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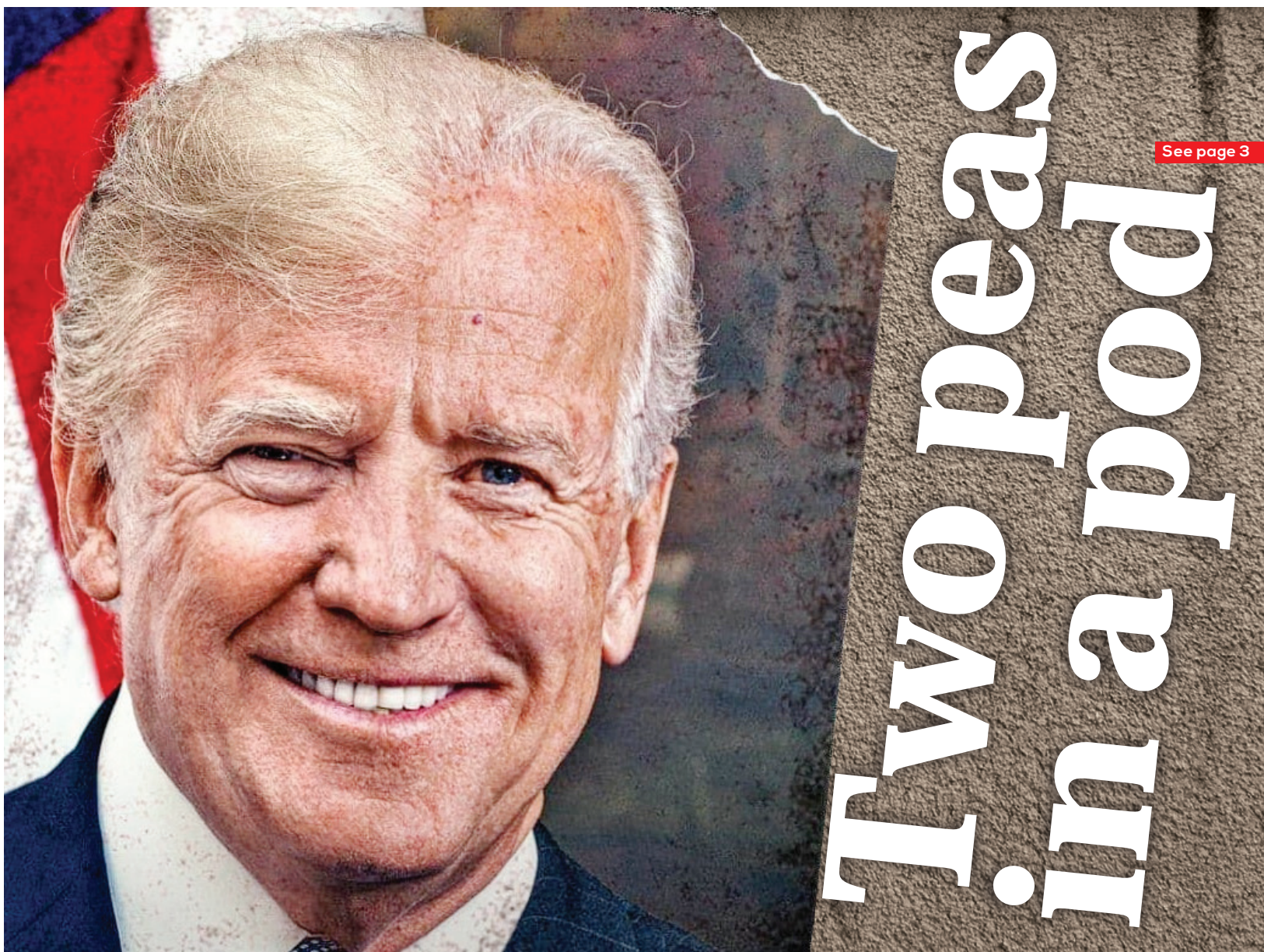
We work hard to prepare Iran for qualifiers: Skocic *Page 3*



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Tehran is going to stop implementing Additional Protocol if the West doesn't act: MP

BY ALI A. JENABZADEH
TEHRAN – A senior member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) says lawmakers are very serious to enforce the “strategic action to lift sanctions” law.

“The Majlis is very strenuous and serious about implementing the ‘strategic action to lift sanctions’ law and is pursuing its implementation by the government,” Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, tells the Tehran Times.

“There is an overwhelming consensus among all of Iran’s institutions about moving forward with the nuclear law, especially among the government and the (Supreme) National Security Council,” Amouei emphasizes.

On December 1, Iranian lawmakers overwhelmingly voted in favor of a bill called “Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Safeguard Interests of the Iranian People.”

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Denmark eager for co-op with Iran in geology, mining

TEHRAN – Denmark’s new Ambassador to Tehran Jesper Vahr has expressed his country’s willingness to cooperate with Iran in geology and mining areas, IRNA reported.

Vahr made the remarks in a meeting with Alireza Shahidi, the head of Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran (GSI) on Monday.

According to the GSI Office of Public Relations, in the mentioned meeting the two sides discussed the development of bilateral cooperation and stressed the need to strengthen scientific and research relations in the fields of geology and mining exploration.

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36th Fajr Music Festival launches online today

TEHRAN – The 36th Fajr Music Festival will kick off today with streaming performances on fajrmusicfestival.com, nay.ir, and tiwall.com after canceling the in-person edition in Tehran due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Austrian duos Vila Madalena is one of the groups, which are scheduled to give their performance on the very first day of the festival, the organizer announced

in a press release published on Monday. ISTAM Ritual Groups, Respina String Quartet, Namad String Quartet and Jav Ensemble are among the Iranian participating musicians on the first day.

The organizers of the 36th edition of the festival decided to stream the performances online this year due to the pandemic and coronavirus restrictions.

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Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Mehdi Fonounizadeh optimistic over the team’s future

BY FARROKH HESABI
Former Esteghlal and Iran national team midfielder, Mehdi Fonounizadeh, believes that inconsistency has been the major problem in Esteghlal in these weeks.

The Blues suffered a 2-0 defeat against Sepahan in Isfahan’s Foolad Shahr Stadium on Saturday. Mahmoud Fekri’s side gave their place at the top of the Iran Professional League (IPL) table to Sepahan and their rivals Persepolis’ overtook them in the table.

In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Fonounizadeh talked firstly about Saturday’s match.

“I think Esteghlal’s performance against Sepahan it’s not bad as it seemed. However, the problem was with the first line-up of the team. We saw again the line-up had been changed a lot comparing the previous matches. Moreover, the formation of the team has been changed from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2. Playing with three defenders was a risky decision made by Esteghlal technical staff,” he said.

Esteghlal did not create enough chances to win the game and Fekri must not be pleased with his team’s performance.

“It’s not good at all for a team in Esteghlal’s caliber that they don’t know their main line-up and every week Mahmoud Fekri makes a number of new changes to his squad. It’s definitely a negative point after 15 weeks passed from the season.

“Normally, most of the teams will recognize their main squads after four or five weeks of the league. The tactical confusion that is obvious in Esteghlal’s games is due to the lack of consistency in their line-up. When you use a player like Aref Gholami, who is center-back, in a different position, it makes some problems for the team and it was exactly what happened for Esteghlal in Tehran’s derby against Persepolis. The mistake is being repeated in the match against Sepahan and in some other matches as well,” Esteghlal former player added.

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Biden’s foreign policy toward Iran: Speak softly but carry a big stick!

BY MYLES HOENIG
Biden’s foreign policy towards Iran will likely not change very much from what Trump was doing. Biden is from the old school of ‘speak softly but carry a big stick’, yet without the soft speaking. Regardless of who the president is, the foreign establishment does not change with new administrations. They look at the geopolitics and make their policies accordingly. As it is now, Iran is a rival to their oil spigot (Saudi Arabia) and to Israel, which holds a tight grip on foreign policy decision making in the U.S.

Biden is making overtures to returning to the nuclear deal but the conditions he’s setting are only setting things up for failure, a goal that the foreign establishment for now, encourages. The U.S. government should be returning to the table without conditions, except perhaps conditions

placed on them, as it was they who abrogated the agreement initially.

The U.S. has government has been punishing Iran with sanctions for the misdeeds of the U.S., leaving the agreement. Secretary Blinken should return to the negotiating table without preconditions on Iran. If anything, it is it the U.S. which cannot be trusted as it has shown repeatedly over the years, and not just regarding Iran. The sanctions against the Iranian government and its people are crimes against humanity, but short of war with a country that can fight back, the U.S. often uses sanctions as their go-to weapon of choice.

Myles Hoenig is an American political analyst. He was a 2016 Green Party candidate who sought election to the U.S. House to represent the 7th Congressional District of Maryland.

China-Iran energy cooperation depends on the development of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership

BY PROFESSOR FAN HONGDA
Recently I was invited to participate in a conference on “Perspectives of Iran-China Economic Cooperation in the energy sectors”. Indeed, energy cooperation should be one of the basic factors promoting the development of contemporary China-Iran relations. But this is not the case now.

The rapid development of China’s economy for decades has been supported by the huge consumption of energy. The changes in Chinese lifestyles, such as the popularization of family cars and gas, also require huge amounts of energy such as oil and natural gas. China’s oil and natural gas imports surpassed the United States and Japan in 2017 and 2018 respectively, becoming the world’s number one importer.

Over the years, China’s imports of oil and natural gas have continued to rise. According to data from China Customs, in 2020 China

imported 542.386 million tons of crude oil and 101.661 million tons of natural gas. However, Iran, which has the world’s fourth largest oil reserves and the largest natural gas reserves, did not appear in the list of China’s top ten oil and gas imports in 2020. This must be something wrong.

