and we have reached an agreement with the president of the Luhansk club, Yevhen Heller."

Olimpik Donetsk coach Ihor Klymovskiy also shared his thoughts on losing his talented striker and said this is a really big loss for them.

This season, Zahedi has played 11 matches in the UPL, scoring 8 goals. He is currently the top scorer in the Ukrainian championship.

Another Iranian forward Allahyar Sayyadmanesh is a member of Zorya Luhansk.

## Taremi named Man of the Match

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian forward Mehdi Taremi was named as Man of the Match at the end of the game against Braga.

Taremi found the back of the net with a volley in the second half to make the result 2-0 but the match finished in 2-2 draw.

scored once again for Porto in Primeira Liga Sunday night. In the match held at the Estadio Municipal de Braga, Sergio Oliveira and Taremi scored for Porto in the 35th and 54th respectively.

Porto were reduced to 10-man after Jesus Manuel Corona was shown a red card in the 60th minute.

Fransergio and Nicolas Gaitan equalized the match in the final minutes of the match.

Porto are second in Primeira Liga behind Sporting.

Taremi, who has scored goals for Porto in the recent matches, was named as Man of the Match.

## Iranian, Norwegian top diplomats hold phone talks

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif spoke by phone with his Norwegian counterpart Ine Eriksen Spreide.

The two foreign ministers discussed a variety of issues including the situation around a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers, officially known as the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Good discussion with FM @JZarif. Appreciate the dialogue with Iran on bilateral, regional & multilateral issues. Urged Iran to return to full compliance with JCPOA," the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said in a tweet on Monday.

Spreide joined European and American

diplomats calling on Iran to resume implementing its JCPOA commitments without referring to the fact that Iran is still in the JCPOA and it has only reduced its nuclear commitments in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear pact.

Zarif said on Monday that it's the U.S. that should return to the JCPOA because it



## Building new X-ray machines to save IRICA €70m

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said domestically-made X-ray monitoring machines are going to save IRICA and the country €70 million, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the press in an online session on Sunday, Mir-Ashrafi pointed to the need to use new systems for monitoring transit, exports and imports of goods at the country's customs, saying: "Last week, IRICA signed a contract for the production of 14 X-ray machines with the private sector, which will be installed and go operational next [Iranian calendar] year (begins on March 21); the first device will be put into operation at the Shahid Rajaei Port's customs before the end of the current year."



According to Mir-Ashrafi, each X-ray machine is worth more than five million euros with the installation costs, so these 14 domestically produced devices will save the country €70 million.

The IRICA head further stated that the purchase and installation of a machine would cost the country millions of dollars and for this reason the private sector should be encouraged to produce such machines inside the country.

He stressed that equipping all the country's customs with X-ray machines is on the agenda, noting that there are currently 14 active X-ray systems for monitoring trucks across the country, while this figure should reach 50 in the future.

"Customs controls should be such that the time for clearance of goods is minimized while the accuracy is maximized," he stressed.

Pointing to the complexity of the country's trade system, the official added: "The multiplicity of laws and regulations, the spread of the coronavirus in the world and in Iran, and the U.S. sanctions on the country are some of the problems that the country's trade is facing, so a plan must be developed and implemented to provide the customs speed and accuracy together."

The official noted that the country's foreign trade is expected to reach \$70 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), of which \$36 billion would be imports and \$34 billion would be the share of exports.

## Fishery export from Mazandaran Province rises 37%

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Fishery export from Iran's northern Mazandaran province has increased 37 percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Hassan Es'haqi, the director-general of the province's fisheries department, also announced that the province's fishery export stood at 11,240 tons worth \$35.876 million in the past Iranian calendar year, which was 60 percent higher in terms of weight, and 21 percent higher in terms of value, compared to the same time span in its preceding year.

As announced by an official with Iran's Fishery Organization (IFO), Iran's value of fishery export has risen six percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year, compared to the same period of time in the past year.



Isa Golshahi, IFO's director-general for quality improvement, processing, and market development, put the ten-month fishery export at 114,000 tons worth \$399 million, which was also four percent more than the last year's figure in terms of weight.

This year, with the completion of technical instructions and the launch of two industrial units for the production of dried fish and tiny dried fish, another product has been added to the country's fishery export basket, the official announced.

He stated that the amount of dried fish exports reached about 18,000 tons with an approximate value of \$18 million, adding that Oman, Myanmar and Malaysia are among the country's new export target markets.

Golshahi further expressed hope that through the export expansion plans, the country can achieve at least three new export markets and several new export products will be added to the export basket in the next year.

The official put the country's fishery consumption per capita at 13.3 kilograms.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in recent years. The country's annual fishery output stood at 1.28 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020), while the planned figure was 1.25 million tons. This amount of output was achieved despite the sanctions and related difficulties in the previous year.

The output is anticipated to reach 1.5 million tons this year. The country's fishery export stood at 146,000 tons worth \$538.9 million in the past year, while the import was 29,000 tons valued at \$98.9 million, so Iran's fishery trade balance was \$440 million in the previous year.

The export is anticipated to reach 150,000 tons valued at \$600 million in the current year.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past year.

New markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products in the previous year.

Among the plans and programs that the country is implementing in the present year to develop the aquaculture industry, it could be referred to the continuous monitoring of fishery exports, evaluating and monitoring of the performance of provinces, holding specialized desks in Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) to release related reports and discuss the competitive advantages of the products to be exported, and recognize new export markets.

# NIDC digs 117 oil, gas wells in 10 months

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

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

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

National Iranian Drilling Company managed to indigenize the knowledge for manufacturing 6,000 drilling equipment in collaboration with domestic manufacturers and engineers in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

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



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

pressure systems.

The company has also managed to indigenize the know-how for manufacturing 242 parts highly-applied in the drilling industry during the first half of the current Iranian calendar

## TCCIMA, Iraqi embassy agree to form joint trade committee

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the Commercial Department of the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran have agreed on forming a joint trade committee in the near future, the TCCIMA portal reported.

As reported, the decision was made in a meeting between the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and the Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Nasir Abdul Mohsen Abdullah on Monday.

Based on the proposal made by the TCCIMA head during the meeting, this joint committee will examine and assess the problems and demands of the two countries' businessmen and offer solutions accordingly to facilitate economic cooperation between the two sides.

Referring to the establishment of joint trade committees between the TCCIMA and some of the embassies of neighboring countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Armenia, Khansari stated that despite the high level of Iran's economic relations with Iraq, there are still some problems and obstacles in the way of the two countries' traders, and establishing a joint trade committee between the TCCIMA and the Iraqi embassy will improve the level

of trade by addressing such problems.

Khansari also announced TCCIMA's readiness to set up a desk in the Iraqi embassy to facilitate economic relations between the businessmen of the two countries and reminded that TCCIMA is also ready to establish a corresponding desk for the commercial department of the Iraqi embassy in TCCIMA.

The official also announced the Tehran chamber's preparations for hosting an Iraqi trade delegation headed by the chairman of Baghdad Chamber of Commerce in the coming months.

"Issues and solutions for improving the economic relations between the two countries' private sectors will be discussed in a meeting with the head of the Iraqi Chamber of Commerce," he said.

"One of the suggestions of the Tehran chamber in this meeting will be to create a joint virtual exhibition to introduce and identify the production and economic capabilities of the two countries," he added.

Abdullah for his part expressed the full readiness of his embassy to cooperate with TCCIMA in order to resolve the



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (L) and Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Nasir Abdul Mohsen Abdullah

existing problems and obstacles in the way of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

"According to the agreement between the governments of the two countries for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries to \$20 billion, the private sectors of the two countries can be the means for this leap."

## Development projects inaugurated across Iran to mark Fajr Ten-Day celebrations

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Following the series of inaugurations on the occasion of the Ten-Day Fajr celebrations which mark the victory of the Islamic Revolution, several new development projects were inaugurated in various provinces across Iran on Monday.

Some development projects at Kerman's Hashemi Rafsanjani Airport with a total investment of 3.328 trillion rials (about \$79.2 million) were among of the mentioned projects that were inaugurated in a ceremony attended by the Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami and the governor of Kerman province.

Construction of a second runway with a length of 3,840 meters, construction of a runway lighting post, installation of a visual aid lighting system for flight agents, and development of



the airport terminal from 2,800 square meters to 7,824 square meters were some of the inaugurated projects in the mentioned airport.

Also in Hamedan province, eight cooperative, improvement, and production projects worth nearly 30 billion rials (about \$715,000) were put into operation in the three cities of Tuyserkan, Famenin and Razan.

The inaugurated projects include a furniture manufacturing cooperative unit, a social

emergency center, improvement of rural roads, and a clothing production unit.

The first slaughterhouse of the Qeshm Island in southern Iran was another project which went operational on Monday with a total investment of 38 billion rials (about \$904,760).

Reducing the cost of transporting meat and reducing its supply price are among the benefits of this complex which has created direct employment for 15 people.

In addition to the mentioned project, two rural development projects were also inaugurated in the southern island and the ground was broken for five more projects.

These projects include some rural access roads, the construction of a fire station, the construction of five health centers, and a watershed management structure with a total

investment of 116.5 billion rials (about \$2.7 million).

Some 378 projects with a total investment of 13.653 trillion rials (over \$325 million) were also put into operation in Isfahan province on the ninth day of the Ten-Day Fajr celebrations.

As reported, the mentioned projects include 275 projects in urban areas with an investment of more than 12.878 trillion rials (about \$306.627 million) and 102 rural projects with a credit of more than 774.716 billion rials (about \$18.45 million).

Also in Bandar Abbas city, Hormozgan Province, 29 development projects worth 10 trillion rials (about \$238 million) were inaugurated on Monday.

These projects include some sports fields, fruit and vegetable markets, some intersections, and sports halls.

## Iranian polymer production capacity to rise 120% by 2025

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's polymer production capacity is going to increase by 120 percent by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (begins on March 21, 2025) to reach 21 million tons per year, according to the head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

Speaking on the sidelines of the 14th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) on Sunday, Behzad Mohammadi put the country's current polymer production capacity at nine million tons saying: "This figure will increase by 120 percent to reach 21 million tons in [the year] 1404, with the new under-construction projects going operational in the third leap of the petrochemical industry."

Mohammadi also put Iran's share of the annual global polymer production, which is currently 420 million tons, at two percent and added: "the production of polymers in the world will reach 530 million tons in 2025 and Iran's share of this basket will increase to four percent in 1404."



He noted that the total production capacity of the petrochemical industry has increased from 65.8 million tons at the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020) to 80 million tons following the implementation

of 10 new projects.

"Currently 40 million tons or 900,000 barrels per day of feed is consumed by 60 petrochemical complexes across the country," the official said.

Mohammadi stated that currently 35 million tons of final and marketable products are produced in the country, of which 72 percent is exported and 28 percent is consumed domestically.

According to the NPC head, 77 types of chemicals and 18 types of polymers in the form of 334 different grades are currently produced in the country which can be consumed by the downstream industries.

He said that the growth of global demand for petrochemical products is 4.5 percent while the demand of demand for oil products is one percent, adding: "In the coming decades, the consumption of oil products will decrease, but the consumption of petrochemical products is increasing at a staggering pace; so the development of the petrochemical industry has become more and more serious."

## Commodities worth \$819m exported from Kerman Province

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The director-general of the customs department of Kerman Province, in southeast of Iran, said that 340,000 tons of commodities valued at \$819 million have been exported from the province during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020-January 19, 2021).

Mohammadreza Qader said that the ten-month export from the province shows a 26-percent rise in terms of value year on year.

The official named pistachios and pistachio kernels, dried and fresh dates, copper products, sugar, ceramic tiles, stones, and cement as some major export items, and Italy, Germany, China, Iraq, UAE, Pakistan and Afghanistan as top export destinations.

He further announced that 43,000 tons of products worth \$315 million have been

imported to the province during the first ten months of this year, indicating a 48-percent fall in terms of value year on year.

