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Sepahan beat Esteghlal to move IPL top

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Araqchi: Lifting sanctions only path for U.S. to rejoin JCPOA

TEHRAN - Abbas Araqchi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, says the new U.S. administration must lift the sanctions on Tehran in a verifiable manner in order to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal.

According to the Tasnim news agency, Araqchi emphasized if the U.S. wants "Iran to resume its commitments under the JCPOA, the White House must lift the sanctions that

the administration of former president Donald Trump placed on Iran, including those stipulated in the deal and the bans imposed on the country under new pretexts."

"The U.S. must remove the sanctions in full, not in words or on paper, but in practice," Araqchi told the official website of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in an interview published on Friday.

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Steel ingot output by major producers rises 7%

TEHRAN — Production of steel ingot by the subsidiaries of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) and the other major companies active in the mining sector has increased seven percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported, the mentioned producers have produced 18.75 million tons of steel ingots during the ten-month period.

Although, the production of steel ingot during the tenth month of this year (December 21, 2020 – January 19, 2021) has fallen four percent from that of the same month in the past year.

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Prints by Iranian, international artists on view at Fajr Festival of Visual Arts

TEHRAN – The 13th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts, underway in the Saba Art and Cultural Institute, is hanging a collection of prints by a number of Iranian and international artists in a special section.

Lieve Cosyns, Alwin Viaene, Barbara Lambert, Jan Vermandere, Kara Van Reusel, Mieke De Maeyer, Evan Rosato,

Stef Bossuyt, Arielle Amir, Bernadette Colburn, Rebecca Giles, Lisa Hamilton, Rachel Hoffman, Emma Kellerdori Miller, Hayley Murphy, Christine Petty and Katrina Simonsen are among the international artists whose artworks are on view at the exhibit.

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Israel continues to obstruct attempts to create NWFZ: Russian academic

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN - An associate professor in the Department of Comparative Politics at Russia's RUDN University says Israel is one of the main obstacles to a "nuclear-weapon-free zone" in the region.

"Israel boycotted the conferences for NWFZ in the Middle East (West Asia) and continues to obstruct all attempts to create a nuclear free zone," Vladimir Ivanov tells the Tehran Times.

One of the main obstacles to the NWFZ is the Israeli arsenal of WMDs and its refusal to join the CWC and BWC, Ivanov says.

NWFZ stands for a nuclear-weapon-free zone; CWC for the Chemical Weapons Convention; and BWC for Biological Weapons Convention.

A nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia was first proposed by Iran in 1974. The idea of such a zone was suggested as a way to curb Israel's nuclear ambitions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which replaced the Shah regime in 1979, is insisting on a nuclear weapons-free zone in West Asia.

Despite Iran's adherence to the 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA- the U.S. withdrew from the pact in May 2018 and introduced the harshest sanctions on Tehran under its "maximum pressure" policy. Now the Biden administration seems to be temporizing to rejoin the pact, urging Iran to take the first step.

But the Russian academic emphasizes that "the first step to rejuvenate the JCPOA is the lifting of unilateral U.S. sanctions imposed after May 8, 2018."

The following is the text of the interview: **How do you assess the new American administration's policy towards Iran as Washington wants Iran to take the first step to return to the JCPOA despite the fact that it was the Trump administration that officially withdrew from the deal in 2018.**

Joe Biden, who announced his victory in the U.S. presidential election, will likely adhere to the policy of dialogue with Iran, which will have a positive impact on the fate of the JCPOA. During his race for the presidency, Biden promised that the United States would re-join the JCPOA. The positive aspect of this policy is that it will be based on dialogue and negotiations, as pressure policy was counterproductive. The question is in what order the new U.S. administration will soften its policy towards Iran, given that Tehran has already stopped implementing part of the JCPOA in response to U.S. sanctions.

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Iran may face new wave of COVID-19, Rouhani warns

TEHRAN – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani emphasized the necessity for people to follow health protocols, as a new wave of coronavirus may hit the country within the next two months.

Rouhani made the remarks during a meeting of the national headquarters for coronavirus control on Saturday.

Emphasizing that facing such a great calamity was unprecedented during the century, he said that despite all the advances in medical knowledge, the outbreak of such a global pandemic was unpredictable to anyone.

But the world is still suffering from the disease, as tens of millions of people have been infected, and hundreds of thousands have died, he lamented.

He went on to note that the world could not even find a medicine to treat the disease, "so we moved toward vaccine production, adding, it is not clear when science will succeed in eradicating

the disease, although historical experience has shown that mankind will be victorious in the fight against the pandemics."

However, there is still no better way than avoiding gatherings, washing hands, and observing social distancing to break the transmission chain, he highlighted.

Rouhani further called on the people to observe the hygiene principles, insisting that anyone who enters the country should undergo the COVID-19 test. "We should all join hands to prevent the fourth wave of the outbreak," he asserted.

Iran has taken the primary steps to develop and produce the COVID-19 vaccine and the country's experts are confident that the project will be finalized in March so that Iran will begin mass vaccination with the domestically-produced vaccine, he stated.

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Bahraini protesters stage rallies nationwide on eve of uprising anniversary

Bahrainis have staged demonstrations across the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the popular uprising against the Al Khalifah regime, and its heavy-handed crackdown on pro-democracy campaigners.

On Friday night, demonstrators took to the streets west of the capital Manama, carrying pictures of Bahrain's most prominent cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim, imprisoned political dissidents as well as those killed at the hands of regime forces.

They called for an end to human rights violations and the release of political detainees.

The pro-democracy protesters urged the Al Khalifah regime to relinquish power and allow the establishment of a just system representing all strata of the society.

Elsewhere in the northern villages of Abu Saiba and Shakhura, groups of young demonstrators expressed their solidarity with the pop-

ular uprising and detained anti-regime activists through writing graffiti on walls.

They also wrote the name of Bahrain's monarch King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifah on the streets to be trampled under the feet of protesters and wheels of passing cars.

Youths set tires on fire in the village of Eker, situated about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of the capital, in protest as well.

Bahraini regime forces have been heavily deployed across the country, including Juffair district of Manama plus Ma'ameer and Sanabis villages, on the eve of the anniversary.

Demonstrations in Bahrain have been held on a regular basis ever since a popular uprising began in mid-February 2011.

Manama, however, has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent.

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Iran may be more "democratic" than the U.S. nowadays...

BY MARTIN LOVE

Can it be more evident than it now is: that U.S. foreign policy is not "for" the U.S. or its citizens but for the Zionists.

The Biden Administration is jam packed with Zionists, more so than when Biden served under Obama as vice president. There is apparently nothing these people won't do for the Zionist entity despite the fact that even Israel's leading human rights organization, B'tselem, has declared

it a full-blown Apartheid state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean, and "Israel" is reviled more than ever worldwide. In some ways Biden's Zionist focus is worse even than under Trump, who was just primarily seeking supporters to salve his insecurities and boost ego and justify his narcissism.

Biden is a relatively cunning shill for the Zionists. He knows how Washington has worked traditionally (Trump had little clue).

He is not at all, as Trump often seemed, an "anti-Semite" as witnessed through some of Trump's crude statements. Biden clearly has a vision of two huge military powers, the U.S. and Israel, lording it over West Asia and "securing" mutual "interests", the latter of which boils down to one thing: neither the U.S. nor Israel can be attacked in the region without reactive devastation, and both can continue to do as they please.

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Off-road race in Qazvin

TEHRAN – Some 45 drivers from nine province came together in Qazvin to participate at the off-road race.

The off-road vehicles up to 3500cc competed in the race.

Off-roading is the activity of driving or riding a vehicle on unsurfaced roads or tracks, made of materials such as sand, gravel, riverbeds, mud, snow, rocks, and other natural terrain.

Off-roaders have been met with criticism for the environmental damage caused by their vehicles.

Iranian sweets, crafts win national heritage status

TEHRAN-A total of 18 cultural elements, which are practiced in the central Iranian province of Yazd, have been inscribed on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Saturday announced the inscriptions in an official document it submitted to the governor-general of the province, CHTN reported.

The skill of making Kashki earrings, the skill of cooking traditional food of Shirshu, and the talent of making Haji Badum sweets were amongst entrees to the prestigious list.

The new entrees also include Zoroastrian women's clothing, the skill of making Galu ring and performing eulogies with the method of Master Hossein Saadatmand.

Furthermore, the name of Mohammad Hossein Motevaselian, who is a master in making the traditional sweets of Qottab, was inscribed as Living Human Treasure.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

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Biden team still undecided on their policies, Zarif says

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said he feels that the new Joe Biden administration is still undecided on its policies, insisting on Iran's position that it is the U.S. side that should take the first step in order to resolve the issues surrounding the 2015 nuclear deal.

"It's impossible [for Iran] to take the initiative to make concessions," Zarif said in an interview with China's Phoenix Television broadcast on Wednesday.



Malley

Blinken

Sullivan

Zarif was reaffirming Iran's position on the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was abandoned in May 2018 by former U.S. president Donald Trump in pursuit of "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Trump's exit from the JCPOA has been strongly criticized by U.S. Democrats, including President Joe Biden, who prior to the November presidential election promised to re-enter the deal but has so far reneged on his promise.

"I feel that the Americans have not yet decided on their policies. That's why the White House had to correct Mr. Biden's remarks many times," said Zarif, a few days after Biden said in an interview with CBS that he would not lift sanctions in order to encourage Iran to return to the negotiating table.

In similar remarks in a tweet on Thursday, Zarif said Biden's America remains in exactly the same position as Trump's America. He also urged the U.S. to comply with the deal instead of "spouting off".

Following the U.S. pullout from the JCPOA, Iran waited a whole year for the other parties to the deal — namely the UK, Britain, Germany, Russia and China — to protect its interests as promised in the historic agreement. But as they failed to do so, Iran began to gradually scale down its commitments under the deal in May 2019.

However, Tehran has repeatedly insisted that it will return to full compliance once the other parties, especially the U.S., honor their obligations.

Under the JCPOA endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, Iran is obliged to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

Elsewhere in the interview, Zarif said it is patently obvious that Washington is violating international rules.

"It is obvious who should abandon such policies, which are in violation of international rules, and lift all these sanctions," Zarif remarked.

Referring to Biden's criticism of Trump's pullout from the JCPOA, Zarif said Biden has a clear option of abandoning his predecessor's Iran policy and doing away with the sanctions.

Therefore, he continued, there is no necessity for Iran to take the initiative in returning to full compliance with the deal.

Zarif then clarified his recent remarks on the role European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell can play in order to save the JCPOA.

While the U.S. should take action to lift sanctions, it should also be reassured that Iran would return to compliance with the JCPOA, Zarif said. "And for that to take place, we have a mechanism in the JCPOA called the Joint Commission, which has a chairman called Mr. Borrell, and Mr. Borrell can do this."

In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour earlier this month, Zarif said Borrell could prevent the issue from reaching an impasse by coordinating a synchronized U.S. return into the nuclear pact and Tehran's full compliance with it.

Abbas Araqchi, Zarif's deputy for political affairs, has also said Iran will return to full compliance with the JCPOA only after the U.S. lifts all the sanctions and after Iran will be able to verify the termination of those sanctions.

In an interview with the official website of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei published on Friday, Araqchi said, "The U.S. must lift the sanctions in full, not [merely] in words or on paper, but in practice." Araqchi told khamenei.ir. "We will verify that, and whenever we feel the sanctions are lifted in a proper manner, we will, for our part, return to our commitments."

'A test for Americans'

During his Wednesday interview, Iran's chief diplomat said Tehran is currently waiting to see whether the new U.S. administration would return to the JCPOA, noting, "This would be a test for the Americans."

"When we see the result of the test, any administration that would be in power at the time, would decide how to proceed," Zarif pointed out.

"So far, we have heard nothing but words, and not all the words have been positive," Zarif remarked.

The foreign minister stressed that whenever all of Iran's blocked assets in the world, including money for food and medicine for Iranian people, are unblocked, the country would see that as a goodwill gesture from the U.S. side.

"If the U.S. shows such goodwill, the response to it will definitely be goodwill as well," he added.

Hossein Dehqan, a military advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said on Thursday that the policies adopted by the Biden administration are the same as those pursued under Trump.