U.S. sanctions limit China-Iran energy cooperation

There is no doubt that the sanctions against Iran initiated by the United States have had a very negative impact on China-Iran energy cooperation. Moreover, energy cooperation in international exchanges is often not just an economic behavior, it is also a political issue in many cases and often affected by the international situation. This is very obvious in the energy cooperation between China and Iran.

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Archaeologists start survey at Bronze Age site southeast Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologists have commenced a survey at Konar Sandal, a Bronze Age site, which is situated in Jiroft plain of Kerman province, southeast Iran.

A team of archaeologists and cultural heritage experts have started to dig [exploratory] trenches across Konar Sandal under the supervision of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, Fereidoun Fa’ali, the provincial tourism chief, announced on Monday.

“The demarcation project is aimed to deter-

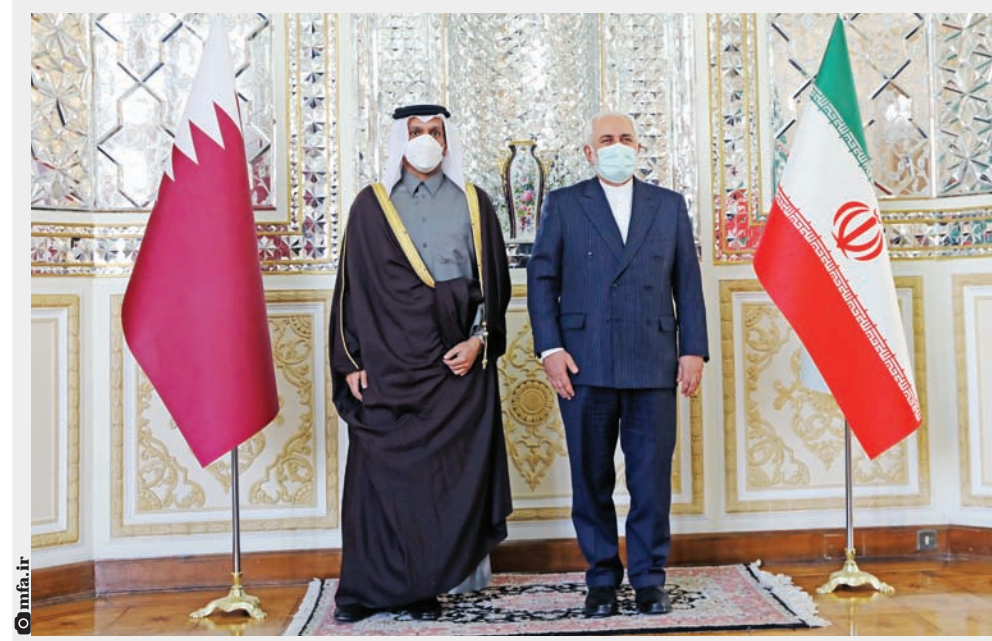
mine the legal boundaries of the prehistorical site, which is situated in Jiroft plain.... The globally-magnificent site of Konar Sandal was once one of the most important Bronze Age cities in Southwest Asia,” the official explained.

The first archaeological excavation on the site was conducted some two decades ago by a team of international experts under the leadership of Iranian archaeologist Yousef Majidzadeh, he said.

The survey resulted in the discovery of a Bronze Age settlement in Halil-Rud valley,” Fa’ali added.

Based on previous archaeological investigations, the site consists of two mounds a few kilometers apart, called Konar Sandal A and B with a height of 13 and 21 meters, respectively. At Konar Sandal B, a two-story, windowed citadel with a base of close to 13.5 hectares was found. Tablets with scripts of unknown nature were reportedly discovered at the site.

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Qatari, Iranian FMs hold talks in Tehran

Qatari FM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani held talks with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif in Tehran on Monday afternoon. According to the Foreign Ministry media office, Zarif elaborated on Tehran’s opposition to the policy of bullying and compulsion. He also insisted on the need for cooperation between regional states to settle problems to reach security arrangements.

In addition, Qatar has already announced it is ready to mediate between Iran and the U.S. to revitalize the JCPOA. “The State of Qatar is working on de-escalation through a political and diplomatic process to return to the nuclear agreement,” the Qatari chief diplomat said.

S. Arabia trying to approach Shia groups in Iraq to undermine Iran: Iraqi analyst

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI
TEHRAN – An Iraqi political analyst says that Saudi Arabia is trying to approach Shia parties in Iraq to restrain Hashd al-Shaabi and undermine Iran.

“In the recent period they (Saudis) have approached some Shia political groups, especially the Islamic ones, to influence the Iraqi political decision,” Ali Fahim tells the Tehran Times.

These attempts “were clearly reflected in the political positions of these (Iraqi) figures and blocs, with regard to the future of the Hashd al-Shaabi, confronting terrorism and the position on the October movement as well as other issues that may affect Saudi Arabia, the main suspect in supporting Daesh,” Fahim explains.

The following is the text of the interview:
How do you see America’s record when it comes to fighting terrorism in Iraq?

We must first know America’s view towards the concept of terrorism before we talk about its strategy in confronting this phenomenon. We will not need much effort to clarify this.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump summed it up when he said, “We will protect America from extremist Islamic terrorism.”

It is an abstract of philosophy of Huntington, the American philosopher who put forward the theory of the Clash of Civilizations through which he nominated Islam as a potential enemy before Western civilization in response to Fukuyama’s theory of “The end of history” which heralded the victory and hegemony of Western civilization after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

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Biden and JCPOA: Racing against the clock

By Azin Sahabi

TEHRAN — The Atlantic Council and the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft have published analyses in two different fields. While the former believes in a “rebirth” in sanctions team at the U.S. Department of State, the latter recommends that Biden’s administration “must be willing to take some political heat” to break the current standoff between Iran and the United States. The think tank warns Biden that the Oval Office should race against the clock to escape the so far dangerous game between Iran and the U.S.

Daniel Fried and Robert E. Hunter, have commented on the issues, respectively.

Atlantic Council: Guidelines for new sanctions team

In an analysis published on Feb 12, 2021, Daniel Fried, a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council sheds light on “re-birth of the State Department’s Office of Sanctions Coordination” and puts forward some guidelines for the new team who holds the promise of substantially increasing the effectiveness of U.S. sanctions policy.



The author, who was the first and so far the only State Department coordinator for sanctions policy, describes sanctions as “increasingly a tool of first resort in U.S. foreign policy”. But he says there is no “disciplined process” to coordinate sanctions policy not only within the State Department itself, but also with the U.S. allies.

According to Fried, Congress is seeking to make new Office of Sanctions Coordination a permanent fixture at the State Department. He believes that such a move can present the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, with an opportunity to arrange a policy of sanctions for maximum effectiveness.

Fried emphasizes: “Sanctions will inevitably be an early action item for the Biden administration as it revamps U.S. policies toward Iran, Russia, and China. Establishing the Office of Sanctions Coordination in the first six months of the administration would position the State Department to address these issues as effectively as possible.”

Against the backdrop, the expert proposes several recommendations for the new office to be successful in its “rebirth”. For instance, he underlines it should serve as the central core on sanctions policy and the new team should consist of subject-matter experts on all sanctions issues. Also, in terms of “sanctions diplomacy”, Fried stresses that articulating multilateral sanctions by many countries in parallel, is considerably more effective in comparison to unilateral measures. In fact, such a move consolidates a substantive and political thrust which is much less vulnerable to violation.

While the expert describes the United Nations Security Council as “the best venue for negotiating multilateral sanctions”, particularly in cases of Iran and North Korea, he argues that given Russia and China with veto power have turned more adversarial and both are sanctioned as well, UNSCR may no longer be a viable option to count on.

No rebirth in practice

Reviewing Fried’s guidelines regarding the “rebirth” of sanctions team at the Department of State, it seems that there are hardly any fundamental changes as indicators of “rebirth”. Obama and Trump’s sanctions teams, and even Bill Clinton’s, worked multilaterally. They included various experts on different kinds of sanctions teams and tried to build close relationships with allies and partners to make sanction policy as effective as possible. In fact, at best, the Office of Sanctions Coordination is another variant of the previous departments just decorated with a new title.

“Biden must be willing to take some political heat”

In his first network interview on February 7, President Biden told CBS Evening News that the U.S. will not lift sanctions against Iran unless Tehran stops enriching uranium. He affirmed that Washington will not lift sanctions first in order to restart the negotiations with Iran. In addition, in the presidential campaigns, both President Biden and his top officials have been consistent on the requirement that Iran must act first.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has declared that “if they want Iran to return to its commitments, America must completely lift sanctions, and not just in words or on paper.”

In this regard, Robert E. Hunter, the U.S. ambassador to NATO during 1990s believes that “Biden must be willing to take some political heat” to break the current standoff between the two capitals.

In an analysis published on February 9, 2021 in Responsible Statecraft, a publication of the Quincy Institute, he points out that due to deep-rooted bad blood between Washington and Tehran, both parties are reluctant to make the first move unless the other take proportionate steps towards confidence building.

In this context, Hunter asks: “So what should the Biden administration do?”

He warns that if the current stalemate continues, the dangerous game of chicken already in place, may lead to some catastrophic results.

Hunter points to the “time” as a constraint and recommends: “The simplest first step would be for Biden, by a stroke of his pen, to reverse President Donald Trump’s May 2018 withdrawal from the JCPOA. That would challenge Iran to de-escalate.”

The expert also clarifies on the U.S. domestic politics, Arab states of the Persian Gulf and Israel as the main factors which complicate Biden’s decision making towards the Iran nuclear deal. Meanwhile Hunter stresses: “It might be possible to take some crisis management steps, such as forging a multilateral agreement on freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz (which is in every country’s interest) or an incidents-at-sea understanding (done either tacitly or quietly at the level of individual ships), as the United States and Soviet Union concluded in 1972.”