Iran has traded 122.8 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$58.7 billion in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Of the total volume of the country's non-oil trade in the mentioned period, 94.541 million tons worth \$28.63 billion was the share of exports and about 28.249 million tons valued at \$30.639 were the imported goods, Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said.

According to the official, the exports of non-oil goods in this period decreased by 17.7 percent and 20 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, compared to the same



period last year.

The figures, however, grew significantly compared to the previous calendar month (December 21, 2020-January 19, 2021), the official added, noting that the upward trend is expected to continue in the coming months.

In comparison to the previous year's same time span, the imports of the mentioned commodities also declined by two percent and

15.5 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, according to the IRICA head.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with \$7.2 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$6.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$3.7 billion, Turkey with \$2 billion, and Afghanistan with \$1.9 billion.

The mentioned countries imported a total of 69.5 million tons of goods worth \$21.3 billion from Iran in the said 10 months, accounting for 73.5 percent and 76 percent of the total exports in terms of weight and value, respectively.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$7.9 billion, the UAE with \$7.4 billion, Turkey with \$3.4 billion, India with \$1.8 billion, and Germany with \$1.4 billion worth of imports.



**➔** The following is the full text of the interview:

#### How did the Islamic Revolution in Iran change international politics?

The Islamic Revolution challenged the conventional wisdom regarding revolutionary movements, which maintained that religion was not an important or critical factor in modern political struggle. The "neither East nor West" stance of the Islamic Republic also challenged the Cold War-era notion that there were only two recognized and "acceptable" political blocs, and powerfully illustrated how a non-aligned nation could chart its own political and social destiny while maintaining its sovereignty and rights. Moreover, the elimination of the United States presence in Iran and constant meddling in Iranian internal politics marked a new era of anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist revolutionary activism, which drew direct inspiration from Imam Khomeini and the Iranian people.

#### What is the significance of the Iranian revolution?

The significance of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, in essence, is that it demonstrated (and continues to demonstrate) the limits of imperialism and colonialism in the face of a unified national movement seeking to acquire and maintain political independence, sovereignty, and

## Islamic Revolution a brilliant example of triumph over authoritarianism and imperialism: American professor



the retention of indigenous religious, cultural, and social values. The Iranian revolution serves as a shining example of anti-royalist, anti-imperialist popular activism, as well as the short and long-term advantages of national self-reliance for peoples and movements seeking to maintain hard-won independence and

sovereignty.

#### What were the unique characteristics of the Islamic Revolution?

On the national level, the revolution brought together Iranians of all backgrounds to collectively oppose the Pahlavi regime and its American enablers, which rendered the Shah's military strength and

U.S. backing essentially irrelevant. Thus it is a brilliant example of indigenous popular will triumphing over authoritarianism and imperialism. On a global level, the revolution's core message of Islamic unity and anti-imperialism resonated deeply outside of Iran and served as an arguably modular approach for other societies to emulate in their quest for justice, dignity, independence, and sovereignty.

#### What impacts have the Islamic Revolution had on West Asia and the Islamic world at large?

In the context of the above response, the example set by the Iranian people and Iran's revolutionary leadership understandably struck fear deep into the hearts and minds of despotic kings and tyrants throughout West Asia, most of whom sought assistance to maintain their abusive and illegitimate rule by forging or further enhancing their military and intelligence relationships with western governments, most importantly the United States and the United Kingdom. After Saddam Hussein and his Arab, American, and European allies and suppliers

learned the hard way that the Islamic Republic of Iran was both impenetrable and indivisible, yet another wave of shock and fear led the rancid monarchies of the region to shortsightedly double down on their investment in foreign arms, foreign technology, foreign advising, and foreign "security."

Through the present they continue to invest in foreign "security" at the expense (and in many ways, in fear) of their own people, prohibiting any real chance to forge genuine societal unity, to develop a capacity for self-reliance through diversification, or to assure the perpetuation of their ruling systems. Regarding the latter, in my view it is now only a matter of time before their people collectively act to chart their own destiny without decrepit royalist or imperialist hands on their shoulders, and the Iranian Islamic Revolution can thankfully serve as both an inspiration, as well as a proven road map.

#### Why have the Western powers adopted a hostile approach to the Islamic Revolution?

The Western powers have adopted a hostile approach to the Islamic Republic of Iran because the revolution simultaneously exposed their imperialistic avarice, while demonstrating their actual weakness in the face of national unity and mass popular opposition, the fragility of their regional puppet governments (in this case the Shah of Iran), the hypocrisy of their self-serving policies, and ultimately the potency of domestically produced industrial and military technologies and hardware. It is not that these attributes and accomplishments alone would suffice to maintain the Western powers' hostility to Iran for over four decades, but rather that these characteristics and developments have once and for all cut off the ability of Western powers to steal and/or control Iran's economy and wealth of national resources. One must understand continued Western hostility as a package of imperialist sour grapes: The Islamic Revolution enabled Iran to acquire and maintain true independence and sovereignty, the end result of which is the inability of Europeans and Americans to ever again control and ultimately profit from Iran's material wealth at the expense of the Iranian people. This is the source of perpetual Western hostility to the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Iran a successful model for the region: ex-Lebanese minister

**➔** The young revolution could enhance the Islamic world's sense of dignity and pride, after it was in a position of subordination and obedience, and it provided a model for the major regional states in managing world affairs.

This policy was a model for what we call the policy and approach of resistance in the face of global arrogance.

**Why did some Arab countries in the Persian Gulf were reluctant to receive the message of the Islamic Revolution and they did not even spare any effort to abort the revolution?**

Some countries in the (Persian) Gulf region follow the American colonial policies. The former Shah of Iran was known as the policeman of the (Persian Gulf), because he ruled the region for the benefit of his American masters.

When Saddam Hussein, a dictator, waged an aggressive war on Iran, the (Persian) Gulf countries were providing him with unconditional support, until he occupied Kuwait and then they brought American forces into the region.

The (Persian) Gulf countries are now normalizing ties with the Zionist enemy in an attempt to ally with the enemy to confront Islamic Iran, which extended a hand of cooperation to them.

Iran defends the region and protects it from all aggression

as a pivotal pillar of stability and security.

#### How was Lebanon inspired by the idea of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, especially through Imam Musa al-Sadr and martyr Mustafa Chamran?

The Lebanese people were influenced by the Islamic Revolution in Iran, as well as by the ideas of Imam Khomeini.

I remember that we were among the strong supporters of the Islamic Revolution and the ideas of Imam Khomeini; love for Khomeini is a love for all values.

At that time, Lebanon was a center of the Palestinian resistance, and part of southern Lebanon and western Beqaa (East of Lebanon) were under the Israeli occupation.

I remember that I was in Tehran at the conference of the "oppressed people" in June 1982, and I attended the conference in which Hezbollah was founded, and I wrote that in my novel, "Sea Scene" (Mashhad al-Bahr).

Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance were strong allies of the Islamic Revolution and the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guards. The party's ideas are based on the theory of "guardianship of the Islamic jurist" in the Shiite Islamic political jurisprudence.

Hezbollah succeeded to form a sublime model for the Islamic Revolution, and serve as the sword of truth, which defeated

the Zionist enemy and the Takfiri terrorist enemy.

It is still the ideal model in the Islamic political movements that were inspired by the ideas of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Republic in Iran.

#### How do you assess Iran's confrontation with the U.S. projects in the context of regional balances? Do you see Iran as a successful model in self-sufficiency in scientific and military fields?

At this stage, when the level of conflicts has increased at the international and regional levels, Iran plays a pivotal role in leading the Islamic resistance movement to confront global arrogance.

It makes the Islamic state a major regional power capable of participating in managing world affairs.

Iran is now in a very strong position at international and regional level, and it is a force that weighs in the balance of power.

The Iranian power cannot be ignored in any issue related to the affairs of the West Asian region, in addition to international relations.

Trump has gone, the Islamic republic in Iran has remained stable, while sanctions, blockades, soft warfare, threats... have failed. The situation is excellent in Syria, in Palestine, and in Lebanon. In Yemen, the war will stop despite the attempts



of aggressors.

#### How can the idea of resistance be extended to non-military fields such as economy and culture?

There is no doubt that the Islamic Revolution due to importance and status Iran will have an impact on politics, economy, culture, and the strategic military balances, as well as on culture, production of ideas and the advancement of science.

Iran is now the center of attention of states and peoples in the entire region, and it deserves to be the model and example.

### Yemen's Houthis in new operation to seize Marib

Yemen's Houthis have resumed an offensive to seize the fugitive government's last northern stronghold of Marib, a government source said Monday, with dozens of casualties on both sides.

New clashes between pro-government forces -- backed by a Saudi-led military coalition -- and the Houthis erupted after weeks of relative calm in the oil-rich and strategic region. A government source told AFP that the

Houthis had brought in reinforcements during that time.

"Fighting took place about 10 kilometers (six miles) west of Marib," the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Second 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:

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 Melli 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

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

### Announcement of the contractors' qualification for Khouzestan steel company new wagon unloading system (tippler No. 3) by EPC contract

Khouzestan Steel Company (KSC), intends to increase the capacity of its wagon unloading system by implementing an EPC contract for a new wagon tippler No. 3. Wagon tippler No. 3 must be able to unload all types of wagons with weight of 90 tons of load and a total weight of 120 tons.

**Companies interested in taking part the tender, having the following qualifications, can declare their readiness:**

- Sufficient Technological Knowledge and experience in the implementation of pelletizing plants, process gas fans equipped and ESP de-dusters.**
- The ability of financing and implementing the project by EPCF approach is preferred.**
- The equipment must be supplied from European Companies in Europe or other country under their license with European Union Countries Standards.**

The interested companies shall send the following documents to KSC by the date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

- Company Profile and Catalogues**
- Company references of similar projects. (Name, Location, Scope, Capacity and Contract Price)**
- The list of projects with frame of financing (if any).**

After receiving the documents and evaluating the companies' competency, KSC will send the tender documents to the selected contractors.

**Address: IRAN, Ahwaz, Khouzestan province, Khouzestan Steel Company, Post Box: 1378, Post Code: 61778-1311, Mr. Seyyed Hasan Hosseini contracts department manager.**

**Contact: Mr. Jamshid Sayyadi project manager - Tel: 0098 61 32908222 - Email: j.sayyadi@ksc.ir**

روابط عمومی شرکت فولاد خوزستان



## First living museum of kilim carpets makes debut in Sirjan

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A living museum, dedicated to kilim carpets and hand-woven textiles by rural and nomad people, was inaugurated on Sunday in the city of Sirjan, southeastern Kerman province.

The museum, which is the first of its kind in the region, aims at introducing and promoting hand-woven products especially Shiriki Pich Kilims of Sirjan as a unique souvenir of the region, the provincial tourism chief Fereydon Faali said during the inauguration ceremony.

With an area of 620 square meters, the museum also aims at holding weaving kilim workshops and training the crafters, the official added.



The visitors can watch artisans and weavers while they are weaving different textiles, which is one of the unique features of the museum, he explained.

He also expressed hope that considering the tourism and hand-craft capacities of the region, the participation of domestic and foreign investors would be provided in near future.

Sirjan, which was named the world city of hand-woven kilim by the World Council of Handicrafts in 2017, is located in the southeastern province of Kerman.

High quality and innovations in patterns and colors of Shiriki Pich Kilims make them popular.

Unlike common kilims, which are made without using knots, Shiriki Pich of Sirjan is made by knotted weaves and is considered something between carpets and kilims.

This kilim is rarely woven based on a premade pattern. Therefore almost all Sirjan kilims are unique and no two similar pieces can be found.

The choice of colors using in the kilims is depended on the mood and emotions of the weavers, who are mostly nomad women that weaving is their daily routine as well as their main source of income.

## Iranian police seize millennia-old jug from smuggler

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — An earthenware jug, estimated to date back to 5,000 years before the Bronze Age, has recently been confiscated from a smuggler in the western province of Lorestan, a senior police official has announced.