"The Biden administration talked about diplomacy, multilateralism and interaction in the international arena as well as returning to its international commitments," Dehqan said in an interview with The Guardian.

He said, however, the Biden administration has not lifted the oppressive sanctions against Iranian people, while continuing to block Iran's oil revenue in foreign banks despite Iran's dire need for that money to fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

"Altogether this means the continuation of Trumpism in international relations," added Dehqan, a former defense minister who is eyeing the June presidential elections in Iran.

In remarks in late January, Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei warned that time is limited for the U.S. to return to its obligation under the JCPOA.

"Of course, the United States will not have time forever, and the opportunity is very limited, not only for the United States but also for the European members of the JCPOA," Rabiei remarked.

Araqchi: Lifting sanctions only path for U.S. to rejoin JCPOA

'America's return to JCPOA will make sense only when it practically leads to lifting of sanctions'

1 → "We will verify that, and whenever we feel the sanctions are lifted in a proper manner, we will, for our part, return to our commitments" under the nuclear agreement, said Araqchi, a top nuclear negotiator.

Araqchi noted that "the America's return to the JCPOA matters to us only when that will lead to the lifting of sanctions," adding, "This is a completely rational position. What we are currently doing... is a reaction to the measures the U.S. has adopted."

"Naturally, if America wants to be a member of the JCPOA again, it must meet all its obligations. If it is going to return and not fulfill its obligations, in our opinion, the U.S. has basically not returned and its membership has not been fulfilled," he remarked.

The top diplomat underlined, "For verification, the effect of lifting sanctions must be seen in practice. According to the JCPOA, they are obliged to lift their own sanctions; now some of the sanctions should be lifted and some should be stopped due to their technical features."

He added, "What matters to us are the



impacts of the lifting of sanctions, not necessarily the lifting of sanctions."

The senior diplomat said what is important is that Iran should be able to sell oil and

receive its money.

"It is important that our oil to be sold and that the problems related to transportation, insurance and all its side issues be solved.

Biden's policy on nuclear deal disappointing Rouhani government: Guardian

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran feels disappointed to hear Antony Blinken, the new U.S. secretary of state, says American sanctions against Iran will not be lifted until Tehran comes back into verifiable "full compliance" with its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, known as the JCPOA, according to the Guardian, a British newspaper.

Blinken noted Iranian compliance would take some time, indicating there is unlikely to be any major movement in negotiations until after the Iranian presidential elections in June. His statement caused some Iranian officials claim the Biden administration was using the same failed policies as Donald Trump.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian foreign minister, has stressed Tehran would come back into compliance with the deal as soon as the U.S. lifted its economic sanctions. He also insisted Iran was not willing to renegotiate the existing deal, or to discuss its missile program.

Iran has moved away from the nuclear deal commitments, including by increasing uranium enrichment level

and warning to reduce the access of the IAEA inspectors to its nuclear sites.

The Iranian Parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, went to the Fordow nuclear site near Qom to be briefed on uranium enrichment stockpiles and preparations for changes to the nuclear inspection regime.

During his visit, Iranian officials declared they intended to install more IR2m gas centrifuges in the next three months. They said Iran had 17kg of stockpiles of 20% enriched uranium, well above the limits set out in the agreement.

Blinken has forged a team with experience of negotiating with Iran, and he is likely taking a maximalist approach before the start of any negotiations. Undoubtedly, he will consult with skeptical Congress over the Iran issue.

He said: "President Biden has been very clear in saying that if Iran comes back into full compliance with its obligations under the JCPOA, the United States would do the same thing and then we would use that as a platform to build, with our allies and partners, what we called a longer and stronger agreement and to deal with a number of other issues

that are deeply problematic in the relationship with Iran."

Consulting with his foreign minister counterparts in Germany, France and the UK, Blinken is seeking a way to handle Iran. Instead of revival of the JCPOA, top EU diplomats are using any opportunity to criticize Iran for its legal nuclear activities. On 12 February 2021, the governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom sharply criticized Iran's production of uranium metal.

Also, 120 U.S. House Republicans signed an open letter urging Biden not to pursue a detente with Tehran. "It is critically important that you do not allow history to repeat itself with a fatally flawed Iran nuclear deal," the Republican lawmakers wrote.

Among the signatories of the nuclear deal, only China and Russia have both called for America's "unconditional" return to the deal.

The presidential term of disappointed Rouhani ends this summer. He will likely be replaced by a conservative candidate, who will possibly adopt a tough approach towards the West and accelerate Iran's nuclear program.

General Salami says IRGC determined to undercut arrogant powers

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Major General Hossein Salami, the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), says the art of the IRGC is to shatter the image of arrogant powers, according to Iran Press.

In a video conference with the commanders of the forces, the provincial corps, and the IRGC Intelligence Protection Organization, General Salami noted, "Due to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, which included the rule of the oppressed and the eradication of arrogance, the world powers did their best to prevent the emergence of this new power and its model."

"Our great wars remain; the enemy is still there, and although it has withered, it is still dangerous and does not want to accept defeat," he added.

The major general stressed that the IRGC considers itself a servant of the Iranian nation and a pioneer in solving the people's problems, saying, "Our dear people did not leave the Guards alone in all difficult scenes, and as long as the Guards, the people and the leadership are in contact, no power can defeat us."

The IRGC commander described in-



telligence as the most vital asset of a powerful institution like the IRGC and noted, "The enemy should not see the scope of our power; ambiguity for the enemy is part of our power."

In recent weeks, Iran's armed forces have conducted several military exercises across the country. In these drills, Iran has tested all kinds of military equipment including various missiles. The missiles include Zolfaghar Basir with a range of 700 km, Dezful with a range of 1,000 km, and Qiyam with a range of 800 km, developed by the IRGC's aerospace division.

Also, a total of 112 missile launchers, 188 unmanned aerial vehicles, 340 speedboats, and a warship has joined the IRGC fleet since the beginning of the year.

Senior MP: Iran's ties with Russia and Iraq have concerned the West

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hossein Ali Haji Deligani, a senior member of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board, says Western states are concerned about his country's efforts to strengthen relations and cooperation with its neighbors, especially Russia and Iraq.

"One of the strategic policies of the Islamic Republic is expansion of relations with the friendly and neighboring countries which should be based on mutual interest. Last week, we saw that the heads of two branches of government traveled to Russia and Iraq, both of which were very effective given the strategic ties with both countries, and their effects will be even greater in future," he remarked in interview with the Resalat newspaper published on Saturday.

"It is natural that these trips disappoint the foreign countries and officials who are concerned about close ties between Iran and Iraq that enjoy commonalities in religious and cultural fields," the MP added.

Appreciating Iran's ties with Russia, he noted, "Also, Iran's relations with Russia, which has a high position in the interna-

tional community and has been successful in confronting the ISIL terrorist group, are very worrying to the hegemonic powers."

Iran's Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi travelled to Iraq at the head of a high-ranking delegation last week. During his three-day visit to Iraq, Raisi met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, speaker of Iraq's Council of Representatives Mohamed al-Halbousi, Iraqi President Barham Salih and the head of the Supreme Judicial Council of Iraq Faiq Zidan.

The case of the assassination of Iran's Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani by the U.S. in Iraq was among the most important goals of Raisi's trip.

Also, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf made a three-tour of Moscow starting on February 7. He led a high-ranking parliamentary delegation. The Iranian and Russian sides discussed bilateral ties and issues of mutual interests.

Qalibaf conveyed a message from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei to Russian President Vladimir Putin which stressed strong and strategic relations with Moscow regardless of different political changes in the world.

Iran may be more "democratic" than the U.S. nowadays...

1 → The Zionist lobby in the West, but especially in the U.S., is beyond gargantuan for power and influence. It can move policy in its favor easily and has long promoted the alleged interests of the greedy Apartheid state against the U.S. And Israel always avoids accountability for whatever it does. Just look at the confirmation hearings of Biden appointees in his administration. Discussions have centered on bashing Russia or China or Iran, and then questions about what appointees have done for the Zionist Apartheid entity. It's almost unbelievable and would be had this chicanery not been going on for decades.

Take for example Biden's appointment of General Lloyd Austin as secretary of defense. Austin may be a lot of things but one thing he is not by accepting the job and mouthing the things he has: he's not bright. His first call in his new job last week was to Israel's Benny Gantz, defense minister there. Both Austin and Gantz agreed that the two countries needed to deal with "Iranian aggression". This is quite insane. What aggression? That Iran decimated ISIS in Iraq and parts of Syria by invitation? That it helped reduce other terrorists like al-Qaeda in Syria? That Iran

has reasonably good and peaceful relations with Iraq and Syria now? Show anywhere where Iran has been "aggressive" of "destabilizing" except very, very occasionally in its own defense. Who by far has been most aggressive in West Asia? The U.S. Who has murdered millions of innocents in West Asia? The U.S. Who had underwritten vast Israeli aggressions in Palestine and Syria? The U.S. Etcetera. Do these points even have to be argued again? They are so evident.

And everyone in the world knows it is not Iran but the U.S. which hasn't lived up to the terms of the JCPOA and the U.S. must first

drop sanctions before Iran is obliged to do anything else to return to the full terms of the nuclear deal. Meanwhile, whatever the Biden Administrations says about Iran consists of little more than pure lies and propaganda.

But consider what a longtime Jewish-born legal scholar, teacher, author and former diplomat serving in the UN, Richard Falk, has recently said about Iran. He correctly claims the Islamic Revolution in Iran just over 40 years ago turned Iran into a democracy. "There is no question that the Islamic Revolution brought about a drastic transition from the Shah's absolute rule taking the form

of an imperial dynasty to the current Islamic constitutional order that has important democratic elements, including the periodic election of the President and members of the Majlis," American professor Falk said.

In addition, Falk recognizes that Iranian democracy is unique in the role it has afforded to Islamic authorities like Ayatollah Khamenei. Iran, Falk maintains, has managed to surmount a range of threats for decades given its social, economic and military advances.

Falk also notes that Iran in recent years has been an effective anti-terrorism force in its operations against ISIS, whom the U.S. has falsely claimed to be trying to eradicate in Iraq and Syria as justification for its continued presence in Arab heartlands. It's clear the U.S. and Israel have little aim but to ensure they have no challengers in West Asia.

Israel is clearly not a democracy. It never has been except exclusively for Jews. Half the people living west of the Jordan River in historic Palestine have no rights at all. Iran may be a more effective, true "democracy" than even the U.S. is today if you push aside all the blather of the Democrats and Republicans, much of which is absurd and false like all propaganda.

And everyone in the world knows it is not Iran but the U.S. which hasn't lived up to the terms of the JCPOA and the U.S. must first drop sanctions before Iran is obliged to do anything else to return to the full terms of the nuclear deal. Meanwhile, whatever the Biden Administrations says about Iran consists of little more than pure lies and propaganda.

Post-American era

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — While Western countries portray Iran as being in desperate need to patch up its relations with the United States and Europe, Iran quietly moves to balance its foreign relations by identifying new trends and developments at the international level.

In a bid to keep up with these developments, Speaker of Iran's Parliament Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf paid an important visit to Russia that could shape Iran's foreign relations for decades to come.

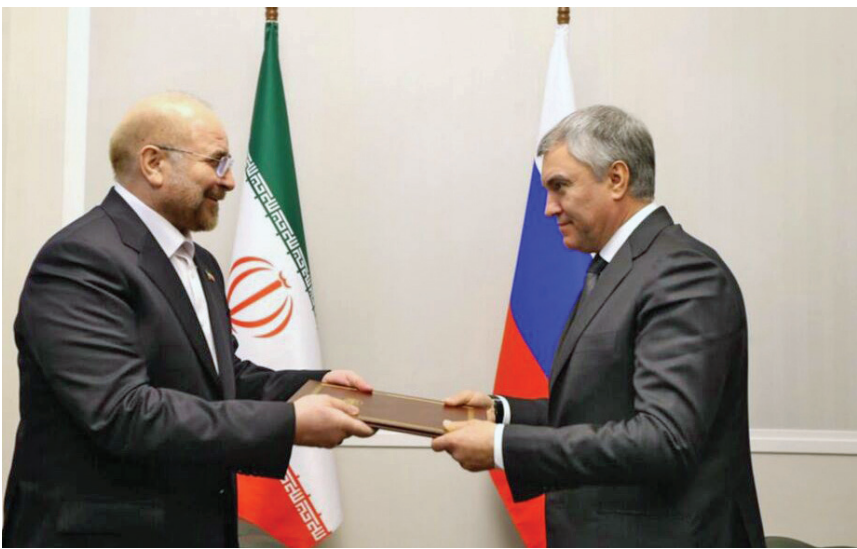
Last week on Sunday, Qalibaf left Tehran for Moscow to hold talks with high-ranking Russian officials and deliver an important message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The visit was successful, marred only by careless speculations and inaccurate reports on the scheduled meetings of the speaker during his stay in Moscow.