Moreover, Hunter believes Robert Malley, the new special envoy for Iran, can contribute effectively to break the inveterate stand-off and writes:

“Assuming that something does become possible with Iran that meets U.S. interests, though not necessarily those of regional partners, Malley must be able to count on President Biden’s willingness to take the domestic political heat.”

Iran says firm to stop Additional Protocol if sanctions not lifted

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Iran reiterated on Monday that it will suspend the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as of February 21 if the JCPOA parties don’t fulfill their commitments to lift sanctions on Iran.

Speaking at a press conference, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh stressed the Iranian government will be required to stop the implementation of the Additional Protocol on February 21 under a parliamentary law.

On December 1, the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) overwhelmingly voted in favor of a law called “Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Safeguard Interests of the Iranian People”. It tasked the government to suspend more commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – the official name



Iran’s military official consults with Pakistan Navy commander over maritime security

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Second Admiral Amir Arya Shafqat Rudsari met with Pakistan’s Navy Commander Mohammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Monday on the sidelines of the Aman-21 multinational exercise in Karachi to discuss maritime security.

The two military officials discussed the latest cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in maritime security, the participation of the two neighboring countries in holding joint exercises, and sending ships to each other’s ports.

According to Iran Press, Pakistan’s Navy commander praised the presence of Iran’s military delegation as the observer of the Aman-21 international exercise, describing it as a sign of deep friendship between the two countries and their joint vision for maintaining security

and stability at sea.

Pointing to cultural and historical bonds as well as geographical proximity, Admiral Amjad Niazi highlighted the need to increase relations in the sea and exchange experiences between the two countries’ navies.

Admiral Shafqat Rudsari, who headed an Iranian military delegation to Karachi, wished the Pakistani Navy success for holding the Aman-21 multinational exercise.

Members of the Iranian military delegation attended the international maritime conference’s final session on Monday, Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke as a special guest at the conference’s closing session.

Pakistan’s Navy began one of the largest naval exercises in the Arabian Sea along with the participation of navies



of 45 countries including the three largest navies, the U.S., China and Russia, which joined the exercise this year.

Raisi suggests prison inspection between Iran and the West

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi, the head of the Iranian Judiciary, has suggested that if Western countries are sincere in their respect for human rights they can open their prisons

for inspection by Iran and in that situation Iran will be ready to open its prisons to them.

“We are ready to open the doors of our prisons, so pretenders of human rights can visit any Iranian prisoner they want, if they

allow us to visit any prisoner we want in their country,” the top judge remarked.

Pointing to his recent visit to Iraq, Raisi also said, “Iran and Iraq agreed to cooperate on the case related to the assassination of

Major General Qassem Soleimani.”

Raisi stressed that Iran’s relation with its neighbors is a top priority, underlining, “I hope Iran’s international collaboration with Iraq will bear a positive result.”

Iran hails Qatar’s efforts to revive JCPOA

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, on Monday welcomed Qatar for its efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal though he made it clear that Washington’s commitment to the JCPOA requires no mediation.

“Iran welcomes the Qatari government’s help in saving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action,” Khatibzadeh told a regular press briefing.

“Qatar is one of Iran’s regional friends and partners. There have been close consultations between Iran and Qatar at different levels,” he remarked.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held talks with his Qatari counterpart, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, in Tehran on Monday afternoon. They discussed a range of issues, including those related to the Persian Gulf region.

Khatibzadeh emphasized, “Tehran hails any effort to reduce the tensions, but the fulfillment of commitments by the U.S. needs no messages.”

Noting the U.S. can easily begin to honor its JCPOA commitments, the spokesman said, “It’s a pity that the current administration has become an accomplice in the previous administration’s violation of commitments. This is not a constructive approach and must end.”

The spokesman criticized the Biden administration for pursuing Donald Trump’s policy towards Iran, noting, “The situation is not any different from before January 20, as Washington has maintained the same ‘maximum pressure and crimes’ against the Iranian nation.”

He described the unchanged policies by the new U.S. administration as a disgrace to the politicians whose election campaign was based on the pledge to reverse Trump’s

policies.

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 between Iran and six world states—the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — and was ratified in the form of Resolution 2231 by the UN Security Council.

However, Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA in May 2018 and imposed the sanctions that had been lifted by the deal and added new harsh ones.

In May 2019, Iran began to scale back its JCPOA commitments after the remaining European parties failed to fulfill their end of the bargain and compensate for Washington’s sanctions.

In remarks on February 7, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said Iran will resume honoring the JCPOA in full only after the U.S. removes all sanctions on the country in a practical and verifiable manner.

American conservative newspaper wants Biden to send any nuclear pact to Congress for approval

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Iranian Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has demanded that the United States lift all economic sanctions before the Islamic republic will dial back its uranium enrichment operations, according to the Washington Times.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif went further, giving the U.S. until Feb. 21 to rejoin the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The conservative newspaper says with Iran seeking to re-engage on the nuclear issue, President Biden has a chance to avoid missteps that doomed the Obama-era agreement with Iran.



Meanwhile, Biden has thus far rejected Iran’s demand, telling CBS News that the sanctions will stay in place until Iran returns to the limits of the original agreement.

Former President Donald Trump described the nuclear pact as an example of West Asia merry-go-round that spent decades endlessly

circling peace but never achieving it. Trump’s administration claimed the deal allowed Iran to evade compliance inspections and, after 15 years, to produce nuclear weapons. Therefore, he withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and chose a new path that circumvented Iran, and he facilitated accords between Israel and Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Morocco.

Expectedly, Iran started its uranium enrichment to exceed the agreed limit of 3.67 percent. In January, Iran announced its intention to achieve 20 percent enrichment.

Now, “diplomacy is back,” according to Biden, and he has appointed Robert Malley, a first-string negotiator of the Obama deal,

to lead his rapprochement with Iran. The Washington Times urges the U.S. policy makers to conclude the kind of any deal to weaken the original accord.

According to the newspaper, Biden must ignore Tehran’s deadline and refuse to sit down with the Iranians until they suspend their nuclear-enrichment program and allow international inspectors to freely roam anywhere and anytime to ensure compliance.

At the end, the newspaper recommends Biden’s administration to send any deal to the U.S. Senate for ratification as a bona fide treaty would correct the Obama administration’s failure to fortify the original deal with congressional approval.

China-Iran energy cooperation depends on the development of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership

1 → China is an emerging power. When China began to seek energy cooperation with Iran, Western powers had already established close energy cooperation relations with Iran. Later, the international sanctions advocated by the United States forced the major Western oil companies to withdraw from Iran, while China continued to pursue a friendly policy with Iran. In this way, China-Iran energy cooperation ushered in an ideal period.

However, with the intensification of the so-called Iranian nuclear crisis, especially the “extreme pressure” imposed by the U.S. Trump administration on Iran, energy cooperation between China and Iran has once again encountered serious difficulties. This is the fundamental reason why Iran was

not among China’s top ten sources of oil and natural gas imports in 2020.

In fact, even without U.S. sanctions, I think it is currently not easy for Iran and China to have deeper bilateral cooperation including energy. If Iran and China really want to deepen their bilateral relations, they must resolve some of their own problems.

China and Iran need more mutual trust

As far as I know, there are some voices in Iran that oppose the development of comprehensive relations with China. What I want to say is that China is indeed Iran’s ideal partner. Even if Iran’s relations with the United States and other Western countries could be improved, Iran should also attach importance to the development of Iran-China relations from the perspective of national interests. Why?

Iran is in urgent need of large investment in many fields, including the energy sector, and China, which has a huge demand for imported energy, happens to have a stronger willingness to invest abroad. China has made great progress in technology in many fields, and it is no longer appropriate to regard “Made in China” as a low-quality product. More importantly, China has not invaded other countries even in the most powerful period in history. The most popular idea of international relations in China is win-win cooperation. Iranian friends should give China more trust when developing relations with China.

As far as I know, there are some voices in Iran that oppose the development of comprehensive relations with China.

There are also voices in China that oppose comprehensive cooperation with Iran. Some Chinese worry that the overall development of China-Iran relations will upset Washington, Arab countries and Israel. There are also some Chinese who worry that Tehran’s current hope to establish a good relationship with China is only a “political expedient”. In China, I have always emphasized that Iran has a strong ability to rejuvenate, and the rising China needs the friendship of powerful regional countries like Iran. When developing relations with Iran, China needs more confidence.

Back to the issue of China-Iran energy cooperation. Because of the strategic nature of energy cooperation and the sensitivity of China and Iran’s respective foreign relations, it is difficult for the two countries to have very significant energy cooperation if the development of the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership can’t achieve major breakthroughs.

Fan Hongda is professor of the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, China

Two peas in a pod

POLITICAL
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TEHRAN – While Iran is moving toward halting the implementation of the Additional Protocol, the United States still clings to the failed policy of treading in the footsteps of the Trump administration.

Donald Trump has gone, but his legacy of pursuing failed policies toward Iran continues to exist, though the Biden administration has sought to distance itself from its predecessor.

The Biden administration reversed some of Trump's destructive policies in its early days. Biden revoked Trump's travel ban on a number of Muslim countries and rejoined pacts such as the Paris climate accord that Trump quit. But he refused to move away from his predecessor's pressure campaign against Iran.

Biden himself largely avoided publicly discussing his Iran policy. He briefly touched on Iran in his recent interview with CBS in which he said that he would not lift sanctions in order to encourage Iran to start new talks with the United States. Asked whether he would halt sanctions to convince Iran to return to the negotiating table, Biden simply said "No."

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

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif responded to Biden's remarks on Wednesday. "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," Zarif said.

Despite Biden following in the footsteps of Trump in terms of clinging to sanctions, U.S. officials work hard to maintain a façade of diplomacy when it comes to dealing with Iran.