The prehistoric object was seized with the judicial coordination after days of police surveillance, ISNA quoted Mohammad Mahdian-Nasab as saying on Monday.



The culprit was detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, he noted.

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 come on stream in Kerman

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Three eco-lodge units have been inaugurated in three different villages of Baft county, Kerman province, southeast Iran, ILNA reported on Monday.

Establishing such lodging centers is of very high importance in Iranian rural landscapes, reportedly to boost tourism, to generate job opportunities, and ultimately to help empower countryside communities.



Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

# Ruins of majestic historical gateway unearthed near Persepolis

**→ 1** The gateway is made of [brick and] clay materials and the whole exterior has been decorated with painted bricks. The lower parts and the plinth of the walls are decorated with [themes of] lotus flowers, the body, and facade of the walls are embellished with various colored panels of mythical animals, symbols, and belief symbols of ancient Iranians, Elamites and Mesopotamians," the Iranian archaeologist explained.

"More importantly, the central room bears inscriptions in Babylonian and Elamite (cuneiforms)," he added.

Talking about the age of the monument, the top Iranian archaeologist said: "The sum of written documents, building materials, motifs used to decorate the facade of the building, the Carbon 14 (C-14) dating method, and some other evidence reveal that this structure was built after 539 BC in honor of the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus the Great."

The empire, founded by the Persian kings Cyrus and Darius, stretched from the Balkans to Central Asia at its peak. It was the first state model based on diversity and tolerance of different cultures and religions.

Once Cyrus and his army entered the city of Babylonian, they did not burn it to the ground (as usually happened with conquered cities at this period) but he freed the population from forced labor obligations, sent back to various shrines statues of gods, and allowed the people who had been brought to Babylon by the Babylonian kings to return to their homes. By this act, he was effectively allowing people to pursue unmolested their own religious practices.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain



of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The city was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of

architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world's greatest archaeological sites.

Persepolis was the seat of the government of the Achaemenid Empire, though it was designed primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for the receptions

**Supervised by a joint mission of Iranian and Italian archaeologists and cultural heritage experts, the dig uncovered vestiges of a massive gateway measuring 30 by 40 meters with a height of approximately 12 meters.**

## Imam Mosque: a grand, sparkling jewel of Islamic architecture

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — At the southern end of the UNESCO-registered Imam (Naghsh-e Jahan) Square stands the big, grand, and imposing Imam Mosque in the touristic city of Isfahan, central Iran.

Visitors to the mosque are mainly overwhelmed with good views of the main dome with its glorious profusion of turquoise-shaded tiles as one of the masterpieces of the Islamic architecture.

Originally named Masjed Shah ("the Shah Mosque"), its construction began in 1611 during the rule of the Safavid King Shah Abbas the Great who reigned from 1588 to 1629. The mosque's topmost dome was completed in the last year of his sovereignty.

The monument is not only impressive because of its sheer size and incredible decorations but also helps to get a good impression of the needs and challenges of always on-going restoration works.

The craftsmanship continues and is intricate with amazing views both on the façade and the interior. The monument boasts perfect proportions and iconic blue-tiled mosaics.

A very picturesque huge entrance portal welcomes people to the mosque. It is built to face the square though

the mosque is oriented towards Mecca. A short corridor connects the square to the inner courtyard that is surrounded by four imposing iwans (porticos) with a pool dedicated to ritual ablutions nesting in the middle.

The walls of the courtyard feature sunken porches framed by seven-colored tiles of deep blue and yellow. Each iwan leads into a vaulted sanctuary covered with particularly fine floral motifs on a blue background.

Many believe each of the mosque's parts is a masterpiece that leaves a lasting impression. This palace of devotion owes its splendor mostly due to being covered with seven-color mosaic tiles and symmetrical calligraphic inscriptions.

On the other side of the square stands the very delicate Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque which was dedicated to the ruler's father-in-law, Sheikh Lotfollah, a revered Lebanese scholar of Islam who was invited to oversee the construction of the Shah Mosque.

The mosque's interior and exterior walls are fully covered with a polychrome, mostly dark blue, glazed tile revetment above a continuous marble dado. Throughout the whole mosque, except for the sanctuary dome and portal iwan, Shah 'Abbas was keen to minimize labor



costs and time by introducing a novel technique called "haft-rangi" (seven colors).

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. The city is home to many versatile artisans who underpin its reputation as a living museum of traditional culture.

## Kordestan to cater for music-themed tourism

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Music tourism in the western Iranian province of Kordestan needs to be supported and promoted, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The development and prosperity of music tourism in the region is one of the high priorities of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, Yaqub Guylian announced on Monday.

In 2019, the provincial capital of Sanandaj was designated as UNESCO Creative City of Music by the UN cultural body.

The artistic capacities, rich history, and the presence of talented artists in the field of music have made Sanandaj to become a global city of music, the official explained.

The earliest records of compositions and



music in the Iranian plateau dates back thousands of years based on evidence that came to light by the "pre-Iranian" archaeological records of Elam, the oldest civilization in southwestern Iran.

Iran is the birthplace of the earliest complex instruments, which date back to the third millennium BC. A number of trumpets made of silver, gold, and copper were found in eastern Iran that are attributed to the Oxus civilization and date back between 2200 and 1750 BC. The use of both vertical and horizontal angular harps have been documented at the archaeological sites of Madaktu (650 BC) and Kul-e Fara (900–600 BC), with the largest collection of Elamite instruments documented at Kul-e Fara. Multiple depictions of horizontal harps were also sculpted in Assyrian palaces, dating back between 865 and 650 BC.

Pointing to the importance of music tourism in the world he noted that this valuable branch of tourism could promote Iranian

regional and folk music and lead to a tourism boom in the region.

Music tourism is a lucrative industry for many regions of the world, and it refers to people traveling to a new area in order to attend a music show or concert, or even a larger festival.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

## Bandar Khamir on way to become sustainable travel destination

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The southern Iranian port city of Bandar Khamir, which has recently joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities, seeks to be a sustainable travel destination.

A sustainable tourism approach, instead of being at risk of overtourism, is top on agenda to be materialized in Bandar Khamir as the latter would eventually cause cultural shocks for the locals and harm the city itself and its pristine environment, Mehr quoted city's mayor as saying on Sunday.

In September 2020, the city joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities and received a certificate of membership in the network, people who felt frustrated and isolated before, became proud of their city's tourism capacities, Javad Mahmudi added.

Situated in Hormozgan province and bounded by the



Persian Gulf, Bandar Khamir is the only city located on the coasts of the Khorkhoran Wetland, one of the largest and most

important marine environments in the Islamic Republic.

Traveling to the Persian Gulf region would be an experience that you probably haven't even considered. While you've been planning your Iranian sojourn around the jewels of the country's rich history (Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd), to the southeast the Persian Gulf is equally deserving.

Explore the magnetic islands of Kish, Qeshm, and Hormuz, which are absurdly easy to combine and are altogether different. While Kish is unashamedly glam and glitzy, Qeshm and Hormoz are refreshingly void of large-scale development and offer a chance to glimpse a more traditional way of life — not to mention an array of geological wonders. Along the coast, soak up the vibes of lively Bandar Abbas and make a beeline for the delightful town of Kong, whose historical center is peppered with charming old houses and monuments.



# Over 5,800 projects to be inaugurated in rural areas

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Municipalities and Rural Administration Organization will inaugurate 5,811 development projects in rural areas during Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (January 31-February 10, marking the 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution).

A total of 11.6 trillion rials (nearly \$278 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been spent on these projects, Ali Ghorbani, deputy head of the organization, said.

Most of the projects, equivalent to 71 percent, is related to the field of road maintenance, he stated.

Other projects include creating fire stations, green spaces, sport, and cultural places, he added, Mehr reported on Monday.

Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

A total of 220 trillion rials (nearly \$5.6 billion) has been approved for the develop-



ment of villages in the current year (March 2020-March 2021), Omid said.

Some 140 trillion rials (about \$3.3 billion) have so far been spent, he noted, adding, the unemployment rate in rural areas has reached 7.4 percent, which has decreased by over one percent compared to last year.

In October 2020, Omid stated that the rural development projects worth 130 trillion rials (nearly \$3 billion) inaugurated on the occasion of the National Day of Villagers and Nomads.

He went on to state that 6,750 construction projects will come on stream in various fields such as roads, communications, etc. In addition, a total of 26,512 projects will be launched throughout the country.

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

## One million documented foreign nationals residing in Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran is hosting to some one million documented foreign nationals, and perhaps another one million are illegally living in the country, deputy minister of interior has stated.

Some 700,000 foreign nationals illegally residing in Iran are expelled annually from the country, but many of whom return back for different reasons, IRIB quoted Javad Naserian as saying on Monday.

He went on to note that recently, a system has been set up to manage, guide, and organize foreign nationals in the country.

At the end of 2018, Iran hosted close to one million refugees, making it the sixth-largest refugee host country in the world.

Iran also was the eighth largest refugee-hosting country in the world in 2019, hosting 951,142 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees, according to the UNHCR.

One of the largest and most protracted urban refugee populations in the world are living in Iran; about 97 percent of



refugees live in urban and semi-urban areas, while three percent are residing in 20 refugee resorts run by the UNHCR's main government counterpart.

Undocumented Afghans have access to free primary health services and similarly free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like nationals.

In Iran, UNHCR is seeking \$16.2 million for its COVID-19 emergency, while requires an additional \$98.7 million to support Iran in maintaining and sustaining its commendable inclusive refugee policies, under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.

## Iranian tech delegation aims to promote products in Armenia

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A delegation comprising representatives of 40 Iranian knowledge-based companies are scheduled to visit Armenia with the aim of promoting their technological products and expand the market in the neighboring country.

Organized by the vice presidency for science and technology, the four-day visit will be held from February 16-19, ISNA reported on Monday.

On January 27, Vice-President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, met with Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan in Tehran to discuss ways to expand technological cooperation.

Praising Iran's scientific and technological achievements, Kerobyan said "We agree with the implementation of a project in the field of creating a joint technology park between Iran and Armenia as soon as possible and the formation of a team to develop bilateral cooperation."

Sattari, said for his part, that Iran has four million students with high knowledge capacity so that the country relies on them to move toward a knowledge-based economy. There are currently 6,000 knowl-



edge-based companies operating in Iran, and last year they generated a revenue of about \$12 billion, he highlighted.

He emphasized that Iran has the largest startups in the region in the field of information and communication technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, stem cells, etc., and about 50 technology parks have been formed throughout Iran.

Noting that 98 percent of the medicine needed in the country is produced domestically, he said that a large number of Armenian scientists and academics are studying in Iranian universities.

He emphasized the need to expand cooperation in the field of joint technology parks and student exchange.

## Half of global wastewater treated, rates in developing countries still lagging

A new study by scientists at Utrecht University and the United Nations University concludes that about half of global wastewater is treated, rather than the previous estimate of 20%. Despite this promising finding, the authors warn that treatment rates in developing countries are still very low. The study and its dataset were published Open Access in the journal Earth System Science Data. Humans and factories produce vast quantities of wastewater per day. If not properly collected and treated, wastewater may severely threaten human health and pollute the environment.

### 144 million swimming pools

The authors use national statistics to estimate volumes of wastewater production, collection, treatment and reuse. "Globally, about 359 billion cubic metres of wastewater is produced each year, equivalent to 144 million Olympic-sized swimming pools," says Edward Jones, Ph.D. researcher at Utrecht University and lead author of the study. "About 48 percent of that water is currently released untreated. This is much lower than the frequently cited figure of 80 percent."

While the results show a more optimistic outlook compared to previous work, the authors stress that many challenges still exist. "We see that particularly in the developing world, where most of the future population growth will likely oc-



cur, treatment rates are lagging behind," Jones explains. "In these countries in particular, wastewater production is likely to rise at a faster pace than the current development of collection infrastructure and treatment facilities. This poses serious threats to both human health and the environment. There is still a long way to go."