Qalibaf met with his Russian counterpart Vyacheslav Volodin and other officials. Volodin also served as Putin's special representative in receiving Ayatollah Khamenei's message.

"My today's visit to Russia is being done at the invitation of the chairman of the Russian State Duma. The Leader has always underlined our strategic relations with Russia.... One of the outstanding aspects of this visit is that I'm carrying an important message about strategic issues," Qalibaf told reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport before leaving for Moscow.

The message's details are yet to be disclosed. Some Iranian officials suggested that the message was about the current state of play in the region. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, noted that the message had something with Iran's relations with the West after Joe Biden assumed office in the U.S. and the impact of these relations on Tehran's ties with the



emerging powers in the East.

Amir-Abdollahian, who accompanied Qalibaf during his visit to Moscow, said the visit was done in a "sensitive period of time" when new people are moving into the White House.

"The visit... will send a message to the Islamic Republic's regional allies that Iran will no longer waste time waiting for the game of the White House's new people or the three European signatories to the JCPOA (France, the UK and Germany)," Amir-Abdollahian said in an article for Khamenei.ir, referring to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers by its acronym.

"Any decision in the White House will not change the Islamic Republic's approach to maintaining, strengthening, developing and consolidating Tehran's strategic relations with Moscow and Beijing, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's strategic and long-term view of Asia as an important player in the last century," the special aide continued.

Amir-Abdollahian noted that the White House developments will not affect Iran's strategic relations and that the Islamic Republic's regional partners "should know that the White House developments cannot affect our strategic relations."

He added that Ayatollah Khamenei found it necessary to send a strategic message to Russia in this period.

The message came against a backdrop of renewed efforts to strengthen strategic ties between Iran and Russia on the one hand and with China on the other.

These efforts are being made in midst of a public debate in the West over the U.S.'s possible return to the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

President Joe Biden had vowed to rejoin the JCPOA during his election campaign but he reneged on his promise. Now, the U.S. says it will return to the nuclear deal only after Iran resumes full compliance with the deal.

FM Zarif urges E3 to read JCPOA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has responded to a European statement calling on Iran to halt its nuclear activities and return to compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.

The European signatories to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), issued a joint statement on Friday to express "grave concern" over Iran's recent nuclear activities.

"We, the governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, note with grave concern the recent confirmation by the IAEA that Iran is producing uranium metal in violation of the JCPOA. Under the JCPOA, Iran committed not to engage in producing or acquiring uranium metal or to conduct research and development on uranium metallurgy for 15 years," the statement said.

The three European countries — collectively known as the E3 — tacitly accused Iran of trying to developing a nuclear weapon.

"We strongly urge Iran to halt these activities without delay and not to take any new non-compliant steps on its nuclear program. In escalating its non-compliance, Iran is undermining the opportunity for renewed diplomacy to fully realize the objectives of the JCPOA," the E3 statement concluded.

This statement elicited a strong response from the chief Iranian diplomat.

Zarif said Iran's nuclear activities were done in line with paragraph 36 of the JCPOA. He wondered whether the Europeans had read the terms of the nuclear deal.

"Have our E3 partners ever read para 36 of JCPOA & Iran's many letters on that basis? By what logic is the onus on IRAN to stop its remedial measures undertaken a full year after the US withdrew from—and continues to violate—



the JCPOA? What have E3 done to fulfill their duties?" the Iranian foreign minister said in a tweet on Friday.

The Europeans have increasingly called on Iran to reverse its nuclear measures, which were adopted in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, since Joe Biden won the U.S. presidential election in November.

In January, Zarif strongly criticized the E3 for doing nothing to save the JCPOA.

"E3 leaders—who rely on signature of OFAC functionaries to carry out their obligations under JCPOA—have done ZILCH to maintain JCPOA. Remember @EmmanuelMacron's still-born initiative or UK non-payment of court-ordered debt? JCPOA is alive because of Iran and not E3, @JY_LeDrian," the top Iranian diplomat tweeted on January 17.

The foreign minister also said France is destabilizing the West Asia region and protecting those who "chainsaw their critics."

"Dear colleague: You kick-started your cabinet career with arms sales to Saudi war criminals. Avoid absurd non-

sense about Iran. Reality check: YOU are destabilizing OUR region. Stop protecting criminals who chainsaw their critics and use YOUR arms to slaughter children in Yemen," Zarif said in a separate tweet.

He was apparently responding to remarks by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in which he accused Iran of trying to acquire nuclear weapons capacity.

"The Trump administration chose what it called the maximum pressure campaign on Iran. The result was that this strategy only increased the risk and the threat," Le Drian told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper, according to a Reuters report. "This has to stop because Iran and - I say this clearly - is in the process of acquiring nuclear (weapons) capacity."

Le Drian also said that the return of Iran and the United States to the nuclear deal — formally called JCPOA — is not enough.

"Tough discussions will be needed over ballistic proliferation and Iran's destabilization of its neighbors in the region," he said.

Iran has rejected the European demands about the need to discuss non-nuclear issues in any future nuclear talks, saying the nuclear deal was solely aimed to address the nuclear program, not other thorny issues.

In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour on February 2, Zarif 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.

On the other hand, the new U.S. administration said it wants to rejoin the JCPOA only to use it as starting point for negotiations on Iran's missile program and its regional activities.



Ryabkov said such a wholesale compromise on the part of the U.S. "is probably impossible to do all at once." He, however, asserted, "but it would be wrong to delay. We are openly telling this to Americans."

He, meanwhile, suggested that Washington and Tehran act simultaneously to avoid arguments over who should act first.

"We understand the logic of their actions and the reasons prompting Iran. Despite this, it is necessary to show restraint and a responsible approach," Ryabkov told Russia's RIA Novosti news agency.

SPORTS

Sepahan beat Esteghlal to move IPL top

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Sepahan football team defeated Esteghlal 2-0 on Saturday to move top of Iran Professional League (IPL).

In the match held in Isfahan's Foolad Shahr Stadium, Sajad Shahbazzadeh found the back of the net in the 14th minute. The unmarked forward tapped in a loose ball to get the opener for Sepahan.



Soroush Rafiei made it 2-0 in the 35th minute from a set-piece. Sepahan moved to top of the table with 28 points, two points ahead of Esteghlal.

In Ahvaz, Foolad defeated Shahr Khodro thanks to first-half's goals from Zobeir Niknafs and Sasan Ansari.

Rock-bottom Machine Sazi edged past Sanat Naft courtesy of a Siros Sadeghian's late goal.

In Ghaemshahr, struggling Nassaji suffered a home 2-1 loss to Gol Gohar. Hossein Khatir (own goal) and Godwin Mensha scored for Nassaji and Hamed Shiri was on target for the hosts.

Aluminum Arak also beat Naft Masjed Soleyman 2-1 in their away match thanks to a brace from Mehdi Hosseini. Sasan Hosseini halved the deficit for the hosts.

On Sunday, Persepolis will host Paykan in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

In Rafsanjan, Mes will host Zob Ahan and Saipa meet Tractor in Tehran.

Iran to send eight skiers to Alpine World Championships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran will send four men and four women skiers to the 2021 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships.

The competitions have gotten underway in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy from Feb. 8 and will last until Feb. 21.

Porya Saveh Shemshaki, Morteza Jafari, Behnam Kia Shemshaki and Nima Baha will compete in the championships as Iran's men team and the women's team consists of Atefeh Ahmadi, Marjan Kalhor, Forough Abbasi and Sadaf Saveh Shemshaki.

The Iranian skiers will compete in two events of giant slalom and slalom. The Iranian delegation will travel to Italy on Feb. 16.

Athletes from 70 countries will compete for the 13 world titles on offer at the Italian resort but unfortunately, no fans will be in attendance in Cortina due to coronavirus restrictions.

Iran wins two more gold medals at Para Athletics Grand Prix

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Mahdi Moradi and Mahdi Olad from Iran won two more gold medals at the Dubai 2021 World Para Athletics Grand Prix Friday night.

Moradi claimed a gold medal at the Men's Long Jump T/F13 with 6.57 meters.

Kazakhstan's athlete won the silver medal with 6.44 meters and bronze medal went to Chinese Taipei's competitor with 5.88 meters.

Olad also claimed a gold medal at the Men's Discus Throw F11 with a 39.06 meters throw on Day 3.

Russian thrower took the silver medal with 35.06 meters and Uzbekistan's athlete seized a bronze, throwing 31.85 meters.

Iranian Para athletes had won nine medals in the past two days. On Wednesday, Hamed Amiri, Saman Pakbaz and Vahid Alinajimi claimed a gold, a silver and a bronze medal in the Javelin - F54, Shot Put - F12 and 100m - T13, respectively.

On Thursday, Mahdi Olad and Behzad Azizi claimed two gold medals in Men's Shot Put F11 and Javelin F12/13.

Hamed Amiri seized a silver medal at the Men Discus F54/55 and Alireza Sadeghian also took a silver in the Men's 100m T38

Masoud Heydari claimed a bronze at Javelin F12/13. Alinajimi took a bronze medal in the Men's 400m.

The competition, which has brought a total of 471 Para athletes from 52 countries together in Dubai, serves as the one of the seven qualifying Para Athletics events for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Esteghlal, Persepolis strikers shortlisted for Best Headers of 2020

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal forward Cheick Diabate and Persepolis striker Mehdi Abdi have been nominated for the Best Headers of 2020 AFC Champions League.

The 2021 AFC Champions League is set to be a thrilling affair with the continent's premier club competition expanded to 40 teams, the-afc.com reported.

As the kick-off date for the historic 2021 edition approaches, the-AFC.com looks back at the 2020 tournament which turned out to be a thrilling affair despite the challenging circumstances.

Cheick Diabate

Esteghlal FC vs Al Ahli Saudi FC, Matchday 1
Ali Karimi's chipped cross from the edge of the penalty area found Diabate, who soared high to guide the ball into the net to complete a 3-0 win for Islamic Republic of Iran side Esteghlal FC.

Mehdi Abdi

Persepolis FC v Al Nassr, Semi-final
Trailing by a goal, Persepolis FC needed a hero and Mehdi Abdi was the player of the moment as he rose high to head home Bashar Resan's cross as the Iranian champion went on to win the penalty shootout.

They will vie with Saad Natiq (Al Shorta), Li Shenglong (Shanghai SIPG FC) and Dragan Ceran (Pakhtakor) in the poll.

Russia underlines need to ensure Iran's economic benefits from JCPOA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The United States and Europe should make a move to restore Iran's economic benefits envisioned in the 2015 nuclear deal, two senior Russian diplomats said.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergei Ryabkov has called on the U.S. and Europe to ensure Iran's economic interests in the JCPOA and make a move in this regard.

"We shared our ideas on how to synchronize steps for JCPOA return. Iran's actions are reversible should there be a shift in the right direction. Restoring Iran's economic bonuses is key. U.S. & E3 should make a move, Iran will respond constructively," Ryabkov said, according to a tweet by Permanent Mission of Russia to international organizations in Vienna.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, commented on the remarks of his colleague.

"The last sentence seems to be absolutely

relevant judging by the statements of the Iranian officials. Hopefully, the countries whom it may concern fully understand that. They have significant experience to make the right conclusions. No question about that," he said in a tweet on Friday.

Earlier this month, Ulyanov demanded that the United States make the first move to revive the nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers.

He also voiced support for Iran's proposal for Tehran and Washington to synchronize their steps toward reviving the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Ryabkov also expressed Russia's hope that the U.S. would abandon its illegal stance of staying out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and retaining its sanctions against the Islamic Republic in order not to prompt Tehran to further reduce its obligations under the agreement.