"Pleased to see Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley off to a great start at the State Department. Principled diplomacy is the best path to ensuring that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a tweet on Sunday.

This tweet was shrugged off by Iran. Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, refused to comment on the tweet and said that "It's up to them [U.S.] to interpret the U.S. secretary of state's tweet."

Responding to a question on Blinken's tweet, Khatibzadeh said, "Unfortunately, the United States is still going down the same wrong path of the previous administration. There is no difference between what happens today and what was before January 20. The



same maximum pressure and crime, committed through the cruel sanctions against the Iranian people and disregarding international law, continues today."

Speaking at a weekly press conference on Monday, the spokesman noted that there is no difference between the administrations of Trump and Biden and "this should actually bring a stain of disgrace to those who based their election campaign on distancing themselves from the bullying policies of the Trump administration."

Khatibzadeh was referring to Joe Biden who promised during his election campaign to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal if he was elected president.

"I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations. With our allies, we will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern," Biden wrote in a September op-ed for CNN.

But Biden quietly reneged on his campaign promise after he won the U.S. presidential

election by saying that rejoining the nuclear deal – officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – would be hard and difficult because the nuclear deal is not enough and thus it should be expanded.

In addition to Khatibzadeh, Iran's chief diplomat also lamented that the U.S. was still continuing Trump's policies.

"Biden administration officials keep talking about Iran's compliance with JCPOA. In what capacity? U.S. ceased participation in May 2018, violated JCPOA & punished those complying with UN resolution. As of today, U.S. remains in EXACTLY same position. Before spouting off, COMPLY," Zarif said in a tweet last week.

Facing a continued U.S. non-compliance with the JCPOA, Zarif called on Japan and the European Union to persuade the U.S. to lift its sanctions on Iran.

In an interview with Kyodo News, the chief Iranian diplomat said he hopes Japan and the European Union will persuade newly inaugurated U.S. President Joe Biden to lift economic sanctions imposed on Tehran by his predecessor Donald Trump.

But if the U.S. continues to procrastinate,

Iran will take new steps to further suspend nuclear commitments, according to Ali Akbar Alizadeh, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

Alizadeh told the Tehran Times that Iran would stop implementing the Additional Protocol within a week if the U.S. refused to lift sanctions.

On February 21 the Iranian government will be obligated to implement a nuclear law that was passed mainly to compel the West to realize that Iran will resume the full implementation of the JCPOA only after the remaining parties to the JCPOA as well as the U.S. start keeping their end of the bargain.

The nuclear law, officially called "Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Nation's Rights," outlines a step-by-step strategy for Iran to force the West into changing its policies toward Iran.

Iranian officials have made it clear that if the U.S. refrained from lifting sanctions by February 21, Iran will implement that law.

Asked whether the Americans or Europeans have done anything to convince Iran not to implement the nuclear law, Alizadeh said the West is not taking the initiative to address Iran's concerns.

"We hope that they would come to their senses and lift the sanctions but, unfortunately, there is no sign that they are going to do so," the lawmaker told the Tehran Times.

Alizadeh said Iran will stop "intrusive inspections" that are being done in accordance with the Additional Protocol, whose implementation will come to an end on February 21.

Khatibzadeh also echoed the same position on Monday. He said Iran will end its voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreement if the other parties to the JCPOA fail to honor their commitments by the deadline of February 21.

"This measure means an end to inspections beyond the Safeguards Agreement, but does not mean an end to all inspections. In fact, Iran is a member of the Safeguards Agreement and the NPT, but the implementation of the Additional Protocol will be halted," the spokesman pointed out.

Alizadeh said the cessation of implementation of the Additional Protocol will include unplugging the cameras that were placed in Iran's nuclear facilities according to the Additional Protocol.

Iran writes to IAEA, voices concerns on confidentiality of information

POLITICAL
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TEHRAN – Iran has sent a lengthy letter to Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to inform him of Iran's concerns about the leakage of the information that Iran has provided to the UN nuclear watchdog.

The letter was sent by Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to international organizations in Vienna. The IAEA announced on Tuesday last week that it has received the letter.

"Upon instructions received from my Government, I am writing to you regarding the urgent need for addressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's concerns and observations on the protection of confidential information," Garibabadi wrote to Grossi.

The Iranian ambassador highlighted the harmful consequences of leaking confidential information for Iran's national security, urging the IAEA to take measures to protect classified information.

"Protection of national security, involving persons, property, society and the environment, from harmful consequences of sharing and releasing classified nuclear information is the overall objective of a Member State especially when cooperates with the Agency or any other States. Indeed, such information should be classified, protected and secured with appropriate measures by the IAEA," Gharibabadi stated.

He added, "Protecting the confidential information, which is made available to the Agency by means of verification activities, is crucial to ensuring, inter-alia, the security of sensitive information. Therefore, public release of and/or access to classified safeguards information, especially regarding nuclear materials, activities and facilities of a Member State, is a very highly sensitive matter precisely related to the rights and interests of that State including on the subject of its national security."

Gharibabadi noted that Iran considers protecting the confidentiality of information as a fundamental issue.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledges the fact that protection of confidential information has long been a fundamental issue in the deliberations about the Agency's internal regulations. However, despite existing normative regulations, the leak of or unauthorized access to confidential information of the Agency in the last two decades, has been a critical challenge on the way of cooperation between the Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran," Gharibabadi stated, noting, "During the past two decades, despite all progress in this field, Iran's concerns about the lack of proper implementation of the confidentiality obligations by the Agency have been frequently notified, which are yet to be properly addressed."

According to Gharibabadi, the responsibility for protecting confidential information lies with the IAEA.

"Undoubtedly, the Agency is responsible for the preservation and protection of the confidential information and Iran has the right to request the Agency for placing any supportive policies, plans and procedures or revising the existing ones in this regard. In fact, the credibility of the verification regime and the future prospect of cooperation between Member States and the Agency absolutely relies on the policy and ability of the Agency in protecting the confidentiality of safeguards informa-



tion," he continued.

Gharibabadi expressed concern about the leakage of the information that Iran provided to international inspectors in good-will.

"Disclosure of confidential information, especially regarding Iran's nuclear activities and facilities, which has been provided to the Agency's inspectors in good-will and as a transparency and confidence-building measure, is of serious concern," the Iranian ambassador said.

He added that "a State may request the classification of a particular document as safeguards confidential, and that in no event would such a document be declassified without that State's consent. Through these documents, the Board also endorsed that the Agency Statute and the Staff Regulations and Rules impose on Agency current and former staff members an obligation not to disclose any confidential information known to them due to their official position. The Agency itself, as an international person with juridical personality, has international duties, the breach or non-observance of which may engage Agency responsibility."

The Iranian ambassador underlined, "Providing the Agency with necessary information and monitoring and verification tools should not be done at the cost of compromising the rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran and obligations of the Agency for preservation and protection of sensitive and confidential information."

Garibabadi added, "The boundaries between the principles of confidentiality and transparency have been blurred, thus misunderstood. Transparency requires States to provide the Agency with required information and cooperation regarding their nuclear activities. Nevertheless, relying on this principle, the Agency cannot and should not shoulder off its responsibility regarding the protection of the confidentiality principle, because transparency does not mean divulging confidential information. Else, it would lead to damages on the concerned State Party, either commercial or security, which may invoke the Agency's legal responsibility."

The Iranian ambassador warned that disclosing information pertaining to Iran's nuclear activities will inflict damage on the country.

"There is no need to emphasize that due to wide-range of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear activities

in various fields and the broad inspection activities by the Agency in Iran, as well as various detailed reports prepared by the Agency on the results of verification activities, disclosure of such safeguards-related confidential information inflicts commercial, technological and industrial damages and brings security threats to the country," Gharibabadi asserted.

The recent letter by Gharibabadi was not the first time that Iran is criticizing the IAEA for not protecting Iran-related information.

In early December, Gharibabadi criticized the leaking of a report on Iran's nuclear development by the IAEA, saying the IAEA shall ensure confidentiality of safeguards information.

"@iaeaorg confidential report, based on Iran's confidential letter, appeared in Media immediately even before the BoG Members could track it down. Agency is not merely responsible to update the development, but shall ensure confidentiality of safeguards information," Gharibabadi said in a tweet at the time.

"If neither the Agency nor its Member States are to be blamed for this crack in confidentiality, @iaeaorg should revise its confidentiality mechanisms including regarding using GovAtom as the safe and confidential means for communications," he added.

The response by Ambassador Gharibabadi came after Reuters reported that Iran plans to install hundreds more advanced uranium-enriching centrifuges at an underground plant at Natanz.

Citing a confidential IAEA report, Reuters said Iran plans to install three more cascades, or clusters, of advanced IR-2m centrifuges in the underground plant at Natanz.

Gharibabadi had also said that Iran would legally pursue the leakage of the IAEA report.

"Iran's objections and legal proceedings against the Agency in the field of protecting confidential information have a history of more than two decades," Kazem Gharibabadi said in an interview with IRINN.

"At various times, based on our country's commitments and the mission given to the Agency by the Board of Governors, the Agency has prepared reports on the verification of the implementation of the obligations and submitted them to the Board of Governors," Gharibabadi stated.

He further explained that for a long time "the Agency's safeguard reports, which were also very detailed, were prepared and distributed among the members, and in the last five years, the reports on the JCPOA (nuclear deal) have been replaced."

He added that there are two problems along the way, namely the extent of details of safeguards activities that should be reflected in these reports, and the flawed mechanism for informing the members of the Agency.

"These reports are leaked to the media before they are declassified," Gharibabadi lamented.

The Iranian ambassador emphasized that all safeguards and nuclear deal reports, as well as Iran's correspondence with the IAEA and vice versa, are confidential.