### Creative reuse

The main problem, especially in the developing world, is the lack of financial resources to build infrastructure to collect and treat wastewater. This is particularly the case for

advanced treatment technologies, which can be prohibitively expensive. However, the authors highlight potential opportunities for creative reuse of wastewater streams that could help to finance improved wastewater treatment practices.

"The most obvious reuse of treated wastewater is to augment freshwater water supplies," Jones says. Treated wastewater reuse is already an important source of irrigation water in many dry countries, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. However, only 11% of the wastewater produced globally is currently being reused, which shows large opportunities for expansion.

### From 'waste' to resource

"But freshwater augmentation is not the only opportunity," says Jones. "Wastewater also has large potential as a source of nutrients and energy. Recognition of wastewater as a resource, opposed to as waste, will be key to driving improved treatment going forward."

However, the authors stress the importance of proper monitoring of wastewater treatment plants, accompanied by strong legislation and regulations, to ensure that the reuse of wastewater is safe. The authors also acknowledge public acceptance as another key barrier towards increasing wastewater reuse.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → چ

## Wildfire extinguished in northern forests

Wildfire, erupted in northern forests of Gilan province over the past 2 days, has been fully extinguished, commander of the protection unit of natural resources and watershed management organization of Gilan has stated.

According to the latest statistics, approximately 130 hectares of forests in Gilan province have been burnt in recent days, IRNA quoted Mohammad Qorbani as saying on Sunday.

He went on to say that 99 percent of fires in 13 cities of Gilan province have caused no serious damage to the trees.

In spite of the complete containment of fire, the protection unit is on full alert, he further noted.

Appreciating all the forces who made efforts to control the wildfire, he concluded that fire broke out in various cities, including Rezvanshahr, Talesh, Roudbar, Siahkal and some others.

## آتش سوزی جنگل های گیلان مهار شد

فرمانده یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری گیلان گفت: آتش سوزی جنگل های استان گیلان پس از ۷۲ ساعت تلاش، کاملاً مهار شد. سرهنگ محمد قربانی لرد عصر روز شنبه در گفت و گوی اختصاصی با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: بر اساس آخرین آمارها به صورت تقریبی حدود «۱۳۰ هکتار» از اراضی جنگلی استان گیلان در چند روز اخیر دچار آتش سوزی شدند.

وی افزود: ۹۹ درصد از آتش سوزی جنگل های ۱۳ شهرستان استان گیلان سطحی بوده و خسارت جدی به درختان وارد نشده است.

فرمانده یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری گیلان خاطر نشان کرد: به رغم مهار کامل آتش در جنگل های استان، نیروهای یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری در آماده باش کامل هستند.

وی ضمن قدردانی از تمامی نیروها در مهار آتش در جنگل های استان گیلان اضافه کرد: آتش سوزی در سطح شهرستان های مختلف استان از جمله رضوانشهر، تالش، رودبار، سیاهکل و غیره روی داده.

## How to predict the unpredictable in a changing climate

The retreat of an Alaskan glacier in the Barry Arm fjord, caused by rising temperatures, has left a steep and hefty land mass without structural support. If the hillside collapses in a landslide, millions of tons of rock and soil will plummet into the waters below, generating a wave of water hundreds of feet tall, endangering nearby coastal towns. Perhaps even more troubling, scientists cannot predict the timing of the collapse and resulting tsunami with certainty, making preparation difficult.



Centering its focus on this example, a recent study discusses how studying past trends and using simulations can help to manage the unfamiliar and unpredictable impacts of climate change. Authored by Miriam Matejova and Chad M. Briggs, the paper was published in Global Environmental Politics.

One of the key tools that the authors discuss is scenario analysis, which involves studying past trends in order to extrapolate possible futures. For example, scenario analysis can be used to predict population growth, increases in temperature, or future levels of CO2 emissions. However, studying past trends can only help so much as climate change will bring new risks. In order for scenario analysis to be effective in predicting environmental risks before they become hazards, they must incorporate a higher level of complexity. In many instances, simple models that rely on only one or two variables will not provide accurate predictions of how complicated social and environmental systems will react to change. As an example of how adding complexity helps, the authors highlight an enhanced scenario analysis conducted in Hawaii to look for systemic vulnerabilities to tropical storms or tsunamis on the island of Oahu. New risks related to food and energy infrastructure were identified for which the island in question would be otherwise unprepared.

In addition to scenario analysis, the authors suggest simulations as another way to prepare for impending risks. Simulations are defined as realistic situations which allow participants to train and practice responding to certain circumstances. With their origins in military settings, simulations, also known as wargaming, have been used to design environments that test, measure and improve behavior and decision-making in complex and uncertain situations. For example, military officers often participate in simulations, learning how to implement certain strategies and tactics while under pressure. For natural disasters, simulations might involve political actors learning how to mobilize large groups of people, institutions learning how to provide proper aid and relief, or communities learning how to make decisions while managing risk.

Humans have, to an extent, learned to adapt their behavior based on past experiences and to make plans for disasters based on typical trends. But the Barry Arm tsunami risk highlights a crucial implication of climate change. As the environments and ecosystems surrounding human communities shift, being prepared becomes far more difficult. Beyond just fjords and glaciers, other ecosystems may also develop new, perhaps unnoticeable risks as a result of climate change. How effective will current measures for preparation and response be in the face of unfamiliar and unexpected risks?

In an interview with GlacierHub, Sue Perry, a former disaster scientist for the United States Geological Survey, spoke of her experience with a risk familiar to many today: "In my universe, everyone who ever went near an ocean would know that tsunamis are rare but can happen at any time, and that—depending on how far away the tsunami starts—they could have hours or a scant few minutes to take action. They'd know the warning signs that a tsunami is imminent, how to get to safety, that a tsunami can move a mile or more up rivers, and that tsunamis can send more than one damaging wave ashore." But as circumstances change, communities that were once unaffected will need to learn to manage new disaster threats. Even communities that have had experience with natural disasters may need to adjust as well.

The authors suggest that scenario analysis and simulations should play a key role in identifying weak signals, such as the change in the Barry Arm Fjord, that have been overlooked. They define weak signals as "pieces of information that may seem random but reveal important patterns if interpreted in a new context." Such signals are often ignored, whether it's due to misinterpretations or the psychological avoidance of unfavorable outcomes.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 127)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### ■ Antonyms and Synonyms

### ■ مخالف و هم‌معنی

بعضی از کلمات یا عبارات دارای معنی مخالف هم هستند و کلمات یا عبارات مخالف به شمار می‌روند:

همیشه ≠ هرگز

هرکس ≠ هیچ‌کس

بعضی دیگر، کلمات یا عبارات هم‌معنی به شمار می‌روند:

نام = اسم

چگونه = چطور

● تمرین ۳. کلمات هم‌معنی و مخالف را به هم وصل کنید:

باز سرد شغل سیر درس خواندن سؤال آهسته شلوغ

گرسنه کار گرم بسته خلوت تند جواب تحصیل

### ■ Coordinate Conjunction

### ■ حرف ربط همپایه

من هم گرسنه بودم هم تشنه. I was both hungry and thirsty.

او نه گرسنه بود نه تشنه. He was neither hungry nor thirsty.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
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» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta 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

Loving humanity is second only to having faith in Allah as one of the best deeds in Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

“The Forever War” by Joe Haldeman comes into Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of “The Forever War” by Joe Haldeman has recently been published by Tandis Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Navid Farrokhi. The Earth’s leaders have drawn a line in the interstellar sand, despite the fact that the fierce alien enemy they would oppose is inscrutable, unconquerable and very far away. A reluctant conscript drafted into an elite military unit, Private William Mandella has been propelled through space and time to fight in the distant thousand-year conflict; to perform his duties and do whatever it takes to survive the ordeal and return home. But “home” may be even more terrifying than battle, because, thanks to the time dilation caused by space travel, Mandella is aging months while the Earth he left behind is aging centuries.

Having won the Hugo and Nebula Award’s more times than any other author, Joe Haldeman is an ultimate household name in science fiction. A Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, since the original publication of “The Forever War”, Joe has maintained a continuous string of SF bestsellers, and as a speaker and panelist, has been a constant presence on the SF convention circuit.

A longtime tenured professor of creative writing at MIT, beyond his own career, from Cory Doctorow to John Scalzi, Haldeman is widely acknowledged as a key mentor figure to many of this generation’s crop of rising SF stars.

Haldeman is the author of 20 novels and five collections. His other notable titles include “Camouflage”, “The Accidental Time Machine” and “Marsbound” as well as the short works “Graves”, “Tricentennial” and “The Hemingway Hoax”. SFWA president Russell Davis called Haldeman “an extraordinarily talented writer, a respected teacher and mentor in the community and a good friend.”

Haldeman officially received the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master for 2010 by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America at the Nebula Awards Weekend in May, 2010 in Hollywood, Fla.

Fajr festival showcases works by artists gaining global recognition for Iranian art

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — The 13th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts, underway at the Saba Art and Cultural Institute, is displaying works by Iranian artists who have been honored at international art events across the world in 2019 and 2020.

Over 160 artworks by 67 artists of various fields of visual arts have been selected to be showcased in a special section entitled “World Stars of Iranian Art”.

The section features works in the forms of photography, cartoon, illustration, painting, calligraphy and miniature, which have been acclaimed at international events in various countries, including Kirghizia, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

Over 700 artworks by 511 artists have been put on display at the Fajr festival, which opened on Saturday.

Coronavirus restrictions and the pandemic have given the artists more opportunities to create artworks. Some of the artworks on the theme of COVID-19 have been showcased in a special section.

A selection of artworks by top female artists from all the previous editions of the Fajr Festival of Visual Arts has been shown in the virtual exhibit “Shadow of Tooba” in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima (SA), the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (S).

A total of 103 artworks by 92 female artists who have been the recipients of Golden Tooba awards from the festival have been displayed in the exhibit.

The selection is available on the website and Instagram page of Iran’s Institute for Development of Contemporary Visual Arts.

Nine veteran Iranian artists will be honored with lifetime achievement awards this year.

The honorees are master of sculpture and ceramics Jafar Najibi, cartoonist Ahmad Abdollahinia, illustrator Saeid Razzaqi, painter Garnic Derhakupian, miniaturist Khashayr Qazizadeh, graphic designer Ahmad Aqaqolizadeh, art researcher Yaqub Ajand, photographer Mohammad-Hossein Heidari and calligrapher Mohammad Salahshur.

In addition, the festival displays a collection of 93 calligraphy works competing in the festival this year.

“Without Anything”, “Yadoo” lead nominees at Fajr Film Festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — “Without Anything”, a loose adaptation of Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s “The Visit” and the war drama “Yadoo” lead the nominations at the 39th Fajr Film Festival.

The movies each have received nominations in 13 categories, including best film and best director.

Parviz Parastui has been nominated for the best actor award for his role in “Without Anything” directed by Mohsen Qarai, while Setareh Pesyani has been nominated for the best actress award for her role in “Yadoo” directed by Mehdi Jafari.

Both movies are also competing in the best screen adaptation award.

“Yadoo” has been made based on Iranian writer Samad Taheri’s short story “Lion Wound”, which is from his short story collection of the same title.

“Yadoo” tells the story of a teenage boy named Yadu living with his family and people under siege in the southwestern Iranian city



“Yadoo” by Mehdi Jafari.



Cultural officials unveil CDs of the symphonic poem “The Bright Path”.

Symphonic poem “The Bright Path” released

**→1** Speaking in a press conference on Sunday, a deputy director of the organization, Alireza Zandvakili, said that the statement released by the Leader actually portrays a bright and clear path for the future of the Islamic Revolution and outlines the strategy that the country should pursue 40 years after the victory of the revolution.

Composer Parsafar also present at the conference said that the symphonic poem was composed in seven movements, with nine musicians accompanied by a chorus.

Amir-Hossein Samiei, who is the director of the Music and Song Department of the organization, also said that “The Bright Path” is the second part of a trilogy by the organization with the central theme of the

Second Phase of the Revolution.