"There isn't a lot of time, considering that on February 21, in accordance with

the law adopted by Iran, the country will take the next step toward reducing its obligations, which were accepted voluntarily. It would be good to find some compromise that would help avoid further escalation before that deadline," the deputy foreign minister told a press conference, according to Press TV.

The priority is to reverse the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear accord as well as Washington's sanctions against Iran, he continued.

Iran has announced that it will suspend the implementation of some nuclear commitments by February 21 in accordance with a nuclear law passed by the Iranian Parliament in early November.

Under the law, Iran will stop abiding by the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which enables more intrusive inspections of the country's nuclear facilities, as of February 21 -- the date that the senior Russian official was referring to.

Minister says Oman ready to salvage JCPOA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi has expressed his country's readiness to save the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers.

He said Oman was ready to help with rescuing the nuclear deal, fraying since 2018 when Trump withdrew the United States from the pact, but felt that existing U.S. communication lines with Tehran could suffice, according to a Reuters report.

Responding to a question on the chance of Oman mediating in new efforts to restore the nuclear deal, the chief Omani diplomat said Muscat has a very good relationship with both Tehran and Washington and was ready to assist if needed.

"I believe the channels are open directly between the foreign policy teams in Washington and Iran. I see no reason why those channels can't be reactivated," Busaidi told the

Atlantic Council event.

Oman played a pivotal role in facilitating the nuclear talks leading up to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Busaidi said always encourages dialogue.

"Omani foreign policy has always sought to maintain and encourage dialogue between as wide a number of parties as possible," he pointed out.

TEDPIX gains 47,000 points on Saturday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 47,786 points to 1.262 million on Saturday, which is the first day of Iranian week.

The first market’s index rose 39,693 points, and the second market’s index climbed 80,149 points on Saturday.

TEDPIX rose 3.4 percent in the past Iranian calendar week.

During the past week, the indices of Iran Khodro Group, Saipa Company, Social Security Investment Company, Tehran Oil Refining Company, and Isfahan Oil Refinery were the most widely followed indices.

‘Strengthening border terminals, a priority of Transport Ministry’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami has said that strengthening and standardizing border terminals is a major priority of the Transport Ministry, IRIB reported.

Speaking in a meeting of the Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Eslami said some of the country’s border terminals are currently fully operational and some are under construction.

Stating that disorganization at border terminals will lead to disruption in trade, the official added: “The Ministry of Transport and Urban Development has spent more than six trillion rials (about \$142 million) to organize border terminals over the last few years; so far 10 terminals have been put into operation in the last three to four years and several terminals will be put into operation in the coming days.”



Mentioning the problems that the U.S. sanctions have created in the country’s trade activities including transit of goods and shipping, the official said: “We tried to find alternative ways to keep the country’s trade afloat and also tried to cushion the country’s transit from harm with complementary means and different methods.”

The official further noted that his ministry’s main agenda in this regard is to facilitate the country’s foreign trade in order to pave the way for the realization of the country’s macroeconomic goals.

Iran shares land and sea borders with 15 countries.

Currently, all the land borders with the country’s major trade partners are active and daily transit and exchanges of goods are being carried out through the mentioned borders.

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 (March 20, 2020-January 19, 2021), according to the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi.

IMIDRO to inaugurate mining development projects worth over \$355m soon

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that the organization will inaugurate 23 development projects in mines and mining industries soon.

Vajihollah Jafari said these projects worth over \$355 million will create direct jobs for 1,053 persons, and indirect jobs for 2,655 persons.

Saying that the mentioned projects will be put into operation in Kerman, Isfahan, East Azarbaijan, and Hormozgan provinces, the official said that of the 23 projects, 13 are conducted by National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC).

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMIDRO’s strong will for materializing the domestic production target bore fruit as the organization has recently announced that the domestic production and indigenizing technology in the mining sector has saved Iran nearly \$1 billion during the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20, 2020).

Steel ingot output by major producers rises 7%

1 → Steel ingot output stood at 1.681 million tons in the tenth month of this year.

Production of steel ingot in Iran has risen 13 percent during January-November, 2020, according to the latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA).

It is while the crude steel output in the world has decreased 1.3 percent in the mentioned time span.

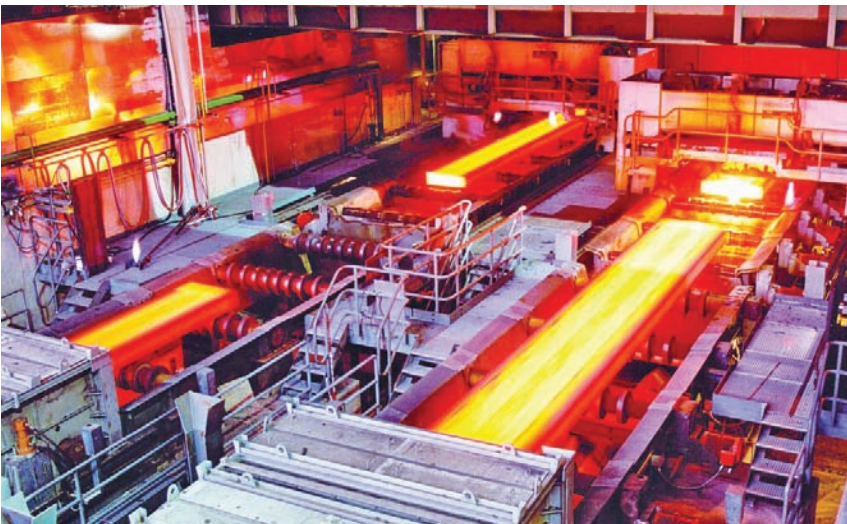
The WSA’s report said that Iran has produced 26.369 million tons of crude steel during the 11-month period of 2020, while the figure was 23 million tons in the same time span of 2019.

The country’s monthly crude steel output stood at 2.575 million tons in November 2020, rising 14 percent from 2.256 million tons in November 2019.

Production of steel ingot in Iran is expected to surpass 30 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year, Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmaili has announced.

Saying that Iran is currently the world’s 10th biggest steel producer, the official underscored that the country is planning to rise to 8th place by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025).

He said the Industry Ministry has it on



the agenda to increase the country’s steel ingot production to 55 million tons by 2025, for which 160 million tons of iron ore is required annually.

“Given the country’s 2.8-billion-ton iron ore reserves, we need new explorations in this field, because when the annual steel ingot production capacity reaches 55 million

tons, the current production levels of iron ore can only supply the industry for 12 to 13 years,” the official stated.

He further noted that over 90 million tons of iron ore were produced in the country during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) of which only seven percent was exported.

Manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers up 30% in 10 months on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers has increased 30.8 percent in Iran during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry’s data show that 1.686 million sets of refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured in the country during the ten-month period of this year.

Earlier this month, the director for the electrical and metals industries and home appliances office of the ministry, said the manufacturing of home appliances will hit a record high in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Keyvan Gardan said that according to the plans and the efforts made, despite the continuation of sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic, this year the record of home appliance production will be broken after the victory of the Islamic Revolution (1979).

Making the remarks in a meeting of the industry owners with the directors of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in the field of formulating the strategy of Iran’s home appliance industry on the horizon of 1404 (March 2025-March 2026), the official added, “Production was projected to grow by 30 percent this year, reaching a record of 12 million sets of home appliances, but the target was realized by the end of the tenth month (January 19)”.

Despite all the sanctions and problems, this industry

has been able to continue to grow decisively in the past two and a half years, he said, adding, “Of course, with the ban imposed on the import of home appliances, the people also cooperated and supported this industry, which led to its growth.”

He pointed to the \$37-billion home appliance market of the neighboring countries and the region and the \$5-billion domestic market capacity and said, “We are trying to allocate more of this market to our country by providing conditions.”

Two months ago, the secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran said that domestic production of equipment and parts used in the home appliance industry has saved Iran \$220 million.

Currently, Iranian producers have indigenized the knowledge for manufacturing 70-75 percent of the country’s home appliance needs, Abbas Hashemi said in a press conference in late December.

According to Hashemi, the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran has established a parts manufacturing department, the purpose of which is to promote the position of component makers in the association to deepen domestic manufacturing of the required parts and equipment in this industry while providing a platform for home appliance manufacturers and component makers to stay connected.

The official noted that the country has managed to export up to \$250 million of home appliances in the previous years and currently, the production and assembly lines for Iranian



home appliances have been set up in some of the countries in the region and Iran is exporting its products to the target markets by sending Completely Knocked Down (CKD) kits to the mentioned production lines.

Iran has various comparative advantages in this industry in terms of supplying raw materials such as steel sheets, petrochemicals, copper and brass sections, the abundance and low costs of energy and workforce in addition to the strategic position of the country, compared to other countries in the region, he said.

“So, the development of exports to countries in the region and to the neighboring countries is possible even despite the strong regional competitors,” Hashemi added.

TPO to support export promoting activities

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has announced readiness for supporting advertising, marketing, information and consulting, training as well as cultural activities aimed at promoting exports.

Based on the provisions of the non-oil export support package of the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20), the organization intends to support all activities carried out for promoting exports including publication of books, specialized publications in the field of foreign trade

like catalogs, brochures, bulletins and magazines in paper or electronic form, as well as preparation and publication of infographics, motion graphics, movies, clips and teasers which are aimed at introducing the capacities of the country and advertise goods and services in the target markets.

As reported by the TPO’s office of public relations, this support aims to provide the country’s export companies, firms, and businessmen access to reliable and up-to-date information in the field of foreign trade and to utilize new platforms in the field of

advertising and information technology to introduce important export products and services and capable companies in the target markets and also to introduce Iran’s export capacities and capabilities in those markets.

The government’s support package for promoting non-oil exports in the current Iranian calendar year was finalized and released back in June 2020.

According to TPO Head Hamid Zadboun, this year’s support package includes resources from the National Development Fund (NDF)

amounting to 20 trillion rials (about \$476 million), as well as resources provided in the year’s budget bill amounting to six trillion rials (about \$143 million) plus part of the revenues from export duties and the increase in the Export Guarantee Fund (EGF)’s capital that was up to 100 million Euros.

The official had previously expressed hope that by allocating the above-mentioned resources, achieving the predetermined goals for the development of non-oil exports in the current calendar year will be facilitated.

Jask oil terminal’s 1st SPM system loaded

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The construction of the first single point mooring (SPM) system of the Jask crude oil export terminal has been completed and the SPM is loaded to be shipped toward its designated point in the Gulf of Oman waters, the operator of Jask oil terminal project in southern Iran announced.

Vahid Maleki put the capacity of this SPM system at 7,000 cubic meters per hour (equivalent to one million barrels per day) and said: “Soon, with the installation of this offshore structure at a distance of approximately six kilometers from Makran coast, the early phase of this project will go operational.”

As the country’s second major oil terminal, Jask terminal is under construction by Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) on 60 hectares of land and with nearly €260 million of investment.

According to Maleki, this SPM system and its accesso-



ries, including floating and submersible hoses, weigh nearly 800 tons and will be installed and fixed to the seafloor at

Iran sends second cargo of refinery materials to Venezuela

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran has sent a second cargo of refinery materials to Venezuela to help the country resume operation at the 955,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) Paraguana Refining Complex (CRP) in western Venezuela, Reuters reported, quoting people familiar with the matter.

Iran had previously sent more than a dozen cargoes of catalysts to the country to help restart its 310,000 bpd Cardon refinery and alleviate acute gasoline shortages in the OPEC nation.

As reported, the first cargo of Iranian catalysts has arrived in Venezuela on February 11 by an Airbus plane belonging to Venezuelan



state-run airline Conviasa.

According to the Reuters sources, more than a dozen further similar flights are expected to arrive in the country.

Currently, Cardon is the only one of Venezuela’s refineries producing gasoline, with its naphtha reformer and catalytic cracking units producing around 60,000 bpd, one of the people said. The nearby 645,000 bpd Amuay refinery is producing naphtha to serve as a feedstock for Cardon’s gasoline units.

The catalysts are expected to help restart gasoline production at Amuay, whose catalytic cracker has been offline since late 2019, in anticipation of planned maintenance at Cardon, the sources said.

As reported, the Islamic Republic has also shipped three vessels carrying fuel to the South

American country.

The cooperation between the two OPEC members is significant since both nations are facing unjust U.S. sanctions.