He reiterated that the primary responsibility for protecting confidential information lies with the United Nations nuclear watchdog.

SPORTS

Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Mehdi Fonounizadeh optimistic over the team's future

1→ "Fekri must be patient when facing criticism and should not lose his composure. I think Esteghlal can continue with Fekri till the end of the season and gradually the better results will come if Fekri focuses on his work and stops fighting with critics," he concluded.

Under coaching of Fekri, Esteghlal sit third in the table. The Blues are looking forward to end the title drought after eight years.

Esteghlal are one of the most popular football team in Iran. The team have won Asian Club Championship twice in 1970 and 1991.

We work hard to prepare Iran for qualifiers: Skocic

SPORTS
d e s k

TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic says that they are working hard to prepare the team for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Iran matches against Hong Kong and Cambodia at the 2022 World Cup qualifiers have been postponed to June. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has rescheduled the matches due to coronavirus concerns but has yet to release an official statement on the status of the games.

"We are waiting for AFC's final decision about the competition. Then, we will decide about friendly games as part of our preparation for the remaining matches," Skocic said.

The Croat and Iran coaching staff are attending the league competition.

"We're watching all the matches to find the best possible solution for our team. We work hard to prepare Iran national team for the qualifiers," he stated.

The four remaining matches will be held in a centralized venue. Iran has offered the Asian Football Confederation to host the matches.

"It will work out in our favor to host the matches but it doesn't matter to us to play everywhere else," Skocic concluded.

Iran sit third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain.

Mojtaba Hosseini on verge of being named Zob Ahan coach

SPORTS
d e s k

TEHRAN – Mojtaba Hosseini is on the verge of being named as Zob Ahan coach after canceling his contract with Naft Masjed Soleyman.

Zob Ahan are without a coach since parting company with Rahman Rezaei.

The Isfahan based football team had been previously linked with Hosseini.

Hosseini has already worked at Zob Ahan from 2014 to 2017 as assistant and coach.

He started his playing career with Nassaji Mazandaran in 1988 and played in the team until his retirement in 2004. Six years after his retirement, he began his coaching spell as the assistant coach at Nassaji. After Golmohammadi took over the reins of Saba in June 2012, he became the assistant coach of Saba but resigned from his position in January 2013 to join to the Golmohammadi's technical staff at Persepolis.



Iranian weightlifters test negative for COVID-19

SPORTS
d e s k

TEHRAN – The members of Iran weightlifting national team have tested negative for Covid-19.

On Sunday, Iran weightlifting coach Mohammad Hossein Barkhah tested positive for coronavirus.

The two-time world championship silver medalist is in Ahvaz, where the national team holds the training camp.

Health Ministry's spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Sunday that the pandemic has claimed 62 lives over the past 24 hours, one of the lowest numbers of fatalities since May 2020.

The overall coronavirus death toll in Iran stands at 58,945, she added.

More than 1,298,000 patients have recovered from the coronavirus infection so far or have been discharged from hospitals across Iran, Lari noted.

Among those undergoing treatment at present, 3,709 are being kept in the Intensive Care Units of medical centers because of critical health conditions, she said.

The spokeswoman also noted that more than 10 million coronavirus diagnostic tests have been carried out in Iran so far.

The number of people infected with COVID-19 across the world has surpassed 109 million and the death toll has exceeded 2.4 million.

Iranian forward Salmani steals the show in Portugal league

SPORTS
d e s k

TEHRAN – Iranian rising star Jafar Salmani stole the show in Primeira Liga after his eye-catching performance against Gil Vicente.

The 24-year-old midfielder assisted and scored as Portimonense defeated Gil Vicente 4-1 Sunday night.

Portimonense returned to victories in the Primeira Liga in a match in which Aylton Boa Morte and Salmani were in the spotlight, with a goal and an assist for each one.

Salmani assisted Maurício Antônio in the first minute of the match.

He also found the back of the net with a right-footed shot in the 33rd minute. It was Salmani's first goal in the Liga.

Aylton Boa Morte made the scoreboard 3-1 in 72nd minute and Beto scored the fourth goal.

8,000 worn-out cars scrapped in past calendar year

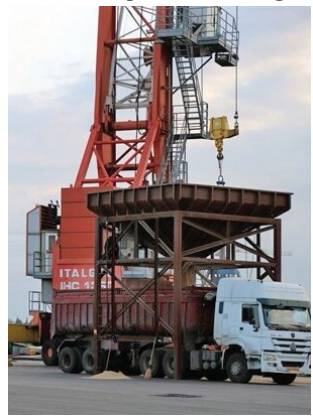
ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The chairman of the association of worn-out vehicles scrapping and recycling centers said that only 8,000 worn-out cars out of the 160,000 vehicles that should have been scrapped were scrapped in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020), ISNA reported.

Mahmoud Mashhadi-Sharif announced the number of worn-out cars this year as three million, which will reach eight million by the calendar year 1404 (starts on March 2025).

He stated that the worn-out vehicles scrapping and recycling centers are working with about 60 direct workers and 3,000 indirect workers.

Clearance of goods from customs to be accelerated

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian market regulation headquarters has approved six new directives aiming to enhance the clearance of goods at the country's customs. As reported by IRIB, the mentioned directives cover a variety of areas including the value of the goods, weight tolerance, abandoned goods, banned goods, and foreign transit.



Based on the mentioned directives, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) are to accept a weight tolerance of 1.5 percent for essential commodities that are imported in bulk or in containers; while for other goods, including basic goods, a maximum of three percent of weight tolerance is acceptable and should be considered as a criterion.

Also, to prevent the deposition of goods in special economic zones and customs, the IRICA is given the authority to take the necessary actions to clear basic and essential goods for transit, without requiring the owners to place order registration.

The issue of abandonment of basic goods in the country's customs was the subject of another directive, based on which a meeting was set to be scheduled for proposing executive solutions to the mentioned headquarters.

Considering some IRICA reports regarding the decay of some banned commodity items in the country's ports and customs, it was also decided that a meeting should be held with the presence of CBI, IRICA, and the market regulation headquarter representatives to make the necessary decisions in this regard.

Earlier in January, Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm-Hosseini had said that his ministry is going to take necessary measures to accelerate the clearance of goods at customs to help regulate domestic markets.

"We will follow up on the necessary approvals and directives to reduce the deposit of goods at customs and to accelerate the clearance processes," Razm-Hosseini said on the sidelines of a market regulation headquarters' meeting.

Startup idea to save Iran over \$3.5b by reducing power consumption

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — An Iranian startup has come up with a plan whose implementation is going to prevent the loss of over 600 megawatts (MW) of electricity worth more than 150 trillion rials (about \$3.57 billion) in the country's power plants.

Given the importance of energy consumption management, the Iranian Energy Ministry has urged all its affiliated companies and bodies to take necessary measures for promoting power consumption management and for preventing electricity losses.



In this regard, the Iranian Electrical Power Equipment Manufacturing and Provision Company (known as SATKAB) has invited knowledge-based companies and startups to propose new ideas for applying new methods and technologies to reduce energy consumption in various fields.

Among the project proposals presented to SATKAB with this approach, a primary plan suggested by a domestic knowledge-based company has been selected due to its efficiency and compliance with existing parameters and standards in this field.

SATKAB has established the necessary connections between this knowledge-based company and relevant organizations, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to help implement their plan.

Back in December 2020, SATKAB established a science and technology park with the aim of facilitating and accelerating the activities of knowledge-based and research-oriented companies and with the perspective of supporting domestic manufacturing and export development in the water and electricity sector.

Development of technology and support of technology-based businesses in the water and electricity industry and providing a suitable platform to meet the needs of private knowledge-based and research-oriented companies is one of the priorities set by SATKAB.

Iranian Energy Ministry has been implementing several programs for managing electricity consumption across the country during peak periods.

Rewarding efficient electricity subscribers as well as holding training courses to teach consumption management methods with the help of knowledge-based companies and start-ups, as well as installing solar panels on the roofs of high-consuming subscribers' houses are among the programs implemented in this regard.

Denmark eager for co-op with Iran in geology, mining

1→ Speaking in the meeting, Shahidi mentioned the activities of his organization in the country, and said: "Iran Geology and Mineral Exploration Organization is responsible for preparing geological maps of West Asia in UNESCO, including Quaternary and tectonic maps."

He noted that GSI has carried out extensive studies in the field of karst water exploration in Iran, adding: "This organization is responsible for producing basic information for mineral exploration in the country and is currently localized the knowledge for aerial geophysical methods that were exclusively used by Canadians."

According to the official, the chemical laboratories of the Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran are equipped with the latest modern equipment and machinery with very high accuracy.

Emphasizing that the training of specialized human resources in GSI is of great importance, Shahidi said: "Accordingly, in the field of international relations, we have had extensive educational and research relations and cooperation with European universities, including the universities from the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy; and last year, we cooperated with France's Sorbonne University on the preparation of three-dimensional maps."



Danish Ambassador to Tehran Jesper Vahr (2nd L) and GSI Head Alireza Shahidi (1st L)

He also referred to the holding of workshops by European universities in Iran in various fields of geosciences, saying: "These workshops have become a

place for gathering and communication of European and Iranian geologists, which is now being held as a webinar due to the Coronavirus pandemic."

Steel products output rises 2%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Production of steel products in Iran has risen two percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), as compared with the corresponding period in the past year.

As reported, 12.145 million tons of steel products have been produced in the ten-month period of this year.

Although, the production of these products has fallen six percent in the tenth month of this year, from that of the same month in the previous year.

Steel products output stood at 1.139 million tons in the tenth month of the present year.

Iran's export of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020) rose 27 percent compared to its preceding year.

As reported, the country's major steel producers

managed to export about 7.33 million tons of the products in the previous year.