“A team of young musicians from the third generation of the revolution has collaborated in the project,” he said, and added that the symphonic poem is now available for interested applicants on all authorized websites.

He also noted that the third part of the trilogy will be dedicated to the health care and medical staff in confronting coronavirus and those who lost their lives during the pandemic.

The organization released “The Soldier” in commemoration of the first martyrdom anniversary of Commander Qassem Soleimani in December 2020. Arman Mehraban composed the piece with lyrics by Ali-Mohammad Moaddab.

Fajr Music Festival to honor three musicians with lifetime achievement awards

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Veteran musicians Mohammadreza Es’haqi Gorji, Maliheh Saeidi and Hassan Nahid will receive lifetime achievement awards at the 36th Fajr Music Festival, the organizers announced on Monday.

They also plan to pay tribute to composer Ahmad-Ali Ragheb, who died of cancer last December.

Es’haqi Gorji, 73, is a dotar virtuoso who is an expert on the folk music of the Mazandaran region. He has recorded over ten albums of Mazandaran folksongs, including “The Epics”, “Love Songs” and “Titi Kak”.

He has also contributed to ritual performances, including tazieh, that are organized during religious occasions every year.



This combination photo shows images of Iranian musicians Mohammadreza Es’haqi Gorji, Maliheh Saeidi, Hassan Nahid and Ahmad-Ali Ragheb.

Saeidi is a veteran qanun player who has also written several books about the history of the instrument. She has her own special style of playing, which helps musicians improve

their performance in Iranian music.

The 72-year-old musician has collaborated as a composer in the children’s album “Sabze Rizeh Mizeh”, which was recorded by pianist Saman Ehteshami and actor Hamid Jebeli.

Ney virtuoso Nahid has recorded many albums with santur virtuoso Faramarz Payvar, who was also a prominent composer.

They remade numerous works by Iranian musicians, including Abolhassan Saba, Ali-Naqi Vaziri, Ruhollah Khaleqi and Rokneddian Mokhtari.

Ragheb was known as “one thousand music man” and wrote music for numerous revolutionary songs.

The epic piece “Congratulations on This Victory” was one of his most famous works composed with a poem by Hamid Sabzevari on

May 24, 1982 hours after the liberation of the southwestern Iranian city of Khorramshahr during the Iran-Iraq war.

The song was recorded with singer Mohammad Golriz who also collaborated with Ragheb on another revolutionary piece “This Is the Call of Freedom from the Orient” composed by poet Sabzevari.

He also wrote music for Sabzevari’s “USA, USA, Shame on Your Deceits!”, which was performed by a chorus and solo tenor Esfandiar Qarabaghi after the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting holds over 1,400 compositions by Ragheb in its archives.

Due to the pandemic, the 36th Fajr Music Festival will be running online from February 16 to 21.

Iranian artist unveils new stringed instrument

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian artist Mohammadreza Ildar-Jaleh unveiled his innovative musical instrument named “moraj” on Sunday.

The unveiling ceremony was organized during the closing ceremony of the 12th Woodwork Exhibition at Tehran’s Niavaran Culture Center.

The instrument takes its name from the first letters of the artist’s full name who is an expert in making the tar and setar, two Iranian stringed instruments. Moraj is a three-string instrument like a fiddle, played with the fingers.

Ildar-Jaleh said that he has been spending years repairing musical instruments, adding, “I have repaired over 4000 instruments and have good knowledge about them, and I have tried to remove the deficiencies and other problems I have faced in the instruments in my new moraj,” he said.

He said that he loves his country and wants to introduce Iran and Iranian culture to the world with new sounds through new instruments.

Speaking at the ceremony, Abdolmajid Sharifzadeh, an official of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage



Mohammadreza Ildar-Jaleh’s innovative instrument moraj.

and Tourism, said that handicrafts are practical products that enjoy creativity and uniqueness.

He said that the group has made its efforts to preserve and revive traditional arts in different arenas including music, ritual plays and other related arts, and added, “Carrying out research in different fields of traditional arts is among the activities of the group.”

He said that the types of art related to wood enjoy great variety in the country.

“Making musical instruments is also one of the traditional arts related to wood. We have not had a big change in the art of instrument making, but we hope there will be a big change in this field,” he said.

Inventing new musical instruments can help preserve traditional art and add a new sound to the previous instruments.

Sarvar Bakhti, the president of the ECO Cultural Institute, also present at the ceremony, said that the art and culture of Iran is a hope for life and that cultural ceremonies are needed for society these days.

Pointing to the new instrument, he said the art of Ildar-Jaleh is also refreshing and pleasing.

He said that the world should know that this part of the world enjoys such valuable and impressive arts.

A large collection of wood artworks in the forms of intarsia, marquetry, wood turning, lattice work, inlay and bas-reliefs, all created by Iranian artists, went on view at the exhibition.

The Research Institute of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) was the main organizer of the showcase.

New Persian translation of Ali Smith’s “Autumn” released

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A new **d e s k** Persian translation of Scottish author Ali Smith’s 2016 novel “Autumn” has recently been published in Tehran.

Ruzbehan is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Armin Kazemian.

“Autumn” is about Daniel Gluck, a 101-year-old former songwriter, who lies asleep and dreaming in his care home. He is regularly visited by 32-year-old Elisabeth Demand, who had been his next-door neighbor as a young child. Her mother had disapproved of their early friendship, but Elisabeth had nevertheless formed a close bond with him and been inspired by his descriptions of works of art. As a consequence of his influence on her, Elisabeth is now a junior arts lecturer at a London university. A major character in

the novel is the long-dead ‘60s pop artist, Pauline Boty, the subject of Elisabeth’s graduate school thesis. The story largely alternates between Daniel’s prolonged dreams as he edges closer to death, and Elisabeth’s recollections of the origins of their friendship and its repercussions.

The book, first published by Hamish Hamilton, is the first of four seasonal “state of the nation” works. Written rapidly after the United Kingdom’s 2016 European Union membership referendum, it was widely regarded as the first “post-Brexit novel” dealing with the issues raised by the voters’ decision.

In July 2017, “Autumn” was longlisted for the 2017 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and in September 2017 it was announced as one of six books to make the shortlist. Many newspapers viewed it as the most

likely candidate for winning.

The book was named by The New York Times as one of the 10 Best Books of 2017.

Smith was born in Inverness, Scotland, to working-class parents. She was raised in a council house in Inverness and now lives in Cambridge.

She studied at Aberdeen, and then at Cambridge, for a Ph.D. that was never finished. In a 2004 interview with writing magazine Mslexia, she talked briefly about the difficulty of becoming ill with chronic fatigue syndrome for a year and how it forced her to give up her job as a lecturer at the University of Strathclyde to focus on what she really wanted to do: writing.

Two other Persian translations of her novel “Autumn” by Khatereh Baqeri and Floria Vernus have been published earlier in Iran.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Ali Smith’s novel “Autumn” by Armin Kazemian.



# Managing Director of Agricultural Support Services Co.: Providing Potash & Phosphate Soil, Salient Achievement of Government Dubbed “Hope and Produce” for Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency



The phosphate fertilizer production plant will be inaugurated concurrent with the glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic revolution during this year.

Chief Executive of Agricultural Support Services Company said that salient achievements have been taken during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> government dubbed “Hope and Prudence” in line with provision of potash & phosphate soil in line with self-sufficiency of fertilizer.

Currently, of 2.4 million tons of urea fertilizer envisioned according to this year's announcement program, more than 1.9 million tons of which has been distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture, showing an increase of 300 thousand tons as compared to the same period last year.

On the occasion of the glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, we reached out to the Chief Executive of Agricultural Support Services Company Hamid Rasouli which comes as follows.

According to the program of the Ministry of Agriculture, about three million tons of subsidized fertilizers of nitrogen, phosphate and potash should be supplied and distributed by the Agricultural Support Services Company in the current year, 2.4 million tons of which are nitrogen fertilizer (urea) while 600,000 tons of which are phosphate and potash fertilizers.

This is while that in the last 10 years, the plan of the agricultural sector to supply urea fertilizer was about two million tons and in recent years this amount had reached 2.2 million tons, he said, adding, “With the necessary follow-ups made by the ministry in the current year (started March 21, 2020), this number has reached 2.4 million tons i.e. an increase of 200,000 tons as compared to the previous year.”

Although the agricultural sector needs about three million tons of urea fertilizer per year, it is a matter of happiness that it has increased by 200,000 tons as compared to previous years, he continued.

Since the beginning of the year (started March 21, 2020), more than 1.9 million tons of urea fertilizer has been delivered to the agricultural sector by petrochemical companies, which shows an increase of 300,000 tons compared to the same period last year, Rasouli added.

He put the urea fertilizer delivered to the agricultural sector by the petrochemical companies in last year at 1.6 million tons.

This year, despite the fact that the gas of petrochemical companies was cut off for a short period due to cold weather, but with the follow-ups of the Minister of Agriculture and order of the President and First Vice President and Minister of Oil, gas needed by the petrochemical companies connected faster and these companies managed to resume their production activities, he said, adding, “We are not behind schedule.”

According to the agreement made between the company and petrochemical companies in the beginning of the current year, “we will deliver the fertilizer according to the scheduled program in the coming months, so that necessary arrangements have been made in this respect.”

## ■ 45% growth in supply and distribution of urea fertilizer in last 10 years

In the field of supply and distribution of urea fertilizer, the company has registered about 30 percent growth as compared to the previous year and also more than 45 percent growth as compared to

the previous 10 years, he added.

## ■ 140,000 tons of urea fertilizer reserves in the country

Elsewhere in his remarks, CEO of Agricultural Support Services Company added that strategic reserves of basic commodities are of special importance for maintaining the country's food security, so, more than 150,000 tons of urea fertilizers are currently available for strategic reserves and there is no room to be worry about this issue.

He added that these reserves are constantly updated and will be injected into the market if needed for the security of the agricultural sector.

## ■ The rate of urea fertilizer grew only about 19 percent.

Rasouli pointed to the price of urea fertilizer in the current year and added, “Price of each 50 kg bag of urea fertilizer increased slightly from the beginning of January and after a year and a half and reaches at the price of 650,000 Rials to farmers, showing less than 20% growth as compared to the previous year.”

According to him, price of each 50 kg bag of urea fertilizer was 550,000 Rials last year i.e. each kilogram of urea fertilizer has increased by only 2,000 Rials as compared to the previous year, showing the least and lowest price growth as compared to other agricultural inputs.

He stated that both the government and the Ministry of Agriculture, for special support to farmers, seek to supply domestically produced urea fertilizer at a fair and reasonable price so as not to allow the urea fertilizer required by the agricultural sector to increase in price like other agricultural inputs and services.

## ■ Entry of two new petrochemical companies into the urea fertilizer production cycle

Currently, Agricultural Support Services Company provides urea fertilizer required by agricultural sector from Assaluyeh Petrochemical Company, Razi Petrochemical Company, Bandar Imam Khomeini Petrochemical Company, petrochemical companies in Shiraz, Khorasan and Kermanshah.

The amount of fertilizer production volume of these petrochemical companies is more than 6 million tons per year, of which about 2.4 million tons are delivered to the Agricultural Support Services Com-

pany and more than 3.6 million tons of this product are exported to target countries, he added.

By the end of the current year (t end March 20, 2021), two other petrochemical companies such as Lordegan Urea and Ammonia Petrochemical Company and Masjed Soleiman Petrochemical Company are also scheduled to enter the urea fertilizer production cycle.

According to him, Lordegan Urea and Ammonia Petrochemical Company and Masjed Soleiman Petrochemical Company are currently in pilot production stage and it is hoped that the two petrochemical companies will be put into operation in first month of the next Iranian calendar year (April 2021).

## ■ 100,000 tons of urea fertilizer contract with sulfur coating

The Managing Director Agricultural Support Services Company and commissioner of Agricultural Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Project said, “Of course, the plan for the contract of urea fertilizer with sulfur coating for paddy fields in north of the country, amounting to 100,000 tons, is ready, but it has not yet been signed.”