Venezuela is suffering from an acute shortage of motor fuel due to the near-total collapse of its 1.3-million-barrels-per-day refining network after years of underinvestment and lack of maintenance, as well as the U.S. sanctions that have complicated crude-for-gasoline swaps.

The United States sanctioned state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela in January 2019, while the White House has also imposed heavy sanctions on the Iranian oil industry.

Israel continues to obstruct attempts to create NWFZ: Russian academic

‘Trump’s maximum pressure policy has hit American interests in the region’

1 → Apparently, Biden will first lift those sanctions, which affect Iran’s fight with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the travel ban. Moreover, he wants to expand the agreement to include Iran’s missile program and regional activities, but this strategy will not work as Iran will resist, but it may be possible to strike deals on more issues for mutual benefit. For example, Tehran can agree to discuss missiles, if they will include or affect other regional missile powers (Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt).

The new talks with Tehran may be the key for the new U.S. president to restore previous relations with European partners. However, it will not be easy to revive the course pursued by Barack Obama at the time — Donald Trump has made too serious changes in American politics. According to Biden, the reality showed that the Republican course failed. Trump failed to convince U.S. allies to extend the arms embargo on Iran, and members of the UN Security Council refused to renew anti-Iranian sanctions. Thus, Trump’s “maximum pressure” policy has hit American interests in the region. Five years ago, the United States cooperated on the JCPOA with Europe, as well as with China and Russia, now Washington is alone, said Biden.

The Iranian president said: “We hope that the next U.S. administration will directly condemn Trump’s policy towards Iran and make amends for the erroneous course pursued by the last administration over the past four years”. As much as Biden would like to return U.S. politics to the state of 2016, this is impossible. Donald Trump has left a serious mark on American foreign policy.

At the same time, Iran should perceive the U.S. system of power as a whole, without exaggeration the real differences of the personalities who won the office. Therefore, Washington and Tehran will need time and an agenda to discuss issues related to the actions of the Trump administration and the reaction of the Iranian authorities. Both sides have mutual claims, and therefore it will be fundamentally difficult to take the first step, and the lack of firm political will to revive the JCPOA will not allow achieving any significant results briefly. Probably, each side expects the other to take the initiative. In addition, there are still questions about Biden’s ability to cancel Trump’s sanctions orders against Iran and return the situation to the state of the end of President Barack Obama’s second term, which, of course, will be positively perceived in Iran.

Could Moscow play the role of an influential mediator to revive the JCPOA?

In the situation that has developed since the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement and Iran’s limited retaliatory actions, Russia has consistently advocated the restoration of the effectiveness of the JCPOA, which includes



the return of all its original participants to fulfilling their obligations under the JCPOA in full. Moscow and Tehran are interested in the full restoration of the nuclear deal between Iran and other participants of the JCPOA.

As Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said recently: “Today, one of the most pressing issues is the task of saving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for the settlement of the Iranian nuclear program. Both we and Iran are sincerely interested in returning to the full implementation of their obligations by all the parties that signed the JCPOA”. According to the Russian minister, given the role of the two countries in the region, Moscow and Tehran are interested in deepening the dialogue on such issues as security in the Persian Gulf, the problem of the Afghan settlement, as well as the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh after the cessation of hostilities.

Russia states that the first step to rejuvenate JCPOA is the lifting of unilateral U.S. sanctions imposed after May 8, 2018, not only on Iranian individuals and legal entities but also on persons under the jurisdiction of other states, including Russia.

Do you think that the initiative of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) in West Asia is realistic due to Israel’s refusal of any cooperation?

First, let’s not forget that the Soviet Union is the initiator of the “nuclear-free approach” to the Middle East (West Asia). Often unnoticed is the fact that as early as January 22, 1958, the TASS Statement said: “The Middle East (West Asia) should and can become a

zone of peace, where there are no nuclear and missile weapons, a zone of good neighborhood and friendly cooperation between states”. Due to the unfavorable foreign policy environment and the bipolar confrontation, this proposal was not developed. The United States considered the Soviet Union’s support for nuclear-weapon-free zones a “political bluff” in order to weaken the military power of the United States and its allies. In 1961, exactly what the TASS Statement warned about happened — Washington began deploying its PGM-19 Jupiter medium-range ballistic missiles in Turkey.

One of the main obstacles to the NWFZ is the Israeli arsenal of WMDs and its refusal to join the CWC and BWC to the CWC and BWC, the failure of the United States of its obligations to nuclear-free zones (the last American doctrine “Nuclear Posture Review” allows Washington to use nuclear weapons even against non-nuclear states). Israel’s nuclear arsenal was a source of concern amid the weakening of the non-proliferation regime and the disintegration of the arms control regime. So, “Absolute security for one means insecurity for all others”. Israel boycotted the conferences for NWFZ in the Middle East (West Asia). Israel continues to obstruct all attempts to create a nuclear-free zone.

Given the New Start treaty signed between the U.S. and Russia, how do you evaluate the new U.S. administration’s policies when it comes to Russia?

As we know, the presidents of Russia and the United States, Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden, decided to extend the Treaty on

the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START-3), which expired on February 5 this year. Earlier, Moscow’s proposal to extend it, which is provided for in the protocol to the agreement, sent to Washington last fall, did not cause any positive reaction from the administration of Donald Trump. The administration of Donald Trump imposed such unacceptable ultimatum requirements on the extension of the START-3, which a priori could not be accepted by the Kremlin.

One of the reasons why the Trump administration did not want to extend START-3 is that it generally believed that the United States could not be bound by any international obligations. Hence the withdrawal from many treaties, ranging from the climate agreement, the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-range and Shorter-range Missiles, and ending with the agreement on Iran’s peaceful nuclear program.

Naturally, when Democrat Joe Biden, who was Barack Obama’s vice president, came to power in the United States, he immediately decided to extend the START-3 Treaty. But not only because it was concluded under his former boss and with his participation, but also because this agreement is very beneficial to the United States itself. The extension of the START-3 Treaty for another five years will allow both sides to continue the discussion on arms control — both strategic and tactical, nuclear and non-nuclear, to negotiate on strategic stability and, possibly, on arms reduction, involving third countries in these negotiations.

But it seems to me naive to hope for a warming of relations between the United States and Russia after the extension of the START-3 Treaty because no one can cancel the geopolitical competition between Moscow and Washington, as well as between Washington and Beijing.

Do you expect a fundamental shift in U.S. policies during Biden’s presidency?

A large number of uncertainties are visible on the political horizon, which will hinder the restoration of the effectiveness of the JCPOA and dictate a strict time frame for achieving at least the first successes — and they are necessary to create “positive political inertia” both within the United States and Iran, and in relations between them. The main factor of uncertainty today is the ability of President Joe Biden, who spoke in favor of returning to the JCPOA, and the new presidential team to resist attempts to force them to abandon this goal or link it to conditions that make it obviously unattainable. However, we should also not underestimate the potential risks of sudden crisis situations—both accidental and deliberate provocations (an example of the latter is the murder of the Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrazadeh on November 27, 2020).



state-based actions result in an ineffective solution to this security crisis. The perspective this article aims to offer is that given the limitations of realism, we need more faith in international transboundary cooperation based on mutual trust, especially trust vis-a-vis international institutions. However, neither the United Nations nor the World Health Organization (WHO) nor any other non-state actor can overcome the Coronavirus on its own; nor non-state actors such as international institutions are alternatives to national states in international relations.

Instead, they are an instrument of foreign policy and statecraft and states need to rely on them, incorporating them in finding solutions to global security threats. According to constitutionalists, Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, “States are indeed self-interested, but cooperation is often in their interest and institutions help to facilitate that cooperation.”

While Riyadh and its allies continue their genocide in Yemen, there is no single word of protest from the Westerners or the so-called human rights defenders.

New U.S. President Joe Biden, in a reversal of his predecessor Donald Trump’s foreign policy, has pledged to put an end to Washington’s support for the years-long Saudi war on Yemen that has deepened suffering in the poorest Arab country. However, doubts remain strong since the world waits to see whether that is just another political maneuver or not.

“continue to monitor the situation in Yemen and speak out in Parliament in favor of an internationalist, peaceful, social justice-led foreign policy.”

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies - including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - launched their brutal war against Yemen in March 2015 to eliminate the Ansarullah movement and restore Hadi to power in Yemen.

Much criticism has been directed at the Western countries, including the U.S. and the UK, for their double standards on human rights in Yemen.

Noting that the bloodshed should come to an end as soon as possible, she believes that that a major step in this regard could be the halt of the arms sales to the aggression forces by the Western countries.

Ribeiro-Addy echoed calls by Mark Lowcock, UN humanitarian affairs chief, in calling for an immediate ceasefire.

“Faced with these monumental crises, the war in Yemen must end and Britain must no longer enable this war through the selling of weapons to Saudi Arabia,” she underlines

The British Parliamentarian vowed to

Bahraini protesters stage rallies nationwide on eve of uprising anniversary

1 → According to Press TV, on March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain’s parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure blasted by human rights campaigners as being tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law countrywide.

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the draconian measure on April 3, 2017.

Yemeni forces intercept, shoot down Saudi spy drone in Ma’rib

A new video shows Yemeni armed forces and allied fighters shooting down a Saudi spy drone flying over the central province of Ma’rib.

The media bureau of Yemen’s popular Ansarullah movement released on Friday the video of Yemeni air defense forces intercepting and targeting a CH-4 combat drone with a surface-to-air missile over the Medghal district in the early hours of the day.

The CH-4 drone has a 3,500- to 5,000-kilometer range and a 30- to 40-hour endurance. It is also capable of carrying six missiles and a payload of up to 250 to 345 kilograms < Press TV reported.

The unmanned aerial vehicle can fire air-to-ground missile from an altitude of 5,000 meters, therefore it can stay outside the effective range of the most anti-aircraft guns.

This is the fifth Saudi aircraft of the same type to be shot down by the Yemeni forces.

Trump’s speedy impeachment trial heads toward Senate vote

Senators are poised to vote on whether Donald Trump will be held accountable for inciting the horrific attack at the Capitol after a speedy trial that laid bare the violence and danger to their own lives and the fragility of the nation’s tradition of a peaceful transfer of presidential power.

Barely a month since the deadly riot, closing arguments are set for the historic impeachment trial as senators arrive for a rare Saturday session, all under the watch of armed National Guard troops still guarding the iconic building, AP reported.

The outcome of the quick, raw and emotional proceedings are expected to reflect a nation divided over the former president and the future of his brand of politics in America.

“What’s important about this trial is that it’s really aimed to some extent at Donald Trump, but it’s more aimed at some president we don’t even know 20 years from now,” said Sen. Angus King, the independent from Maine, weighing his vote.

The nearly weeklong trial has been delivering a grim and graphic narrative of the Jan. 6 riot and its consequences for the nation in ways that senators, most of whom fled for their own safety that day, acknowledge they are still coming to grips with.

Blast hits Iranian-Afghanistan border as dozens of gas tanker trucks catch fire

A gas tanker truck has exploded on the Iranian-Afghanistan border at a customs post in Herat Province, Reuters reported citing a local official.

Tolo News earlier cited witnesses as saying that a massive fire erupted at the customs post which affected dozens of trucks.

Social media users have since shared videos allegedly depicting the conflagration.

No casualties have been reported as yet, but the fire caused significant financial damage, according to authorities.

According to the Herat Province governor, the authorities had to request assistance from Iran due to a lack of firefighting equipment.

There have been no reports of casualties due to the incident, however, the fire inflicted damage which officials are currently assessing.

UN rapporteur: U.S. and allies’ sanctions on Venezuela driving humanitarian calamities

A UN special rapporteur on human rights has called for an immediate end to U.S. and allied sanctions on Venezuela, saying they’ve had a “devastating” humanitarian toll and cut the flow of medical supplies amid the Covid-19 crisis.

A preliminary report from Alena Douhan – UN special rapporteur on “the impact of unilateral coercive measures” – published on Friday found that sanctions on a range of Venezuelan industries and institutions have resulted in “economic and humanitarian calamities” for the entire population, having an especially “devastating effect” for the poor and those in other vulnerable groups.