Iranian government levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since late September 2019, as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has urged the government to prevent the exports of raw minerals in order to be processed in the country for making products with more added value.

The industry ministry believes that the duty is going to encourage the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmaili has said that while 10 years ago Iran exported more than 20 million tons of unprocessed iron ore, the figure fell to six million tons last year.



ICCIMA law to be amended toward strengthening private sector

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has formed a joint committee with the Research Center of the Iranian parliament, the parliament's Economic Committee, and the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry for reviewing and amending the chamber's law with the aim of strengthening the private sector.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, the plan for amending the ICCIMA regulations was reviewed and discussed in a meeting between the parliament's Economic Committee members and the representatives of the private sector including the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie.



A suggestion for amending the ICCIMA law, which was passed nearly 30 years ago, has been proposed by a number of MPs recently, but representatives of the private sector in ICCIMA have long

submitted a request to amend the current chamber law.

In the meeting, held on Monday, finally a plan to amend this law was put on the agenda.

All speakers at the meeting stressed the need to strengthen the ICCIMA as the oldest and largest representative of the private sector in the country and to maintain the chamber's independent identity.

Based on the decision of the parliament's Economic Committee, the task of reviewing the details of the plan for amending the ICCIMA law and completing it was entrusted to a joint working group whose members are representatives of the parliament's Research Center, ICCIMA

Research Center, the parliament's Economic Committee and the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Speaking in the gathering, Mohammad Reza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the parliament's Economic Committee, noted that the purpose of approving the general amendments to the ICCIMA law is to improve the capabilities of the private sector and eliminate existing weaknesses, so all materials of the current plan and future proposals will be measured by this criterion.

According to him, it was decided that the details of the plan would be considered by the parliament's Economic Committee after reviewing it in early next year (begins on March 21).

Exports from industry sector stand at over \$2b in 10 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of exports from Iran's industry sector stood at \$2.075 billion in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020-January 19, 2021), according to the statistics released by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Home appliances valued at \$7.703 million, CBU (Completely Built-Up) auto parts worth \$2.52 million, SKD (Semi Knocked Down) auto parts valued at \$306.663 million, different types of transformers worth \$14.974 million, and pumps and compressors valued at \$5.556 million were some of the exported items during the mentioned time span.

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

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



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

The figures, however, grew significantly compared to the previous calendar month (December 21,

2020-January 19, 2021), the official added, noting that the upward trend is expected to continue in the coming months.

In comparison to the previous year's same time span, the imports of the mentioned commodities also declined by two percent and 15.5 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, according to the IRICA head.

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

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

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

Production of copper cathode up 13% in 10 months yr/yr

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's production of copper cathode has increased 13 percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The country has produced 231,113 tons of copper cathode during the ten-month period of this year.

The periodical reports and statistics indicate that Iran's metals sector is progressing both in terms of production and export despite the limitations imposed by the U.S. sanctions.

The country's copper industry is moving forward noticeably, as some outstanding projects are implemented.



Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020) despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United

States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

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

The country has posted outstanding figures in terms of copper cathode production and export.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rod for the wire and cable industry.

According to the data released by the National Iranian Copper Industry

Company, the value of Iran's copper cathode exports reached \$419 million during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21, 2020), which was 26 percent more than the figure projected for this period.

Meanwhile, the production of copper cathode has increased six percent during the first half of this year, compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Copper cathode output hit 139,899 tons in the first six months of the present year, while the predicted figure was 130,015 tons.

Production of copper cathode, which stood at 250,000 tons in the past Iranian calendar year, is planned to reach 280,000 tons in the present year.

Tehran is going to stop implementing Additional Protocol if the West doesn’t act: MP

1 → which tasked the government to suspend more commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal - that former U.S. president Donald Trump quit it in May 2018 and returned sanctions and added new harsh ones.

The following is the text of the interview: **What are the goals of the Majlis in passing the law called “Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Safeguard Interests of the Iranian People”?**

The purpose of the Majlis in passing the “strategic action to lift sanctions” plan is to put pressure on the West and push them to change their policies.

In fact, the Western side, which had made commitments to Iran under the JCPOA, failed to fulfill its obligations. The Americans not only withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, but prevented others from fulfilling their obligations.

The Europeans also left a bad record and did not abide by the 11 commitments they had made to Iran after the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA.

In such a situation, the nuclear accord is out of balance and representatives believe that in order to put pressure on the other side to return to the nuclear deal, Iran should reduce its obligations, some of which were previously reduced in five steps, but the Majlis has decided to craft the next steps in this context, and the outcome was passing “strategic action to lift sanctions” law in which different schedules have been



considered.

Have you seen any positive action or sign from the West indicating a lifting of sanctions so far?

One of the opportunities given to the Western side within the sixth article of the law is that the West must facilitate Iran’s oil sales and normalize its banking ties with the world in two months.

If they do not so, as we have not seen any positive step yet, Tehran will suspend the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol on February 23.

Despite the two-month opportunity, it seems that the West is wasting time, mean-

while, we did not see any effective action on the ground, but only some stances, none of which are considered a practical sign. It is important for the Islamic Republic to see effective steps in lifting sanctions.

In your point of view, how serious is the Majlis in pursuing the implementation of the law? What measures does it envisage?

The Majlis is very strenuous and serious about implementing the “strategic action to lift sanctions” law and is pursuing its implementation by the government.

There is an overwhelming consensus among all of Iran’s institutions about moving

forward with the nuclear law, especially among the government and the (Supreme) National Security Council. We anticipate that this law will be enforced if the Western side fails to take advantage of this opportunity and normalize the situation.

What are the possible implications of Iran’s threat to stop the Additional Protocol to the NPT? Will the International Atomic Energy Agency’s “surveillance cameras” be disconnected or limited?

The Islamic Republic has accepted a higher level of inspection as part of its obligations under the JCPOA. Prior to the nuclear deal, Iran was a member of the NPT and has a safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, but after the JCPOA Tehran agreed to implement the Additional Protocol voluntarily as well as some additional monitoring of its activities.

The Majlis has obliged the government to suspend the implementation of the Additional Protocol and a further safeguard monitoring if Iran’s oil sales and banking ties with the world are not facilitated by February 21 or 23.

This does not mean an expulsion of IAEA inspectors, but access based on the Additional Protocol will be cut off. Inspections related to the Additional Protocol will be stopped. The surveillance cameras that were placed in accordance with the Additional Protocol will be unplugged. However, the entire Iranian nuclear program remains under the safeguards of the Agency.

S. Arabia trying to approach Shia groups in Iraq to undermine Iran: Iraqi analyst

1 → That is why the world entered a phase of wars against Muslims after September 11 attacks as America invaded Muslim countries in their own house under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

It was the start of a new wave of American occupations in the Middle East (West Asia) especially in Iraq and Afghanistan after it consolidated its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

America and the West have worked to link terrorism to Islam through media and through recruiting movements claiming Islam in order to distort the image of Islam through criminal acts that serve the interests of the West more than others.

Meanwhile, these movements offended Islam that were created to justify attacks on the true and authentic Islam. As a result Islam is stuck in a defensive position instead of promoting its divine thoughts needed for all humanity.

That is why the history of America’s confrontation with terrorism in Iraq is full of selective narratives and lies. The terrorist groups that America claims to fight are the product of the extremist Wahhabi ideology, which emerged from the country of Muhammad Abdul Wahhab, Saudi Arabia, which America protects and sponsors.

The establishment of the Arab Mujahideen group that changed into Al Qaeda in Afghanistan at the hands of the American intelligence services and Saudi money to confront the Soviet Union is an undeniable fact.

America also made the Islamic State (Daesh) in its prisons in Iraq by recruiting former Iraqi intelligence officers and attracting extremists from all countries in the world in order to put an end to two countries as planned, namely Syria and Iraq. This is what Trump and Hillary Clinton have admitted clearly.

In this context, America’s behavior is understandable when it collaborates with Daesh (ISIS) in protecting its members in the Al-Tanf area on the Syrian-Iraqi border and did not allow Iraqi aircraft to fly over this area or for Hashd al-Shaabi (popular mobilization units) to approach it.

Add to this what was reported by some websites about U.S. CH-47 Chinook aircraft, when they were sending logistical support for Daesh or rescuing its leaders who were besieged by Hashd al-Shaabi forces and the Iraqi army.

The last case being reported in the media was about transferring Daesh prisoners in Qasid jails to Iraqi borders and other data that show the American role in directing these groups and making use of them for strategic goals that serve the satanic projects in the region.

Washington doesn’t spare any effort to distort Iran’s image in Iraq. It portrays Iran as a country that is sponsoring and supporting corrupt groups opposing transparency. What is your comment?

American strategic hostility to the Islamic Republic of Iran, when it lost its ally in the Persian Gulf (the Shah) after the Islamic revolution in 1979, is not hidden.

That is why America worked to restore those authorities who were servicing its agenda in Iran by hard power through pushing Saddam to ignite the eight-year war (on Iran) beside the sanctions that it continues to impose on the Iranian people.

The U.S. plot represented in the emergence of Daesh created by the Americans to serve their strategic ally in the region, Israel, has failed.

The elimination of two countries (Iraq and Syria) that pose an existential threat to the Zionist state was thwarted despite the enemy’s strength and violence, and this victory is due to three elements that Shias possess in Iraq: Iran’s support, the religious authorities, and Hashd al-Shaabi.

That is why America has modified its strategy heading

“The terrorist groups that America claims to fight are the product of the extremist Wahhabi ideology, which emerged from the country of Muhammad Abdul Wahhab, Saudi Arabia, which America protects and sponsors.”



towards soft power in order to isolate these factors from their public depth.

The post-Daesh phase was the demonization of Iran, Hashd al-Shaabi and the religious authorities to empty them of their power through yellow journalism and fake news. Baathists were a good base for America, Saudi Arabia and Israel to achieve their goals in Iraq, because they are full of hatred towards the Islamic Republic.