According to him, the technology of urea fertilizer with sulfur coating is that urea fertilizer dissolves immediately in water, but with sulfur coating called frankincense, urea is released after 20 days, which plays an important role in increasing crop production.

## ■ Supply of phosphate and potash soils, salient measures taken by government dubbed “Hope and Prudence” for fertilizer self-sufficiency

Hamid Rasouli, who in addition to being the CEO of Agricultural Support Services Company, has been working as the commissioner of Agricultural Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Project since June of this year with the order of Minister of Agriculture Dr. Khavazi, added, “Despite sanctions terms and conditions as well as currency restrictions, the company is obliged to supply 600,000 tons of phosphate and potash fertilizers in the current year.”

“We have several explored mines regarding the raw materials needed to produce these two types of basic fertilizers,” he said, adding, “The amount of phosphate soil extracted in the country is currently about



150,000 tons and according to the plan, the deficit will be provided through imports.”

The CEO of Agricultural Support Services Company stated, “This year, effective measures were taken to provide phosphate and potash fertilizers, most portion of which is imported. Since we are facing a shortage of phosphate and potash soils, we have to meet most of the needs of these two fertilizers through imports.”

“The mines that we have in the country in the field of phosphate are two mines including Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company and Asfordi Mining Company, which deliver about 150,000 tons of phosphate soil to the producers' factories. Khur-va-Biyabanak Mining Company is producer of potash fertilizer that was left useless with the lowest capacity and now, we have taken effective steps to take advantage of this capacity,” he added.

During the negotiations made between Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and Agricultural Support Services Company, it was decided to increase the capacity of supplying potash soil from the mine this year, so that the capacity of Khur-va-Biyabanak mine reached 30,000 tons this year, which is a significant number for the first year of operation.

“We also invited all the producers of phosphate fertilizers in the country to the company, and we signed contracts with all these factories according to their capacity, and provided them with imported soil for the production of phosphate fertilizers.”

“We are looking to localize the production of phosphate and potash fertilizers in the country,” he said.

“The total number of contracts concluded with domestic producers is about 200,000 tons, while last year it was 20,000 tons,” he continued.

Shortage of phosphate soil was the major concern of the company that “we managed to import 100,000 tons into the country.”

“Our contract with the seller of phosphate soil is long-term and for significant quantities,” he added.

He went on to say that the company has concluded contracts with about 14 factories producing phosphate fertilizer, adding, “We transfer and transport the soil from Bandar Imam Khomeini and Bandar Abbas to these phosphate fertilizer production plants.”

The phosphate fertilizer production plant will be inaugurated concurrent with the glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution during this year.

## ■ Inauguration of Phosphate Fertilizer Production Factory in Bushehr during the victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution (Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies) in the presence of minister of Agriculture.

Rasouli added a Phosphate Fertilizer Production Factory in Bushehr, during anniversary of the Islamic Revolution victory (Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies), will be inaugurated in the presence of minister of Agriculture. This factory named ARKANSHIMI, will produce 100,000 Tons phosphate fertilizers with its subsidiaries in Bushehr and its productions will be supplied for distribution nationally

## ■ Identifying Torud Mine in Semnan Province

Now, to supply potash soil, except for Khur-va-Biyabank mines, Torud mine has been identified in Semnan province, he said, adding, “If these mines are produced with their full capacity, we will not need to import potash soil from abroad.”

He pointed out that the country's need for potash fertilizer is at least 400,000 tons per year. The production capacity of Khur-va-Biyabank mines reached 30,000 tons this year, the amount of which will

increase about 100,000 tons next year (to start March 21, 2021).

He added that exploration operations are currently underway in Torud mines of Semnan province and with the help of expert domestic consulting engineers. According to the negotiations made with the user of the mentioned mines, these mines will be put into operation by 2022.

Regarding the phosphate soil mines, he said: “Considering that the country has several mines that must be operational and phosphate extraction work must begin in these mines, we are now focused on the operation of these mines.”

“We are facing restrictions on the supply of potash soil through imports due to sanctions. Currently, most of the potash soil needed by the country is supplied and imported from Belarus, Russia and Uzbekistan.”

## ■ Phosphate and Potash Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Plan

For this purpose, a significant part of the country's phosphate and potash fertilizers are imported into the country. Therefore, for domestic production, “we faced the problem of restriction of raw materials of phosphate and potash soils and factories that produce soil in accordance with the country's needs.”

This year, “We have finalized five large self-sufficiency plans for the provision and supply of these fertilizers in the current year.”

Within the framework of Agricultural Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Plan, Agricultural Support Services Company has concluded contract with the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) for the distribution of phosphate fertilizers as product of a 500,000-ton factory which is under construction.

Another contract has been concluded with Karun Phosphate Production Company with the production of 200,000 tons of phosphate fertilizers, he said.

Khur-va-Biyabanak Mine is located in Isfahan while Chadormalu and Asfordi Mine companies are located in Yazd, he said, adding, “Torud Mine is located in Semnan province.”

In potash fertilizer, according to the exploration mines and according to the prescheduled program, “we can achieve self-sufficiency in the next three years.”

According to him, the grade of phosphate soil in Iranian mines is different, but in Asfordi and Chadormalu mines, phosphate concentrate is currently produced with a grade of 30%.







## Eng. Taghizadeh CEO of CMICO:

# Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Co. Thinking of Producing Nonferrous Metals, Nonmetallic Products

"Exploration" is the main priority of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company. It is hoped that the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade will pave suitable ways for exploring and increasing mineral reserves by transferring mineral zones in every region of the country.

To learn more about the details, our reporter has conducted an interview with Eng. Naser Taghizadeh Chief Executive of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company which comes as follows.

In the beginning, CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company added, "Basically, steel production has a 'rock-bottom and ceiling' rate. Steel production is reaching its ceiling with a prospect of 55 million tons. Due to mineral constraints, it is no longer possible to do much activity in the development of concentrate production and pelletizing. However, it must be acknowledged that mining activities are reaching its ceiling rate in the country."

He pointed out that priority of activity of the company is focused on producing metal and mining industries, but since Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company is an economic enterprise, "We must move towards activities in various sectors of this field, including non-ferrous and even non-metallic metals."

He stressed the need to achieve goals of the company such as completing the supply chain, creating an extensive rail transportation system, and added: "Currently, our main priority is focused on exploration, and paying attention to the exploration activity can provide suitable ways for maintaining the current situation."

Taghizadeh stated that the issue of exploration is one of the vital measures for the continuation of steel production in the country and realization of producing 55 million tons of steel in the country, he said, adding, "The central desert of Iran is rich with iron ore reserves, but unfortunately, some obstacles such as environmental excuses and existing administrative bureaucracies have prevented

exploration activities as well as receiving operation licenses."

Fortunately, Omid Investment Group, as a major shareholder of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, is associated with the development plans and projects of this company, he maintained.

In the recent visit of the then Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Dr. Modarres Khiabani from Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, he announced that Ministry of Industry is ready to participate in establishing new drilling and exploration company with 49 percent partnership of Omid Investment Group and 51 percent partnership of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company.

On the other hand, many licenses have been issued for the exploitation of some mines in the country but in practice, due to the inability of their owners, these mines have not been exploited, he said, adding, "It is hoped that fate of these mines will be specified at the new instruction of the respected minister of Industry, Mine and Trade."

"We hope that exploration objectives of domestic mining and mineral companies will be realized by the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Alireza Razm-Hosseini."

The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company said that taking basic and practical steps, in accordance with realities and capabilities of the country's major industries, is the key behind economic development in the country and reiterated, "For example, today, following the relentless efforts of three major mining and industrial companies, we are witnessing the implementation of a huge project to transfer water from the Persian Gulf to the central part of the country, the issue that many did not consider this giant project as feasible."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Taghizadeh emphasized the concept of development and given the financial restrictions and situation of government and budget of the country, which is mainly spent on salaries, wages and pension funds, and said, "In the current situation, one of the

ways to achieve industrial and mining goals and sustainable development in general is moving from traditional methods towards the application of common and modern methods in the world."

Emphasizing that one of the aforementioned ways is to oblige large companies to invest and strive for the development of less developed and disadvantaged areas, he added, "Large metal and mining companies and even petrochemical companies, with their investment, can take giant stride in development of one of the deprived provinces all over the country."

Taghizadeh emphasized that by adopting this method and with the cooperation of banks, it is possible to create employment and yield currency exchange.

"Today, we must accept that the government, given the current situation, is not able to invest and develop financially and This method can be the best way to overcome the current situation. In this regard, petrochemical and mining companies can make huge investment for developing underprivileged areas."

Under the current situation that the government is suffering from financial problem, large and mega-sized companies can take giant strides in developing less developed areas in the country.

In the current situation, the government can, with principled policies and with strict supervision, entrust the development of each province to one of the large companies and oblige them to move to other employment-generating industries and encourage these large companies to take giant step in generating employment given the high potential of the region.

For example, a large steel company, which is entrusted with the development of a region or province, should encourage people of the region with its support to produce items such as clothing, high-tech, electrical, agricultural, agricultural products' processing industries, etc.

For example, a large steel production company in Jask, in addition to produce steel, can help construct water desalination



unit and also agricultural greenhouse in the region with its financial support, he added.

The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company said that realization of such an important issue requires national will at the level of government officials, adding, "Suitable condition should be paved for managers and they should not be blamed for small and negligible mistakes."

Empowering managers and supporting fair-minded directors is the prerequisite for reaching such principled policies, he said, adding, "Achieving such principled policies requires empowering managers and supporting honest people so that they can motivate and advance all industries with power, while the government's decision-making mechanism must be in line with the policies of managers appointed for such managerial activities."

While adjusting all policies, government officials should not impose any restrictions for large companies. For example, one should not wait for months to obtain a permit and such obstacles will never lead the country to comprehensive and sustainable development, he reiterated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Taghizadeh pointed to setting up a new industrial zone in Ardakan area and added, "Chador-

malu Mining and Industrial Company will construct a super mega-module steel production unit and a ferrosilicon production plant in the mentioned area between Behabad and Chadormalu Mine within the framework of expansion project. The construction of these projects in the desert area is in compliance with the requirements of environmental protection and with the aim of developing deprived areas, and it is stipulated that residential houses will be constructed for personnel in that area if needed."

The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company added, "We are currently obtaining land, necessary permits and also trying to build a mega-module sponge iron project with a capacity of 1.8 to 2.2 million tons, ferrosilicon-manganese with a capacity of 50,000 tons, refractory brick, casting and so on. The mentioned projects will be constructed in three to four years, if an agreement in principle is obtained. In addition, we are planning to build a railway, electricity transmission line and water desalination system in the mentioned area."

He further reminded indigenization measures taken in this regard and said that Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company with localization of 29,300 parts of

its required parts, in addition to increasing productivity, has also had economic savings as much as over 12,000 billion rials.

Then, CEO of the company pointed to the issue of crude-selling of iron ore and emphasized that "We strongly oppose the sale of crude selling of iron ore or any other mineral and believe that the duties of concentrate and pellets should be increased and suitable ways should be paved for exporting sponge iron."

Taghizadeh stressed that the government should encourage large mining companies to build processing units and ultimately create added value with the participation of the private sector by preventing crude sale of raw materials.

He further announced the company's readiness to buy iron ore in any mine and in any tonnage and said, "Undoubtedly, sustainable development will be achieved by providing raw materials and building production units in different parts of the country in addition to generating employment."

Glimmers of hope should be promoted among people in any way possible, he said, adding, "Although there are really problems in some professions, we must accept that we can materialize all economic objectives in these difficult conditions if we join our hands together and planning wisely."

In the end, Taghizadeh announced the establishment of a public joint stock company with the aim of participation of staff and personnel in stock of the company and added, "By establishing a public joint stock company and trying to share 5,000 employees of the company, we will try to provide all projects to shareholders, so that they can be encouraged to continue their activities at the company with more peace of mind."