“Today, Venezuela faces a lack of necessary machinery, spare parts, electricity, water, fuel, gas, food and medicine,” Douhan wrote, attributing much of the shortages to the sanctions regime. She added that some 2.5 million Venezuelans now face “severe” food insecurity.

The impact has been particularly harsh as the country grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, as billions in Venezuelan assets that could be used for medicines and vaccines remain frozen at foreign banks.

Resistance News

Thousands perform Friday prayer at Al-Aqsa

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN —Thousands of Palestinian worshippers performed Friday prayer in the courtyards of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem for the first time in 42 days after it was closed by the Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) for several weeks under the pretext of limiting the spread of the coronavirus.

The Islamic Endowments Department in Occupied Jerusalem stated that the number of worshippers reached about 15,000, distributed throughout the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Earlier on Friday, dozens of worshippers performed the dawn prayer at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as part of the Great Dawn campaign.

Jerusalemite institutions and personalities called on Palestinians on Thursday to participate in the Great Dawn campaign in the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and to perform the Friday dawn prayer at Al-Aqsa.

The campaign organizers called for this campaign to be a starting point for attending all five daily prayers at the Aqsa Mosque.

Corona pandemic: Realism limitation in solving 21st century security threats and the need for new approaches

By Pourya Nabipour

Today, most serious threats of the 21st century are not ones we can protect ourselves by using armies or advanced weapons. Indeed, the popularity of extreme-right politics, unilateralism based on nationalism and COVID-19 are threatening the world’s post-war security architecture.

The state-based unilateralism and the trends of national response to the 21st century’s biggest security threat trigger lack of coordination, diplomatic divisions and incoherent global answer to COVID-19. Hence, as we face the biggest challenge of the contemporary century today, we need to rethink the very nature of our comprehension of national security threats. By doing so, we need a different approach to facing security threats.

With the Corona pandemic as a security threat, one of the foundational international relations theories, the realism, has been revealed to be far limited in terms of its explanatory power than it declares. The argument is that realism has a valid logic and reasons for confidence since answers to the pandemic have confirmed the supremacy of sovereign states, the grounds for the state’s power competition. Nevertheless, the pandemic also presents realism’s weaknesses as a source for successful policy answer to this security challenge. In other words, realism is better at defining risks and threats than suggesting solutions. Put simply, realism’s explanatory power lies in diagnosis rather than treatment or prevention. To make this clear, one insight the theory emphasizes is the representation of states as the fundamental actors in world politics.

As the coronavirus hit, states shifted quickly to close or tighten international borders, controlled movement within their borders. However, while much independent national action is understandable from a realism’s point of view, it’s insufficient. Unilateralism and state-based measures, such as border controls did not spare states from the pandemic and unilateral measures risk ending up in national economic and social crisis.

To fight the Corona pandemic most efficiently, policymakers will have to shift to other theoretical traditions to overcome this security threat. They will depend more and more on greater international openness, trust and cooperation. Hence, while from the realism’s view, unilateral and state-based actions may serve national interest to fight the pandemic “within the national borders”, the pandemic is a global security threat and thus remains unsolved so long as other states and non-state actors have not done the same and states move on unilaterally.

Solving global crises and security threats such as a pandemic, similar to world economic or other security crises cannot be solved based on the realist considerations of zero-sum competitive logic. Instead, transnational security threats, such as Coronavirus, is unmasking the limitations of individual states actions in the global system. Thus, while realism does an excellent job of “diagnosing the problem”, it does not offer solutions to that the problem.

Considering the necessity of worldwide medical items and actions, coordinated and offered by international organisations and non-state actors, the uncoordinated

London should stop arms support to Saudis amid Yemen crisis: British MP

By Hamid Bayati

TEHRAN — A British Labor Party politician believes that the Western countries, including the UK, must stop the arms support to the Saudi-led coalition in order to stop the bloodshed in Yemen that has been going on for years.

“The war in Yemen has had a devastating impact on the people of the country... Famine remains a constant threat [in the war-torn country],” Bell Ribeiro-Addy, who has served as the Member of Parliament for Streatham since 2019, says.

Iranian sweets, crafts win national heritage status

➔ **I**t is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.



Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Abyaneh village: a forum of living ancient traditions

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Serenely situated at the foot of Mt Karkas in central Iran, the ancient village of Abyaneh is a warren of steep, twisting lanes and crumbling red mud-brick houses with lattice windows and fragile wooden balconies.

One of the oldest in the country, Abyaneh is a top tourist destination for domestic and foreign holidaymakers.

It is a testament to both the age and isolation of Abyaneh that the elderly residents speak Middle Persian, an earlier incarnation of Farsi that largely disappeared some centuries ago, and many men still dress in the traditional wide-bottomed trousers and black waistcoats. Women's clothing features hijabs that cover the shoulders and are traditionally strewn with printed or embroidered red flowers.



It is an open-air anthropology museum that showcases architecture and traditions from the Sassanid era (224–651) onwards, for instance, an ancient temple, the ruins of a fortress, a mosque with a unique altar from the Seljuk period (ca. 1040–1196) to name a few.

Its distinctive architectural facet, variety of deeply-rooted-in-time rituals, apparel of inhabitants, and rows of earthen houses dotted on the slope contribute to its charm. Here, the roofs of some houses serve as the courtyard for others higher up on the hill. And natives are deeply committed to honoring their traditions.

Even today their costume, way of life, and their ancient dialect are still practically unchanged, so that there lies ample reasons for travelers even though the anthropologists to hear for the village.

Abyaneh is best appreciated by just meandering along the lanes and chancing upon the 14th-century Imamzadeh Yahya with its conical, blue-tiled roof, or the Zeyaratgah shrine with a pool overhung by grapevines. The views from the valley looking back at the village are some of the most iconic in central Iran.

When to go

The village is at least 1500 years old and faces east across a picturesque valley. It was built this way to maximize the sun it receives and minimize the effects of howling gales in winter. If you come here in winter you'll understand why – it's freezing!

In summertime, however, it is refreshingly cool and Abyaneh is at its most lively, filled with residents returning from winter in Tehran and tourists haggling with colorfully clad, old women over the price of dried apples.

Persian handicrafts: Pateh Douzi of Kerman

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Pateh Douzi, which is the art of sewing a kind of embroidery in which all over of the textile is covered by colorful stitches, is one of the most significant handicrafts and souvenirs of Kerman province.



Due to the vulnerability of textiles no Pateh product has survived from ancient times, and very little is known about its history. However, according to travel documentaries and texts that belong to the Safavid era, cultural heritage experts are almost certain that Pateh was quite popular in Kerman during that time.

The makers of Pateh are most commonly young girls and women of Kerman who sew the patterns from their imagination on wide and thick fabrics called Ariz or Shawl.

One of the oldest surviving pieces of Pateh, which belongs to ca. 1869, was used as the cover of the tombstone of Shah Nimatullah Wali who was a Persian Sufi master and poet of the 14th and 15th centuries.

Take a trip back in time with a visit to vintage radio museum in Tabriz

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Hundreds of vacuum tube radios, rare oil radios, classic radios, vintage radios, and solid-state pocket radios, are placed all under one roof at the Sound & Music Museum in the historical city of Tabriz, northwest Iran.

The museum, which also features various traditional and classical musical instruments, offers you to take a trip back in time and technology. It is a place to feel how communications technology has changed our lives over the past century.

Listening to the radio is a near-universal childhood experience, one that crosses geography, gender, and generations.

Radio, sound communication by radio waves, usually through the transmission of music, news, and other types of programs from single broadcast stations to multitudes of individual listeners equipped with radio receivers.

From its birth early in the 20th century, sound communication by radio waves astonished and delighted the public by providing news and entertainment with an immediacy never before thought possible. From about 1920 to 1945, radio developed into the first electronic mass medium, monopolizing "the airwaves" and defining, along with newspapers, magazines, and motion pictures, an entire generation of mass culture.

Based on the human voice, radio is a



uniquely personal medium, invoking a listener's imagination to fill in mental images around the broadcast sounds. More readily and in a more widespread fashion than any other medium, radio can soothe listeners with comforting dialogue or background music, or it can jar them back into reality with polemics and breaking news.

Radio also can employ a boundless plethora of sound and music effects to entertain and enthrall listeners.

Since the birth of this medium, commercial broadcast companies as well as government organs have made conscious use of its unique attributes to create programs that attract and hold listeners' attention.

Reverting to the Sound & Music Museum, it is worth noting that phonographs, vinyl records, turn tables, gramophones, TV sets, loudspeakers, sound recorders, and centuries-old bells are among other objects being

on display.

The museum also features a rich archive of indigenous tonal and recorded music, comprising a collection of azan (the Islamic call to worship) soundtracks, pardeh-khani performances, which are dedicated to tragic stories of Muslim leaders, as well as Quran recitations, amongst others.

Capital of East Azarbaijan province, Tabriz, which is well-soaked in history and culture for millennia, embraces several historical and religious sites, including Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few.

The ancient city was declared a world craft city of carpet weaving by the World Craft in 2016. It also bore the title of 2018 Islamic Tourism Capital last year.

Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor, Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548, when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During the World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

A peek into Khajeh Rabi shrine in northeast Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — For ages, Iran has been a haven for those who seek calm and peace as well as those who are after science, art, and education.

When many countries in the region were struggling for their basic human rights and were involved in tribal battles, Persia (Iran) was home to ubiquitous schools and madrasas. It was a melting pot of arts, science, and culture, contributing immensely to the scientific flourishing of the Islamic Golden Age.

"Culturally, politically, and most remarkable of all even religiously, the Persian contribution to this new Islamic civilization is of immense importance," according to Bernard Lewis (1916 – 2018), who was a British American historian specialized in Oriental studies.

"The work of Iranians can be seen in every field of cultural endeavor, including Arabic poetry, to which poets of Iranian origin composing their poems in Arabic made a very significant contribution."

Rabi Ibn Khathim, known as Khajeh Rabi, was one of the many scholars who opted to move to Persia on the eve of the Islamic Golden Age, which traditionally dated from the 8th century to the 14th century.

One of the elites of Kufa in the 7th century, Khajeh Rabi, became well known for his endeavors in the way of promoting Islam. He had decided to leave his

hometown to run away from the conflicts between the rulers of the time. Khorasan was his first choice.

The scholar emphasized the importance of silence, scrupulousness in religious observance, and the fear of Hell. When he died in Nughan, the center of Tus at the time, his simply-built tomb, located six kilometers north of Mashhad in Khorasan Razavi province, became a center for Shiite and Sunni pilgrims and even paying respects at the grave was said to have been Imam Reza's 'main consolation' in coming to Mashhad.

Almost a thousand years later, a beautifully proportioned, blue-domed mausoleum was built upon the old tomb by order of the famed Safavid king, Shah Abbas I (1571-1629).

The use of turquoise tiles on its dome with a height of 18 meters, and Islamic patterns in golden and blue tones on the interior walls has given it an eye-catching beauty; however, much of the decorative tilework came later.

There are also two inscriptions written by Alireza Abbasi, one of the great calligraphers of the Safavid era, inside the dome, which give some information about the year of construction and the building's decorations.

The structure is octagonal on the outside, while from the inside it is a four-ivan (porticos) building. An ivan is a vaulted space that opens on one side to a



courtyard. The idea of ivan developed in pre-Islamic Iran where it was used in monumental and imperial architecture.

A large arcade surrounds the mausoleum, containing a cemetery paved with thousands of tombstones.

Nowadays, as the mausoleum is located inside a beautiful and spectacular garden, it has become a popular tourist attraction that could attract pilgrims as well as history buffs and nature lovers.

Fam tour expected to put mine on tourist map

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A recent familiarization tour, dedicated to journalists and photographers, is expected to put Anguran, which is a massive lead and zinc mine, on the tourist map in the northwestern Iranian province of Zanjan.

The journalists who participated in the one-day event on Saturday are expected to introduce and promote the tourist complex of the mine, which is located 130 kilometers west of the provincial capital of Zanjan, the provincial tourism chief said on Saturday.

The participants visited the underground tunnels, travertine mines, and machineries used for mining, and they closely observed the methods of exploration and extraction and the ways of extracting minerals and rocks, especially precious stones, Amir Arjmand announced.

Strict health protocols and social distancing were a vital portion of the tour, the official added.



Last May, the official announced that

Iran plans to promote mining tourism in Anguran by implementing a project in Anguran lead and zinc mine which involves establishing some residential units and facilities for tours and individual travelers.