They made every effort to demonize Iran during the eight-year war on the Islamic Republic, counting on a generation of young people affected by the media that is one element of American soft power. Many of the youth in Iraq are unemployed and are looking for an opportunity to improve their situation in addition to the great corruption in all the institutions of the state.

Ruling parties also failed to tackle the crisis properly and soundly, and the majority of them are pragmatic parties looking for their partisan interests at the expense of the interest of the country.

The American media held Iran responsible for everything that happens in Iraq especially the corruption of the ruling political parties, even though most of them are following the Saudi and American policies.

What are the latest developments regarding the parliamentary elections in Iraq? What are the most prominent differences between political parties?

Although the replacement of the previous government that was headed by Adel Abdul Mahdi came under the condition that early elections be held on June 6th, it was postponed to the tenth of October after a request from the election commission to complete the registration of new political entities, distribute electoral cards and secure international monitoring.

The Iraqi constitution does not explain about early elections, so if early elections are to be held, Article 64 of the constitution must be applied, which mentions two ways to dissolve the parliament.

The parliament can be dissolved by an absolute majority of the parliament members based on a request of one-third of its members, or at the request of the prime minister after the approval of the president, and the parliament may not be dissolved during the period of questioning the prime minister.

Upon the dissolution of the parliament, the president calls for general elections in the country within a maximum period of sixty days from the date of the dissolution, and the government in this case is considered resigned and continues to run daily affairs.

There are many data indicating that the government is not serious about conducting the elections.

The parliament hosted the election commission in October and asked them about the possibility of conducting the elections technically.

They emphasized that they did not receive any financial allocation even though the government submitted internal borrowing requests and it did not include any allocations to the commission.

The government also provided the financing bill, and it did not include any allocation to the commission until November.

There is a high possibility that the elections will not be held on time so that the government and the influential blocs can exploit the government resources, especially the Kurdish blocs that could never imagine it.

The government is striving hard to employ loyal persons in leadership positions and the process of changes and replacements is going, especially in military and security posts.

How does Saudi Arabia seek to influence political parties in Iraq?

After the change that took place in Iraq in 2003, Saudi Arabia dealt with Iraq in a completely hostile attitude, disconnection, political isolation and coldness in relations, especially with heads of governments that it dealt with based on its sectarian policies.

Despite its continuous denial of interference in Iraqi affairs, Saudi Arabia, according to much evidence, sponsored terrorism that swept Iraq, especially after the emergence of Daesh.

Former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi explicitly stated that five thousand Saudi suicide bombers blew themselves up in Iraqi cities in addition to finding cars with Saudi number plates.

Not to mention the Saudi media’s support for terrorism by calling Daesh “tribal revolutionaries”.

But in the recent period they have approached some Shia political groups, especially the Islamic ones, to influence the Iraqi political decision.

This process represented in shuttle visits by the leaders of these parties to Saudi Arabia, and this was clearly reflected in the political positions of these figures and blocs, with regard to the future of Hashd al-Shaabi, confronting terrorism and the position on the October movement as well as other issues that may affect Saudi Arabia, the main suspect in supporting Daesh.

Riyadh legally bears responsibility for thousands of suicide bombers who have committed crimes that are categorized under human genocide against a certain component of the Iraqi people.

That is why these blocs, which were supposed to represent the masses of the victims, did not accept to file a complaint against Saudi Arabia internationally to compensate the families of the victims, as was the case with the U.S. Jasta law that held Saudi Arabia responsible for the events of the September 11 attacks.

What are the challenges that threaten democracy in Iraq and what is the role of religious authorities in protecting Iraqi democracy?

The Iraqi experience of democracy despite the passage of eighteen years (since Saddam was toppled), has been accompanied by many failures and challenges, especially with the conditions that Iraq has gone through since the American invasion and what preceded it in terms of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the emergence of political money to strongly exploit the needs of the poor segment of this nation as some exploited political ignorance and lack of awareness to direct and engineer the elections and through the yellow press.

These factors came to kill the democratic experiment in Iraq by spreading the spirit of despair in the hearts of the masses until they reached the point of wishing for a military coup to save them from the tragic situation.

Indeed, there were attempts to achieve these goals but they failed due to the existence of religious authorities which played a productive role to maintain democracy and preventing the country from returning to an era of dictatorship.

The biggest challenges in the upcoming elections will be the emergence of gangs that impose their wills and understanding on people through threat, force and physical liquidation, based on the October movement.

Many of these gangs have declared not to allow candidates from parties with which they disagree, accusing them of corruption, lacking patriotism, sublimity and other charges, to run in the election.

This case only occurred in areas formerly controlled by Daesh, but this time it is expanding in Shia areas.

“Former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi explicitly stated that five thousand Saudi suicide bombers blew themselves up in Iraqi cities in addition to finding cars with Saudi number plates.”

Erdogan says U.S. must stop supporting ‘terrorists’

Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Washington must stop its support for Kurdish “terrorists”, as he accused the United States of standing “behind Kurdish militants who killed Turkish forces in Iraq.”

“Weren’t you standing with the terrorists? Weren’t you standing with the PKK and YPG?” Erdogan called on the White House during the AK Party Congress, in a reference to the Syrian Kurdish YPG force also known as People’s Protection Units, which it considers to be an arm of the Kurdistan Workers Party.

“If we are with you in NATO, you will not stand by the terrorists. If you are going to take part, you will be with us,” he went on.

Speaking to his party members, the president added that Washington’s earlier statement on killed Turkish militants was “a joke”.

Bahraini movement renews call for peaceful fight against corrupt Al Khalifah regime

Marking the tenth anniversary of the popular Bahraini uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah family, the country’s main opposition group has called for a vigorous commitment to the fight against the ruling monarchy.

In a statement released on the occasion, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society said the goals of the Bahraini people’s movement are derived from Islamic principles, framed by national standards, endorsed by universal values and ideals, stressed by divine religions, and supported by all international laws and covenants.

“The adopted path by the Bahraini people in their peaceful movement is consistent with human values, reason and instinct,” the statement read.

It underlined the Bahraini people’s defiance against tyranny and the state’s machine of oppression and violence, saying their firm demand would not be weakened despite the costs imposed on them by the Manama regime.

1) The Bahraini people’s movement’s goals are sublime, stemming from its Islamic principles, framed by national standards, endorsed by universal values and ideals, stressed by the divine religions, and supported by all international laws and covenants.

White Helmets plotting false flag operation to incriminate Damascus: Russia

The Russian Defense Ministry warns that White Helmets, a group operating under the guise of providing humanitarian aid in Syria, is planning to stage a false flag operation in the northwestern province of Idlib to implicate Damascus.

“We have information that members of illegal armed groups are preparing to stage a provocation in order to accuse Syrian government forces of attacking settlements in the Idlib de-escalation zone,” the deputy head of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria, Rear. Adm. Vyacheslav Sytnik, said at a news briefing on Sunday.

Sytnik added that a rise in operations by the al-Qaeda-affiliated Tahrir al-Sham terrorist group was also observed near the village of al-Fuah, northeast of Idlib.

Members of the “pseudo-humanitarian” organization, White Helmets, who have professional video equipment in their possession, were also spotted in the area, he said.

Syrian air defenses thwart Israeli attack on Damascus

Syria’s air defenses have neutralized the latest Israeli aggression against the western outskirts of Damascus.

The Syrian forces responded to the Israeli attacks in the skies over the capital, Damascus, for several hours early Monday, the Syrian official news agency SANA reported.

The report did not give details of the possible casualties or damages caused by the aggression.

Since the start of the foreign-backed war on Syria in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in the country, targeting government troops and their allies.

A few weeks ago, the Syrian air defenses intercepted a number of Israeli missiles over its Hama province.

Israel’s aggressive moves have been viewed by observers as an attempt to weaken the Damascus government as it increasingly gains the upper hand in its fight against terrorist groups.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

Syrian government forces have taken back many areas once controlled by the terrorist groups. The government and allied forces are currently busy fighting last bastions of militants in the northwestern province of Idlib and areas in the neighboring Aleppo province.

Resistance News

ICC expands its Jurisdiction to include occupied Palestine, enrages Israel

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN — The International Criminal Court has announced that it has jurisdiction in the Palestinian territories illegally occupied by Israel since 1967. This decision will allow the ICC to investigate potential war crimes carried out by Israel for the first time.

On February, 5 2021, the International Criminal Court, or ICC, headquartered in The Hague, published a ruling, establishing its jurisdiction in Palestine. This jurisdictional ruling from the ICC’s pre Trial Chamber one establishes that Palestine’s West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, which Israel has been illegally occupying since 1967, are indeed in the scope of the ICC’s territorial jurisdiction, and therefore it can proceed with investigating potential war crimes committed by Israel.

In 2019, the ICC’s chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, had already established through a preliminary investigation that the situation in Palestine did indeed meet the Rome statutes criteria for an investigation. However, before proceeding, she sought the court’s opinion on whether the Palestinian territories fell under the ICC’s jurisdiction.

In 2012, Palestine achieved non member observer state status at the United Nations, and then acceded to the statute in 2015.

The Rome Statute is the treaty that established the International Criminal Court in 1998. It was formed with the objective of holding individuals accountable for violating international law, specifically war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and the crime of aggression.

Meet elderly tinsmith who's a living human treasure

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Zarra-bian, whose name has been inscribed on the national list of living human treasure, is an old hand Iranian tinsmith. The 86-year-old artisan, who lives in the ancient city of Hamedan, started work as a tinsmith at the age of seven at his father's workshop.

"I learned the art of tin making from my father during the Second World War, and for 32 years I was interested in learning this art under the banner of my father. [After his demise] I continued this way and art up to present," Zarra-bian said in a recent interview with CHTN.