This year, the highest record of production and sales of the company was achieved after 20 years, which has been given a good reward to the staff, and "we believe that if the needs of staff and their livelihood are met and production is increased due to increasing efforts of employees and workers, necessary reward and incentive packages will be given to staff."

## A Glance at the Activities of MAPNA Group, a Leading Industrial Enterprise in the Middle East



MAPNA Group is a leading power plant company in the Middle East and North Africa region.

**MAPNA Group** is a conglomerate of Iranian companies involved in development and execution of power, oil & gas, and railway projects, as well as manufacturing main equipment including gas and steam turbines, electric generators, turbine blades and vanes, HRSG and conventional boilers, electric and control systems, compressors, locomotives and other advanced industrial products.

An industrial enterprise, MAPNA Group comprises a parent company along with several specialized companies as its subsidiaries which are active in the fields of engineering, constructing and developing thermal power plants, renewable energy plants, power & heat or power & water co-generation plants, onshore and offshore drilling, execution and development of oil and gas projects, engineering and constructing rail transportation projects, medical imaging services, electrification, repair and maintenance services as well as finance and investment.

**MAPNA Group** is also a manufacturer of a wide range of advanced industrial products including gas and steam turbines, turbine blades, wind turbines, conventional and heat recovery boilers, hydro- and thermal generators, control systems, passenger and freight locomotives, and turbo compressors.

In addition to its over fifty-percent share in the development of Iran's power generation capacity and effective participation in development of oil and gas, rail transportation and healthcare projects, MAPNA Group has been able to play a role in international markets relying on quality and competitive price of its products and services.

### History of MAPNA Group

Established in August, 1993, MAPNA Group's initial purpose was to serve as a general contractor of power plant projects. Gradually, the enterprise turned from a contractor in the 1990s to a manufacturer in the 2000s, and now, to a technology owner.

Since its establishment, MAPNA Group has recorded execution of over one hundred large-scale projects worth more than 35 billion Euros (€30bn). In addition, this prestigious company produces 75 different products and also offers 96 different types of high-quality services to its customers, including:

- Various types of gas turbines
- Various types of steam turbines
- Wind turbines
- Turbine accessories
- Various conventional boilers
- Various turbo-compressors
- Heat recovery steam generators
- Thermal generators
- Hydro generators
- Turbo generators
- Switchboard and security control systems

**MAPNA Group's capabilities in rail transportation production and manufacturing include:**

- Different types of locomotives
- Brake systems
- Switchboard and security control systems
- Mechanical equipment
- Railway electrical equipment
- Signaling and control center

**MAPNA Group's products in oil & gas are:**

- Gas turbines
- Turbine blades



MAP24 Freight Locomotive

- Centrifugal compressors
- Oil pumps
- Tanks

### Investing in MAPNA Group

In today's world, close competition for higher levels of development and progress is an integral part of economic and social programs. Economic development is achieved through the definition of projects in various sectors such as energy, transportation etc. This is where the critical issue of financing and investment is raised.

With the expansion of MAPNA Group's activities and the need to attract capital for projects, the organizational structure was reviewed and in the architecture of the new structure, the Investment Projects Division (IPD) was

established as an important pillars of MAPNA Group.

Wide access to domestic and international markets have given MAPNA an active and constructive role in development of power, oil & gas, and rail transportation projects of the country through individual, direct or mutual investment along with domestic and international investors.

MAPNA Group can be considered as a pioneer in power generation investment. It is the first and largest investor in the construction and development of private power plants in the country. In a period of less than thirty years, MAPNA Group has invested in power plant projects with a capacity of more than 11,000 MWs of existing power plants, valued at more than 5.5 billion

Euros (€5.5bn). More than 1300 MWs of power plant capacity is under construction and development by MAPNA Group at the moment. Having this capacity has made MAPNA Group a key player in the electricity market and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

In the field of thermal (gas and combined cycle) power plants construction, MAPNA Group has commissioned and launched power plants across the country, including South Isfahan (the first privately-funded power plant in the country) Toos Power Plant (Ferdowsi), Assaluyeh, Aliabad (Golestan), Fars (Hafez), Parchsar (the first privately-funded power plant that was raised through an international tender in the electricity industry and paved the way for development of rules and regulations on private power investment), Genaveh, Parand, Sanandaj, Behbahan, Qeshm, as well as Kahak and Aqadk wind farms and also water and electricity co-generation in Qeshm.

### International Investment

By taking a strategic approach to internationalization, MAPNA Group seeks to reinforce its presence in foreign target countries. Selection of target countries for investment in power plant projects hinges upon various factors including rules and incentive packages, fuel provision (by the target country), tariffs and power sale mechanisms, investment risk, and other effective investment-related factors. The two key objectives sought in power investment projects are sustainability in international markets and improved share of the company in target countries.

In investment, in addition to the objective of entering the international markets, forming and increasing market share of the group is also a key objective. MAPNA Group now has regional offices across the world and enjoys industrial cooperation with many prominent & prestigious international companies.



Damavand Combined Cycle Power Plant



MAPNA Genaveh Combined Cycle Power Plant 2



Offshore Drilling Project - Persian Gulf 2



## Note of Eng. Farnoush Nobakht Vice Chairman of Board of Directors and CEO of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC)

Today, urban & inner-city transportation is not just an everyday and routine event. The public transportation fleet is of special importance in metropolises and metro (subway) is also known as a public transportation lifeline and its role in social and cultural development is also seriously taken into consideration by urban management experts.

A complete, orderly, extensive and efficient public transportation system is considered an important need for the developed and developing countries, and having an efficient economic, cultural, social and political system is a prerequisite for countries that are in the field of industrial competition and improving the social structure. Having a fast and safe means of transportation such as metro, which is the most important means of public transportation in large cities today, is also seriously considered in Tehran due to traffic and air pollution, because the metro has an irreplaceable capacity.

The importance of this means of transportation became more and more apparent due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in the country and from the very beginning, Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC) used the experience of other countries and according to health protocols and guidelines instructed by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and put subway trains on the agenda.

In addition, by preparing educational clips, informing and publishing it on social networks, we tried to inform the company's performance and provide the necessary training services through various posters and banners on the subject of observing social distancing, requiring all walks of life to use and wear face masks and observing safety and health issues. Moreover, giant steps have been taken in the field of installing necessary health guidelines and instructions in seven metro (subway) lines of Tehran and its suburbs to create the sensitivity among citizens and subway passengers that at least if they have to get out of the house and use the subway to observe a safe and hygienic distance to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus, COVID-19, disease.

Also, reducing the distance of trains in Tehran metro lines, which was a priority for the company for better service delivery and to help the "Social Distancing" plan, improve the distance between trains' arrival in Metro Line Two from three and a half to three minutes and in Metro Line Three, we reduced it from seven minutes to six minutes for offering better services at the condition that the country is grappling with the pandemic.

Although we have seen a significant reduction in the number of passengers these days due to the spread of COVID-19, we have used all the capacity of the subway to provide better services to the citizens and we have not stopped any of our trains in the parking lots to avoid the congestion of passengers at the seven-lane stations.

Therefore, we used everything we had to deal with the coronavirus, COVID-19, disease and asked passengers to use and wear face masks to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus disease and to better implement the plan of "Observing Social Distancing" by managing travel time from the subway congestion.

So far, more than 99 percent of subway passengers wear face masks.



At present, Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC), with more than 250 kilometers and 130 active stations, has found its place among the citizens of the capital, and on the eve of the 22nd year of operation of the metro, with 7 active lines, we have been able to move about two million passengers daily.

Although the number of passengers has decreased due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in the subway, this is not the actual capacity of the capital's metro, and this capacity will increase with the completion of lines 6 and 7. We hope to reach seven million passengers a day by 2025 based on the transportation and traffic prospects of Tehran.

However, achieving this requires prioritizing funding for the construction and supply of the fleet, as the metro is a leading transportation means in urban transportation system with a "precision, health, and speed" approach.

This very high safety, comfort and convenience means of transportation, which plays a leading role in reducing energy consumption, has increased its proper speed compared to other means of public transportation.

Also, according to statistics, the use of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway as the only means of public transportation within the city is clean from the beginning of operation until the end of 1398 (2020) in a way that it was able to save 76 billion and 556 thousand Rials in fuel consumption costs, which has an effect of 41 billion and 403 thousand Rials on the cost of health care and cleaning due to air pollution and has resulted in saving consumption of 5,741 million liters of gasoline and 570 million liters of diesel.