He expressed hope that the mine complex would be hosting tourists and sightseers in near future.

Mining tourism is a new category in the tourism industry, which involves tours of both abandoned and active mines, and it is expected to have a great impact on the economy in the region, as well as tourism, development, and job creation, he added.

Anguran mine, which is considered to be the largest lead and zinc mine in West Asia, is one of the few active mines in the country.

Qajar-era Elgoli mansion gains former splendor

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — The hexagonal Qajar-era (1789-1925) mansion of Elgoli, which is located in the historical city of Tabriz, has undergone some rehabilitation works.

The restoration project was carried out by the city's municipality under the supervision of experienced restorers and cultural heritage experts, the tourism chief of Iran's East Azarbaijan province announced on Saturday.

Furthermore, special services are planned to be provided, and experienced tour guides are to be hired, for the convenience of the visitors to the mansion and its surroundings, Ahmad Hamzezhadeh said.

As one of the most important tourist attractions of the province, Elgoli is one of the priorities of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, the official added.

Surrounded by an artificial lake and a big garden, the Elgoli mansion, also known as Shah Goli is located



ed in the southeast, seven kilometers from the city center of Tabriz.

Although the history of Elgoli is not clear, it sounds

that during the Aq-qoyunlu dynasty (1378-1501) the construction process of the original building was started and continued until the Safavid era (1501-1736). However, it seems that the lake originally was used as a water resource for agricultural purposes. There was an artificial island with a small palace in the middle of the lake which was used as a royal summer palace during the Qajar dynasty (when Tabriz was the official residence of the Prince of Iran).

During the Pahlavi era, the palace was reconstructed and a pass-way was built to connect the island to the sidewalks. It has a square artificial lake surrounded by four sidewalks on four sides.

There is a hill covered with trees in the south of the lake. Two beautiful stairways connect the sidewalks to the top of the hill. There are a zoo and other recreational facilities such as a playground inside the complex. The structure was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2009.

Defense, agriculture ministries join hands to protect environment

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation in the field of environmental protection, IRIB reported on Saturday.

Under the agreement, part of the capacity of the Ministry of Defense will serve the agricultural, water, and soil sectors as well as the production of items needed by these sectors, Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said.

Production of agricultural machinery, UAVs for water use, desertification, etc., use of helicopters for forest firefighting, use of technological, satellite, and air facilities for the development of agricultural infrastructure and maintenance of biological resources, self-sufficiency, production and distribution of essential products are among the most important areas of cooperation between the ministries, he explained.

Hatami went on to note that the agricultural sector is the main infrastructure for achieving food security, providing



adequate, available, healthy, useful, and sustainable food, adding, this sector is

one of the pillars of the country's development.

Technological advances and environmental protection

Jamshid Mohabbat Khani, commander of the protection unit of the Department of Environment (DOE), said in May 2020 that the DOE plans to equip the environmental defenders with technological advances.

It is planned to purchase quadcopters, set up a nationwide wireless system, and install cameras on the rangers' uniforms, he stated.

Pointing to the purchase of quadcopters to monitor protected areas, prevent crime, identify and even deal with poachers, he said that some quadcopters can carry 100 liters of water and spray it over areas burning in fire.

Installing cameras on rangers' uniform is another plan that can be effective in documenting while helping the defenders to prove conflicts with poachers to the judiciary, he highlighted.

The new wireless devices have a GPS that can be used to track and monitor the forces in the event of an accident, and the rangers can contact all the country's police stations, he highlighted.

Relief foundation plans to create 300,000 jobs next year

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation plans to open up 300,000 job opportunities for the deprived over the next Iranian calendar year (starting March 21), deputy head of the foundation has said.

Some 191,500 direct and indirect jobs were created for the financially struggling individuals since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year, which is expected to reach 210,000 by the end of this year, Hojjat Abdolmaleki said.

The employment projects brought a total of 175 trillion rials (nearly \$4.1 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) income for their owners this year, he noted, adding, the income generated this year has increased by 82 percent compared to last year.

According to Abdolmaleki, a total of 40 trillion (nearly \$950 million) has been spent to create 150,000 direct jobs.

Sustainable income from employment schemes demonstrates empowerment of the underprivileged families, he stated, IRIB reported on Saturday.



Last year (March 2019-March 2020), the Foundation launched about 33 percent of the country's employment projects, Morteza Bakhtiari, head of the Foundation, said in August 2020.

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation works to provide employment in deprived areas and empowers financially struggling families, other services such as building or buying housing, cultural services, medical services, and other facilities are provided, for example, in the field of treatment, more than 80,000 patients of incurable diseases are currently under the Foundation's coverage.

Iran may face new wave of COVID-19, Rouhani warns

1 → Highlighting that last week there were no cities were at high risk "red" zones in the country, Rouhani said that today some cities in Khuzestan province turned red and at high risk and some cities have also turned orange (medium-risk), which raises the alarm of the fourth wave of coronavirus.

Red-zone cities

Currently, the cities of Ahvaz, Abadan, Bandar Mahshahr, Dezful, Shadegan, Shushtar, and Karun in Khuzestan province are in "red" zones, Health Ministry's spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari told IRNA.

The declining trend of observing health protocols in the country will lead to a new coronavirus rise, which is very dangerous considering the new cases of the mutated virus, she lamented.

Lari also reported that following health protocols in the country reduced to 74.93 percent.

COVID-19 daily new cases and mortalities

In a press briefing on Saturday, Lari



confirmed 7,120 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 1,510,873. She added that 1,291,726 patients have so far recovered, but 3,720 remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 74 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 58,883, she added.

So far, 9,993,224 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

Lari noted that currently, 9 cities are at high-risk "red" zones, 39 cities in medium-risk "orange" zones, and 228 in low-risk "yellow" zones.

Air pollution in U.S. subway stations is disturbingly high

Air pollution in subway systems across the Northeastern United States is unsettlingly high, scientists reported on February 10 in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives. The researchers sampled the air at subway stations across the New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas and found particulate (microscopic particles that float around in the air) concentrations that were generally two to seven times the Environmental Protection Agency's daily recommended limit. Overall, New York was the worst offender, and the airborne particle levels in one "exceptional" station were higher than have previously been reported for any subway station in the world.

Scientists aren't sure how dangerous the pollutants found in subway stations are. However, in all likelihood, "It increases the risk of adverse health effects for commuters, and more particularly it's going to be impactful on the health of [transit] workers," says Terry Gordon, a professor of environmental medicine at New York University's Gross-



man School of Medicine and coauthor of the new findings. "Exposures even for a short time are very high."

Globally, about 168 million people rode metro systems per day in 2017. The New York City subway system alone carried more than 5 million passengers on a typical weekday prior to the pandemic. With the exception of maintenance

trains, subway trains are typically powered by electricity, which means they don't emit the same kinds of pollution as fossil fuel-burning vehicles.

To understand how air pollution in American subways compares with that of surface-level city air, Gordon and his colleagues visited 71 stations in the four East Coast metropolitan areas during the morning and evening rush hours and sampled the air for 5 to 10 minutes at each station. In the New York area, the team visited several stations along the PATH transit system that connects Manhattan to New Jersey and the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) in addition to the subway. Using a device that assesses light scattered by airborne particles, the researchers measured the amount of particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (for comparison, the average human hair measures 70 micrometers across). The EPA considers particles this size to be a threat to human health because, once inhaled, they can get deep into the lungs.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

20% of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), has said.

"Precipitation in Iran is one-third of the world's average, as the country is located in a dry and fragile region where we experience 11 millimeters decrease in precipitation each 10 years and an increase in evaporation of more than 50 millimeters every year," he explained, ISNA reported.

Rainfall fluctuations usually lead to flood and devastation, so a comprehensive planning for watershed management and flood control is required, he noted.

Since most of the water supply is extracted from groundwater resources, the country is in a critical condition in terms of groundwater resources, he stated, highlighting, because perception is less than water withdrawal from the aquifers, so the best way to store rainwater is watershed and aquifer projects.

بیست درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است

سرپرست سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری می گوید ۲۰ درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است.

به گزارش روز جمعه ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی افزود: میزان بارش در کشور ما یک سوم متوسط آن در دنیا است و از نظر جغرافیایی در منطقه ای خشک و شکننده واقع شده‌ایم که هر ۱۰ سال با ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارش و بیش از ۵۰ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تفرق مواجه هستیم که همه منجر به این شده که بارش‌ها در منطقه ما سیلابی و ویرانگر باشد، به همین خاطر نیازمند برنامه ریزی جامع برای مدیریت حوضه‌های آبخیز و کنترل سیلاب‌ها هستیم.

به گفته شهبازی از آنجایی که بیشتر آب مورد استفاده در کشور از آبهای زیرزمینی تامین می‌شود جزو کشورهای بحرانی و فوق بحرانی از نظر منابع آب زیرزمینی بوده و چون برداشت ما از سفره‌ها بیش از ورودی آب به آنهاست و بهترین راهکار برای ذخیره این آب‌ها انجام پروژه‌های آبخیزداری و آبخیزداری است.

Meeting climate goals would save millions of lives every year

Taking tougher action to meet the world's climate goals could save millions of lives each year, a new study finds.

This is because more stringent action on greenhouse gases would come with knock-on benefits for human health, researchers said. For example, stronger climate policies would see the wider adoption of greener and healthier diets and drive reductions in harmful air pollution.

Shifts towards climate-friendly diets, including less meat and dairy and more fruit and vegetables, would by far provide the largest co-benefits for health, the study suggests.

The research analysed the current climate plans of nine countries, which together represent half of the world's population and 70 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. None of these countries currently have climate plans in place that are in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to well below 2C above pre-industrial levels.

The analysis finds that, if the countries increased their pledges to be in the line with the Paris goals, almost six million deaths could be avoided each year as a result of shifts towards healthier and greener diets by 2040, when compared to a scenario where no additional efforts are made.

In addition, around one million lives could be saved due to reductions in air pollution and close to one million lives could be saved due to the adoption of more active forms of transport such as cycling and walking, according to the findings.

Dr Ian Hamilton, a scientist at University College London and executive director of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, the international research team behind the new study, told The Independent: "Well-designed climate policies across the energy, built environment, food and agriculture, and transport sectors could result in cleaner air, improved housing, increased physical activity, and healthier diets."

"This would see countries taking actions that have global impacts and local benefits."

"For places like the UK, which have made substantial progress around air pollution and decarbonising their electricity generation, we see that there is still significant room to go on vehicle pollution, increasing physical activity and reducing excessive consumption of red meat and saturated fats."

The nine countries studied in the analysis – published in a special issue of The Lancet Planetary Health journal – include Brazil, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa, the UK and the US.

For the study, the researchers used modelling to look at how the policies outlined in the countries' current climate plans, which are known as "nationally determined contributions", could affect levels of pollution and changes to diet and physical activity by 2040.

They then compared this to future scenarios, including one where countries alter their climate plans to be consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN's sustainable development goals.

From this, they were able to deduce how taking more stringent climate action could affect the number of deaths connected to diet, physical activity and air pollution in each of the nine countries.

The results show that, in the UK, implementing climate policies in line with the Paris Agreement could each year save around 98,000 lives due to healthier and greener diets, 3,000 lives due to better air quality and 21,000 lives due to more active travel by 2040, when compared to a scenario where no additional efforts are made.

The number of lives saved could be even higher if countries' prioritised health when setting more stringent climate policies, the researchers added.

Across the nine countries, most health benefits are derived from changes to diet, the research notes.

"Our modelling shows that shifts in diet to remove excess red meat and saturated fats and to increase consumption of plant-based foods and more vegetables and fruits will have quite a big impact on diet-related disease," said Dr Hamilton.

"The reason for the size of effect has to do with how daily consumption in our diets has a big influence on overall disease, but also our physical conditions – being overweight – and the influence of this on disease."