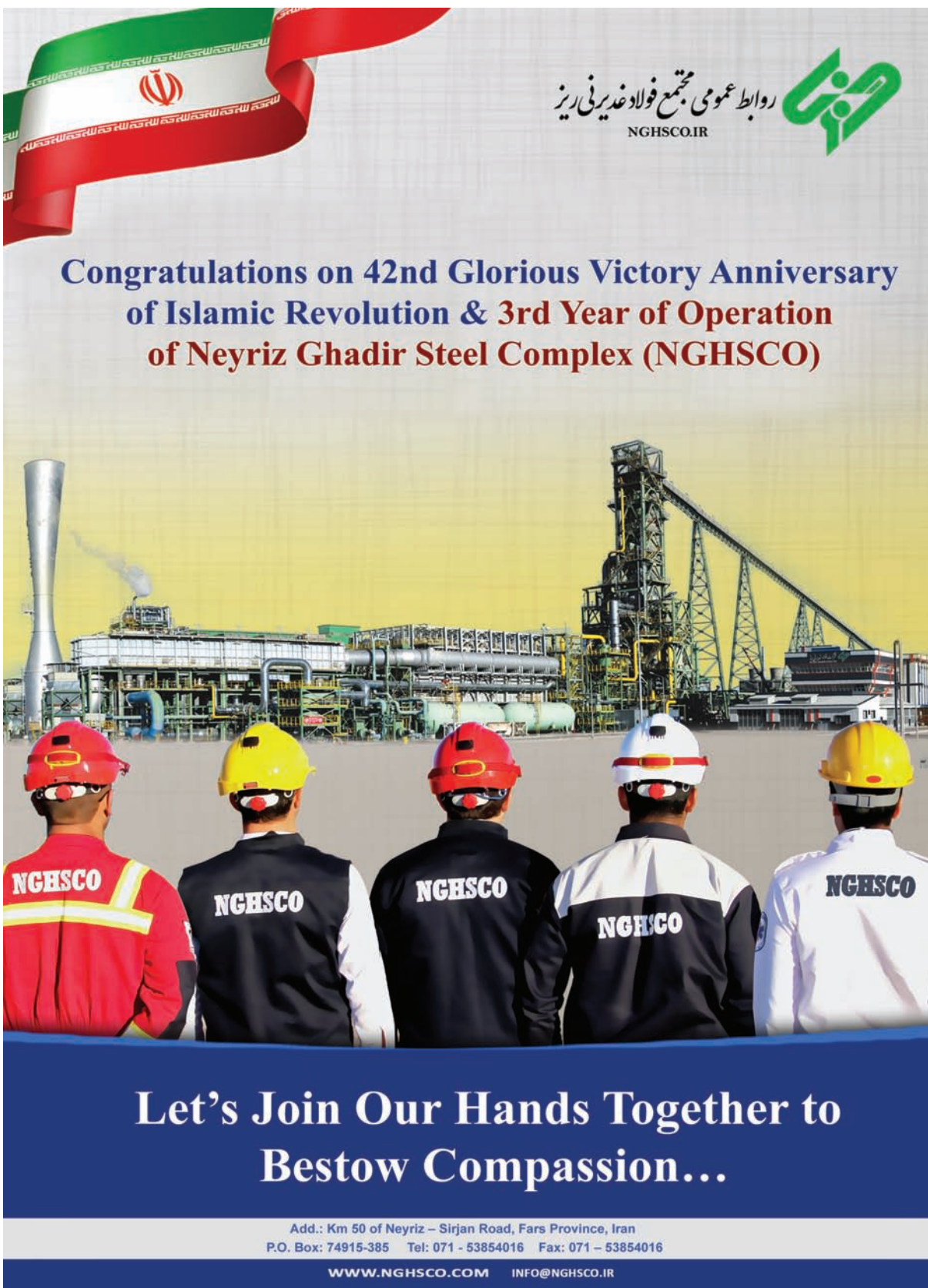
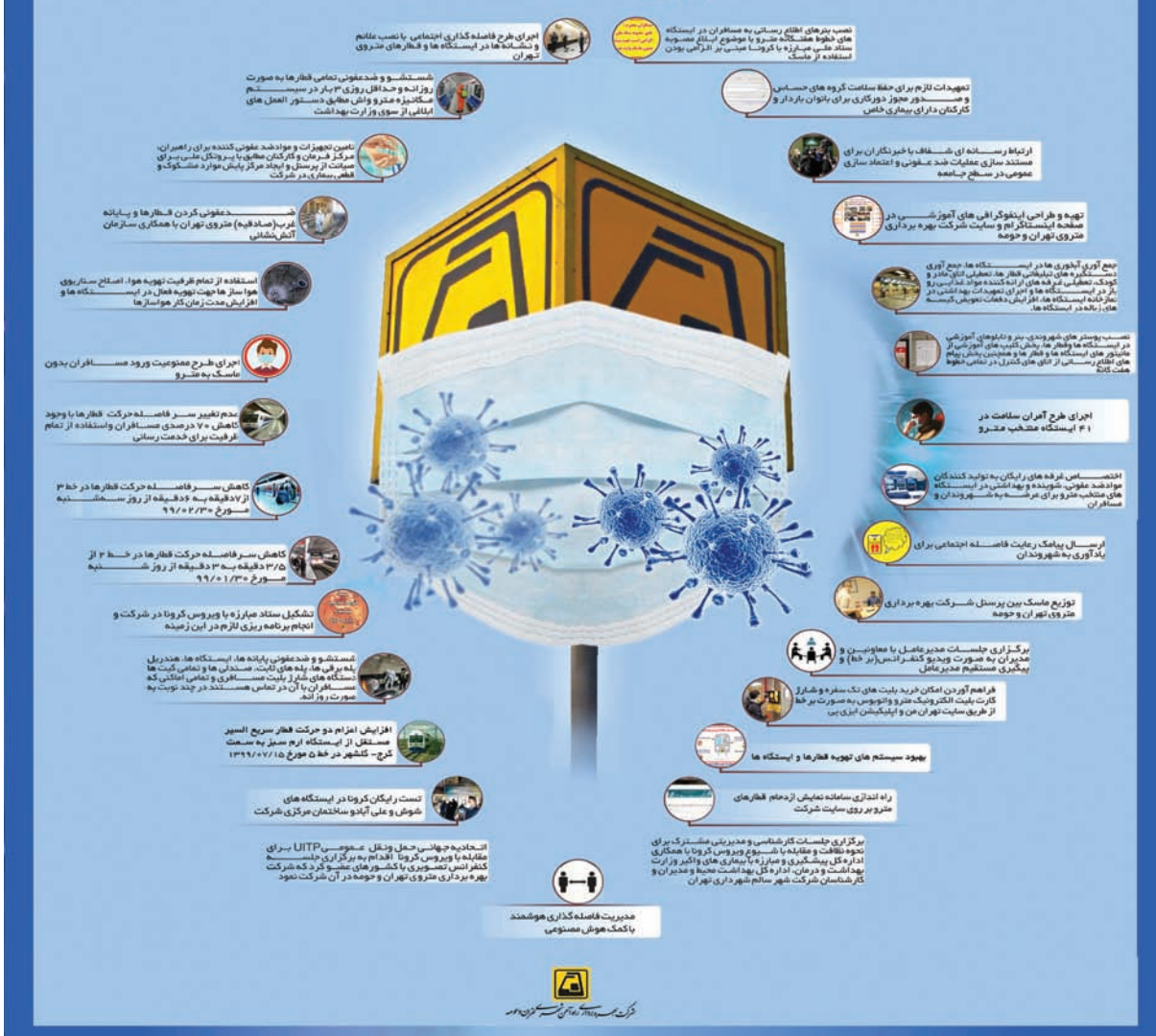
It is worth mentioning that urban tours with Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway have prevented 14,700,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> gas from entering the air of Tehran, while tours performed with Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway during this period has prevented the emission of 2,709 tons of CO, NOX, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM10 and HC gases.

Although Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company needs more equipment, especially wagons, to increase the fleet capacity on the existing lines, which requires funding from the government, we hope that with the help of domestic manufacturers and producers, an opportunity will be provided to meet the metro needs inside the country.

## اهم اقدامات پیشگیرانه شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه برای مقابله با کرونا

19-nCoV

بهمن ماه ۱۳۹۹





# Transparency and Supervision, Salient & Main Feature of Chain Stores

Hossein Sabouri, Acting CEO of Ofogh Kourosh Chain Stores

The market was considered as a platform for the exchange and trade of goods and services before the industrial revolution based on traditional mechanism and based on face-to-face communications but after the industrial revolution and change of social and economic equations, it has diversified and promoted economic activities and finally, increased growth, prosperity and welfare using scientific and technical achievements.

In Iran, with social and economic modernization and its impact on market structure, although the method of distribution of goods has changed as compared to the thirteenth century and centuries before, the dominant distribution system in the country can predominantly be called 'traditional' as compared with the developed countries.

Chain stores, as one of the main elements of the modern distribution system, have been established in Iran since early 1960s, and since then up to the present time, although chain stores in Iran have led to the formation of a more modern distribution system, they still have a small share of Iran's economy.

Generating jobs, helping national production, reducing supply route and distribution of goods, eliminating intermediaries (agents), offering regular discounts and turning the shopping



process into an enjoyable and fun experience are some of the services and benefits of chain stores that have made this industry effective in the country's economy.

But what is an important factor in the expansion of chain stores is the entry of the private sector in this business, which has made chain stores to perform better than before in the field of distribution of goods.

Not only privately-funded chain stores create competition and increase the qual-

ity of service and customer satisfaction, but also these chain stores have created transparency in the best possible way in the field of distribution of goods. High transparency refers to the legal structure of these complexes and the requirements for their management and administration.

Having a clear legal entity makes it mandatory to comply with financial and tax laws throughout the supply chain management, while such requirements are not required for small, independent retailers.

On the other hand, expansion of branches and high turnover of goods in these complexes (chain stores) make recording and monitoring of all events and transactions along supply chain and mechanization of all processes 'mandatory', so that this method of registering and monitoring allows accurate monitoring of external organizations.

Although many recent media reports indicate a weakness due to inflation overshadowing the country, suitable condition has been paved for the possibility of recording and monitoring activity of chain stores.

This transparency, along with supervision, is the main feature of chain stores and the key difference between private and public sectors and the new system with the traditional market mechanism.

Presence of private sector in chain stores and lack of cumbersome restrictions of government bureaucracy and/or small- and large expediciencies that public sector inevitably has to comply with it have increased the transparency of these stores as compared to the public sector, and this transparency has made the monitoring process easier with two concepts i.e. "Monitoring on" and "Supervising in".

"Monitoring in" refers to the monitoring and inspection processes that

chain stores, themselves, apply to input, output, inventory, as well as daily and periodic inspections of their branches consecutively.

It should be noted that looking into the complaints and proposals of customers and clientele as well as responding to their questions are carried out within the framework of 'monitoring' process.

"Monitoring on", however refers to the supervisory bodies outside the chain stores that, due to the high transparency that exists in these stores, can monitor all the processes of ordering, supplying, transferring, warehousing and selling in chain stores.

Easy access to all activities of chain stores such as amount of goods ordered, amount of purchases, process of transferring and entering the goods in the warehouse, storage time of goods and finally exit of goods from the warehouse and entering the store branches and even its final stage is selling goods can be controlled and monitored maximally due to the maximum transparency of chain stores.

It is not unreasonable to claim that popularity and welcome of citizens to chain stores in the last decade has been due to transparency on the one hand and supervision on the other hand.

The two components of "transparen-

cy" and "supervision" at chain stores has created a sense of trust in customers that not only their right to choose is respected but also goods are provided to customers with fair, reasonable and logical price qualitatively and quantitatively.

It goes without saying that price problems of chain stores are much more than other stores working with traditional system of supply and distribution of goods and this is due to the maximum transparency of these stores and also the maximum supervision exerted on these stores.

Definitely, wherever there is more transparency and maximum monitoring is exerted, more flaws and problems will appear. Lack of appearance of problems and defects in the public sector or other similar sectors does not necessarily mean the absence of problems, rather, it can be attributed to a lack of transparency or a lack of oversight.

Trust of customers as a social capital is a product an economic enterprise and owes to transparency and supervision, which is the necessary basis for future activities and also the basis of fight against corruption. Therefore, protection of this trust is a public duty, which depends on appreciating transparency and putting it at the forefront and observing ethics and law in all stages of supervision.



جمهوری اسلامی ایران  
وزارت صنعت، معدن و تجارت

سازمان ترش و نو سازی صنایع ایران

## Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO)

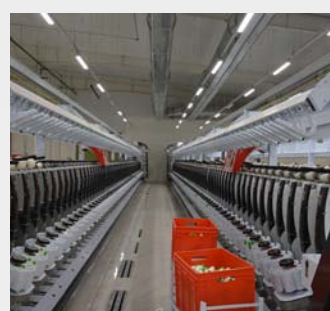
### Performance of IDRO in Executive Projects by Dec. 20, 2020

No.	Title of Project	Total Investment Value (billion rials)	Employment	Physical Progress
1	Plan for setting up fuel bioethanol in Kermanshah Prov.	6,727	152	73.90 percent
2	Second phase of plan to renovate and overhaul Balouch Industries Development Organization (Weaving, Printing and Dyeing Line)	3,900	282	20.00 percent
3	Plan for producing water purification and treatment filters (membrane) in Ilam province	4,457	75	36.00 percent
4	Plan for completion of construction operation of Esfarayen Industrial Complex in North Khorasan province	27,429	230	97.06 percent
5	Plan to set up and commission system for launching vessel and parking of vessels (travel lift) in ISOICO	1,570	560	17.88 percent
6	Plan for construction of phase 1 of Garmsar Special Economic Zone (250 ha) in Semnan Province	2,736	150	62.11 percent
7	Plan for construction of phase 1 of Jahrom Special Economic Zone (85 ha) in Fars Province	1,060	80	58.50 percent
8	Plan for construction of fuel bioethanol production unit in Kohgiluyeh and Boyerahmad Province	9,102	152	14.16 percent
9	Plan for construction and completion of infrastructures of KAVOSH Research Township (Pishro Bloc)	354	25	48.03 percent
10	Plan for construction of dry ponds and logistics (backup) workshops	71,810	5000	80.02 percent



Projects of Four Specialized Desks of Automotive Industry

No. of Project	Value of Contracts	Currency Saving
154	4,460 billion rials	€341 million



Inauguration of new weaving production line and start of construction operation of weaving line of Baft Balouch Industrial Development Company

- 1- Inauguration of new weaving line, costing 2,000 billion rials and generating employment for 150 job-seeking people
- 2- Planning and starting construction operation for the development of weaving line and renovation of printing and dyeing line in order to complete the production process as well as generation of employment for 195 job-seeking people, costing €10 million and 560 billion rials
- 3- Receiving license for planting cotton from Agriculture Organization of the province in order to complete the production chain, ranging from planting cotton to producing fabrics,
- 4- Completion of infrastructures of the company
- 5- Completing, employing and training 150 manpower of the company needed for new weaving and spinning production line

32

### IDRO projects

23

Investment projects: Valued at 424,800 billion rials / 11,507 persons

1

General contracting projects: Valued at \$5,249 billion / 4,236 persons

2

Plan management projects: Valued at \$6,343 billion & 782 million

6

"Surge in Production" projects