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 128)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

until now	تا حالا	
dark	تاریک	
darkness	تاریکی	
war	جنگ	
enemy	دشمن / دوست	آجیل
invitation	دعوت	
to invite	دعوت کردن	
winter	زمستان : سردترین فصل سال	
tradition	سنت	آثار
traditional	سنتی	
poem	شعر (جمع : شعرها، اشعار)	
husband	شوهر /ow/	
grandmother	مادر بزرگ (جمع : مادر بزرگ‌ها)	قرش
red	قرمز	
guest	میهمان = میهمان	
party	میهمانی = میهمانی	
ignorant	نادان	میوه
close relatives and friends	نزدیکان	
to enter	وارد شدن	
still; yet	هنوز	هندوآله

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



There are five activities that I won't leave off till I'm alive so that they would become part of my tradition. [One of them] is greeting children.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

“How to Speak Dolphin” at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — American writer Ginny Rorby's young adult's novel "How to Speak Dolphin" has been published in Persian.

Madreseh is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Maryam Rafiei.

In “How to Speak Dolphin”, the Schneider Family Book Award-winning author Rorby has created an irresistible dolphin story about a girl's struggle to help her autistic brother and herself.

Lily loves her half-brother, Adam, but she has always struggled with him, too. He's definitely on the autism spectrum, though her step-father, Don, can barely bring himself to admit it, and caring for him has forced Lily to become as much a mother as a sister.

All Lily wants is for her step-father to acknowledge that Adam has a real issue; that they need to find some kind of program that can help him. Then maybe she can have a life of her own.

Adam has always loved dolphins, so when Don, an oncologist, hears about a young dolphin with cancer, he offers to help. He brings Lily and Adam along, and Adam and the dolphin, Nori, bond instantly. But though Lily sees how much Adam loves Nori, she also sees that the dolphin shouldn't spend the rest of her life in captivity, away from her family.

Can Adam find real help somewhere else? And can Lily help Nori regain her freedom without betraying her family?

Chennai festival to screen 11 Iranian films

A R T **TEHRAN** — A lineup of 11 Iranian films will be screened at the 18th edition of the Chennai International Film Festival running in the Indian city from February 18 to 25.

The selection includes “Careless Crime” by Shahram Mokri, “The Slaughterhouse” by Abbas Amini and “The Wasteland” by Ahmad Bahrami.



“The Slaughter House” by Abbas Amini.

the best original screenplay award at the Venice festival and the Silver Hugo of the jury at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Co-written by Nasim Ahmadpur and Mokri, the film also won the award for best screenplay at the 19th Dhaka International Film Festival in Bangladesh.

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

“The Slaughterhouse” won the Kim Jiseok Award at the 25th Busan International Film Festival in October.

“The Wasteland” is about an old brick manufacturing factory that is going to be shut down, and all that matters to the factory supervisor is to keep his lover unharmed.

The film won the Orizzonti award for best film at the 77th Venice Film Festival in September, while it also received the Fai Persona Lavoro Ambiente Foundation Award of the festival.

91 films from 53 countries will go on screen this year, and “The Girl with A Bracelet” by Stephane Demoustier from France will open the festival.

The organizers have arranged several workshops to be conducted by eminent personalities from the film industry and literature.

Prints by Iranian, international artists on view at Fajr Festival of Visual Arts

→1 The Iranian artists include Farahnaz Rahmati, Nazanin Enayat, Donya Gorji, Kimia Kazemi, Khatereh Lotfi, Aanaali Vakili, Mojdeh Suri and Maryam Yasliani.

Veteran artist Ahmad Vakili is the curator of the exhibition. Vakili is an outstanding printmaker in Iran. He is a graduate of art and has held several solo exhibits in different galleries in Iran. He has also participated in several international festivals.

Several workshops on linocut and lithography have also been arranged during the festival.

The festival 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 put on display 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, all of which have been acclaimed at international events in various countries, including Kirghizia, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

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. The festival will be running until February 18.



Art enthusiasts visit an exhibition of prints by Iranian and foreign artists during the 13th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts at the Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran on February 6, 2021. (Tasnim/Nasser Jafari)

English translation of “Lean against This Late Hour” shortlisted for PEN America Literary Award

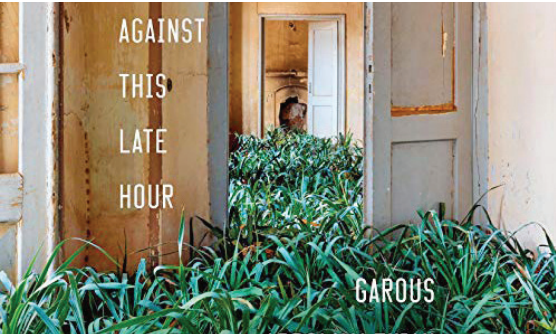
The publisher has said, “The first selection of poems by renowned Iranian poet Garous Abdolmalekian to appear in English, this collection is a captivating, disorienting descent into the trauma of loss and its aftermath.”

“In spare lines, Abdolmalekian conjures surreal, cinematic images that pan wide as deftly as they narrow into intimate focus. Time is a thread come unspooled: pain arrives before the wound, and the dead wait for sunrise.

“Abdolmalekian resists definitive separations between cause and effect, life and death, or heaven and hell, and challenges our sense of what is fixed and what is unsettled and permeable. Though the speakers in these poems are witnesses to the deforming effects of grief and memory, they remain alive to curiosity, to the pleasure of companionship, and to other ways of being and seeing.

“Lean against This Late Hour” illuminates the images we conjure in the face of abandonment and ruin, and finds them by turns frightening, bewildering, ethereal and defiant. This time, a disembodied voice commands, send us a prophet who only listens.”

A selection of works by Abdolmalekian was published in Arabic in Kuwait in 2020.



Front cover of “Lean against This Late Hour” by Iranian poet Garous Abdolmalekian.

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — An English translation of young Iranian writer Garous Abdolmalekian's collection “Lean against This Late Hour” is among the finalists of the 2021 PEN America Literary Awards.

The book translated into English by Ahmad Nadalizadeh and Idra Novey has received the nomination in the Pen Award for Poetry in Translation category, the organizers have announced.

The English translation of “Lean against This Late Hour” was published by Penguin Books on April 14, 2020.

The New York Times Magazine has described the collection as “A vivid, mesmerizing portrait of life in the shadow of violence and loss, for readers of both English and Persian.”

Movies from Iran line up for Providence Children’s Film Festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Eight movies by Iranian filmmakers are competing in the Providence Children's Film Festival (PCFF) currently underway in the capital city of the U.S. state of Rhode Island.

The films are “Borderless” by Behrad Sahebqarani, “A Girl from Parsian” by Parinaz Hashemi Mobarakeh, “Rainbow” by Mohammad Khalili, “The Rotation” by Hazineh As'adi, “Wooden Sword” by Behzad Alavi and Susan Salamat, “One Nice Day” by Susan Salamat, “The Eleventh Step” by Maryam Kashkulinia and “Gando” by Teimur Qaderi.

“Borderless” is competing in the Live Action Short category. The film is about Delaram, a teenage girl who was born with Down's syndrome. She is very aware of being treated differently by others and feels that there is a border between everyone she encounters. Delaram has come up with a unique coping mechanism to maintain happiness in her life. The imagination can be a powerful tool.

This section also features “Rainbow”. In



“Gando” by Teimur Qaderi.

this film, a young flower vendor working a street corner comes across something that is not his. The events that follow show his regret and misunderstanding of other people's intentions.

“Wooden Sword” has also been selected for this section. It tells the story of two young boys who meet on a park bench while waiting for their fathers to return. Little do they know that their fathers have not formed a friendship like they just have. Is what they see next

something that might stay with them forever?

“One Nice Day” is also competing in this section. An elementary school teacher is given an opportunity to give away one new book bag to a student in his class. To decide, everyone writes a name on a piece of paper and tosses it into a bag, and then the teacher pulls out the winner. Little did he know... the drawing was rigged!

“Gando” and “A Girl From Parsian” have been picked for the documentary short competition.

“Gando” is about the water crisis in Sistan and Baluchistan Province. Villagers must go to local ponds and rivers to get what they need on a daily basis. Once you are on the river bank you must be very careful because gandos (Iranian crocodiles) live there as well.

This documentary tells the story of a nine-year-old girl named Hawa who lost her arm one-day getting water. It's also a story about, despite the gando being a threat, the villagers respect the gando because they believe they help bring the water.

“A Girl from Parsian” is an insightful documentary about a group of young Iranian women who wish to ride their bikes and the resistance they encounter from men of all ages.

“The Eleventh Step” and “The Rotation” are competing in a section dedicated to short animations.

“The Eleventh Step” is about a little lion cub, born in a zoo. He lives in a cage that is only ten steps long. On the eleventh step, he bangs his head against the bars, but one day the zookeeper leaves the cage door open.

In “The Rotation”, there is a war between two tribes over claiming the sun in the sky. As a result of that war, the sun is annihilated and a volcano erupts. Those two tribes perish and a new sun is made by the lava. Several centuries pass and the new tribes continue to war over their claim to the sun in the sky. The sad cycle continues.

The Providence Children's Film Festival (PCFF), which is organized online due to the pandemic, will come to an end on February 21 with the announcement of winners.

French distributor Totem Films purchases Iranian film “Ballad of a White Cow”

A R T **TEHRAN** — Totem Films, a Paris-based international sales and co-production company, has announced Friday that it has purchased the rights to sell Iran's Berlin festival competition entry, “Ballad of a White Cow”.

“Ballad of a White Cow” co-directed by Behtash Sanaeiha and Maryam Moqaddam will go on screen in the official competition of the 71st Berlin International Film Festival.

Totem Films will bring the drama to the market at the European Film Market (EFM) in early March.

Launched in 2019 by Agathe Valentin, Laure Parleani and Berenice Vincent, Totem Films made waves at the Cannes Film Market last year, scoring vast international sales on “Gagarine” by Fanny Liatard and Jeremy Trouilh from Russia, one of the Cannes festival official selection's biggest arthouse breakouts.

“Ballad of a White Cow” is about Mina, a young woman who lives alone with her deaf child while her husband had



A scene from “Ballad of the White Cow” by Behtash Sanaeiha and Maryam Moqaddam.

been executed for a murder charge a year ago. She tries to get her life together, take good care of her child and make both ends meet. However, her life gets more sorrowful when she finds out that her husband was innocent.

As Mina battles for a public apology from the judges

who served her husband's death sentence, a stranger, Reza, appears on her doorstep, explaining that he has come to repay a debt he owes to Babak. Mina gradually opens up to him, unaware of the terrible secret tying them together.

“Ballad of a White Cow” is the story of a woman's struggle for justice, recognition and independence in the world of today.

After “Acid Rain”, Moqaddam and Sanaeiha co-wrote and co-directed 2018's multi-prized doc feature, “The Invincible Diplomacy of Mr. Naderi”.

“Ballad of a White Cow” is their second joint feature as co-directors. It is produced by Gholamreza Musavi and Etienne de Ricaud.

Iran has won Berlin's top awards, the Golden Bear for best feature, more times in the last decade than any other country in the world.

Asghar Farhadi's “A Separation” won a Golden Bear for the best film at the Berlin Film Festival and its cast ensemble received best actor and actress Silver Bears at the event in 2011.

“Faithless” by Joyce Carol Oates comes to Iranian bookstores

A R T **TEHRAN** — A selection of the short stories from American writer Joyce Carol Oates's collection “Faithless: Tales of Transgression” has recently been published in Persian by Qognus Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mehri Sharafi.

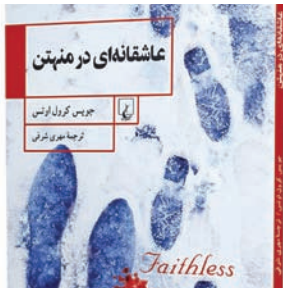
In this collection, Joyce Carol Oates explores the mysterious private lives of men and women with vivid, unsparring precision and sympathy. By alternating between being

an interlocutor and interpreter, magician and realist, she dissects the psyches of ordinary people and their potential for good and evil with chilling understatement and lasting power.

Oates is a recipient of the National Medal of Humanities, the National Book Critics Circle Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Book Award, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, and has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize several times.

She has written some of the most enduring fiction of the time, including the national bestseller “We Were the Mulvaney”, which was nominated for the National Book Award, and the New York Times bestseller “He Falls”, which won the 2005 Prix Femina.

Her most recent novel is “A Book of American Martyrs”. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University, and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.



A poster for the Persian translation of Joyce Carol Oates's “Faithless: Tales of Transgression”.