"I have received many commendations from the authorities and I have actively participated in several handicraft fairs."

Answering a question about the tools he made at the times, the artisan explained: "The bath horn was one of the tools made from Aleppo, it was originally a news medium that at three o'clock in the morning after cleaning the bath, the person in charge of the bath announced the preparation of the bath with this device."

"Scoopula was another tool that we made in those years. It is widely used in nut shops.... We also made oil lamps, which were very practical in the past."

What has been the secret to your success?

In response to a question about the secret behind his achievements, he noted: "The key to success in this work was to revive my father's jobthis way, I will try to keep this art alive.... I have published a book on the art of tin making in ancient Hamedan."

Unlike blacksmiths (who work mostly with hot metals), tinsmiths do the majority of their work on cold metal (although they might use a hearth to heat and help shape their raw materials). Tinsmiths fabricate items such as water pitchers, forks, spoons, and candle holders.

Traditional restaurants inaugurated in Semnan

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Two traditional restaurants, and a recreational tourist complex were inaugurated on Sunday within the historical core of the north-central city of Semnan.

Developing tourism infrastructure in the historical core of the city could lay the ground to attract more tourists and holidaymakers, which could lead to economic prosperity in the region, the provincial tourism chief has said.

With an area of 357 hectares, the historical structure of Semnan is one of the oldest and most important ones of its kind in the country, which includes monuments from the Ilkhanid period (1256–1353) to the Qajar era (1789–1925).

Although the country is facing several problems and issues due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the tourism sector of Semnan province has not stopped its development plans so far, Mehdi Jamal announced.

A total budget of 120 billion rials (\$2.8 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the traditional restaurants, which generate job opportunities for 63 people, the official added.

Furthermore, a budget of 20 billion rials (\$476,000) has been allocated to the tourist complex, which has been granted the first-ever agritourism permit issued in the province, he explained.

Enriched with a colorful and yet healthy diversity of dishes that are peculiar to various regions of this country, Iranian food is highly popular in the east and the west for its freshness and deliciousness. The Persian kitchen can retain its uniqueness by preparing meals within a range of subtle and yet contrasting flavors, such as a combination of sweet and sour or mild and rarely, spicy.



Travel insiders say that many people enjoy trying traditional dishes, or local foods when traveling to a new destination. So, if you are among this group, Iran will be an amazing choice for your next vacation.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

The history of Semnan dates back to ancient Iran when the city was part of the Median Empire. At the time of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia, Semnan was a magnificent city. After the attack of Alexander, Semnan became famous as Koomesh. The great era of the prosperity of this city began after the advent of the Parthian Empire.

Due to its location, which was on the traffic center of the north, south, east, and west, Semnan had always been the subject of a struggle for power in the Sassanid period. In the Sassanid and post-Islamic periods, the city was the basis of central governments in the area.

Archaeologists start survey at Bronze Age site southeast Iran

→ 1 The discovery of the magnificent Jiroft site came by accident in the very early 21st century when rounds of heavy flood along the Halil River swept the topsoil off thousands of previously unknown tombs and led to the discovery of many artifacts believed by archeologists to belong to the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

The earliest reports revealed, "An old object was seen floating on the surface of the water." Realizing it was precious, the following day, villagers impoverished by two years of drought, swarmed the river banks in search of 5,000-year-old antiquities.

Geological factors have led to it being overlooked for years by tourists and archeologists, who have generally been more interested in Mesopotamia some 1,000 km away.

In 2003, Iran invited Jean Perrot, the French archeologist who as the director of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) had conducted excavations in Shush (or Susa, an ancient city of the Elamite empires in Khuzestan Province of Iran) area between 1969 and 1978.

Referring to the discovery of the Jiroft artifacts as an archeological revolution, Perrot stated: "An area we formerly regarded as resided only by nomads and their cattle, was the heart of an incredibly advanced civilization. In this area, people lived with a social hierarchy. These people had an explicit view of the world which distinguishes them from the Sumerians. Henceforth, we must consider Jiroft as the origin of civilizations and refer to all



other civilizations as pre or post-Jiroft civilization."

Finally, under the leadership of Dr. Yousef Majidzadeh, a team of international archaeologists began excavations in 2003. Simultaneously an awareness program was initiated for the locals to lecture to them about the historical significance of Jiroft and the irreplaceable artifacts.

Madjidzadeh and his team of experts uncovered more than two square kilometers of remains from a city dating back to at least the late 3rd millennium B.C. The data demonstrates that Jiroft's heyday was from 2500 BC to 2200 BC. Astonishingly

the chlorite vases found in Jiroft were not an unfamiliar object for the archeologists. Chlorite vessels similar to the stunning examples unearthed at Jiroft had been found from the Euphrates to the Indus, as far north as the Amu Darya and as far south as Tarut Island, on the Persian Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia.

Madjidzadeh, who is the author of a three-volume history of Mesopotamia and a leading Iranian authority on the third millennium BC, has long hypothesized that Jiroft is the legendary land of Aratta, a "lost" Bronze Age kingdom of renown. It's a quest that he began as

a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago when in 1976 he published an article proposing that Aratta, which reputedly exported its magnificent crafts to Mesopotamia, was located somewhere in southeastern Iran.

According to Madjidzadeh, Jiroft artifacts are a "missing link" in understanding the Bronze Age because they help explain why so many incised chlorite vessels, all with remarkably similar imagery, have turned up at widely separated ancient sites, from Mari in Syria to Nippur and Ur in Mesopotamia, Soch in Uzbekistan and the Saudi Arabian island of Tarut, north of Bahrain.

"There must certainly have been a school of stone carvers because you see such an aesthetic unity of these objects throughout the kingdom. This high-level artistic quality did not suddenly appear from nowhere," he maintains. "The traditions must have taken 300 to 400 years to develop."

Jiroft artisans fashioned pieces with what seems strange and enigmatic iconography. Some were encrusted with lapis lazuli from Afghanistan, carnelian from the Indus Valley, turquoise, agate, and other semiprecious, imported stones. "The artists had such a naturalistic way of rendering images," Madjidzadeh explains, adding: "It is a style that was not seen anywhere else in that era."

Jiroft is surrounded by mountains on three sides, rising some 4,000 meters high. Many Iranian and foreign experts see the findings in Jiroft as signs of a civilization as great as Sumer and ancient Mesopotamia.

Iran, Turkey to consider passport-free travels

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A joint technical committee for tourism cooperation between Iran and Turkey has recently formulated a plan which reportedly could pave the way for bilateral passport-free travels.

The proposal is to be discussed in detail by the tourism authorities of the two countries, ISNA reported on Monday.

Turkey was among the top ten countries with the most arrivals in Iran during the [Iranian calendar] year 1398 [Mar. 2019 – Mar. 2020], according to data compiled by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Some Iranian travel experts emphasize the need to attain a balance in tourist flow rates between the two nations, saying the Islamic Republic should reach a balance with Turkey in the movement of tourist flow.

Last year, Iranian travel agencies introduced a plan to offer stimulus packages and hold familiarization tours for Turkish agencies, tour operators, journalists, and

influencers in a bid to attract more travelers from the neighboring country.

"Iran will be organizing familiarization tours for about 100 Turkish tourism agencies after the [complete] reopening of joint borders and resuming [mutual] tourist relations," according to Mehdi Rezaei, the secretary of the Turkey consortium at the Association of Iranian Travel Agents.

"Fam tours had been planned for Turkish [travel] agencies and media for a period before the virus pandemic. Unfortunately, at the outset of the outbreak, the tours were postponed to another time when mutual travels are resumed."

"We must go to the heart of Turkey and introduce our country to them. In Iran, there are places that Turks wish to visit, such as the shrines in Neyshabour and Kashan. Many Turks are familiar with Iranian literature and poets, and Hafez's poems are etched in the memory of many of them. We must develop these capacities."



The spread of the novel coronavirus has plunged the travel and tourism industry and economy in the global scene over the past couple of months as passenger traffic on airlines and hotel occupancy rates have fallen off a cliff compared to the same periods in previous years.

The art of making giveh, a traditional Iranian footwear

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Giveh-bafi, the art of making giveh, traditional footwear being produced in the Iranian plateau for millennia, is one of the most significant handicrafts of Kermanshah and it makes up a major share of products of the western province.

Giveh is an espadrille like footwear that is very light and durable. It was more common in the past and was worn by farmers and villagers. This clothing has very unique features. For example, it is highly suitable for arid and mountainous climates, it is very light which decreases the sweating of the feet. It does not have a left foot or



right foot, both of them are the same. These features have given the footwear an international popularity and made it a unique product.

Making giveh is one of the oldest crafts of Kermanshah. Remains of giveh and tools for making them that have been discovered in the area of Pir Shalimar in Uraman are the evidence that it has more than a hundred years of history.

The upper part of Giveh is usually made from cotton yarn, while the sole is made of textile, leather, or plastic. Making the upper is completely done by women in their homes. They sew the upper using a kind of needle that is called "Javaldooz". But it is men that make the soles because it needs more strength. This part is usually done in workshops.

In Kermanshah, there are four types

of giveh; flat ajideh giveh; flat leather giveh; flat plastic giveh; and giveh with silk upper. The flat ajideh giveh is more expensive and has high quality.

In the past, giveh did not have specific sizes, but they were made in 3 general sizes of small, medium, and large. They are most commonly white. However, sometimes the craftsman makes them in colors like blue, red, or black based on his own taste or by the request of the buyer.

These givehs are used as slippers. Four of the most important centers of giveh in Kermanshah are the city of Kermanshah, Paveh, and two villages of Hajij and Navadeh.

Skills of bread-making win cultural heritage status

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Two separate traditional skills of bread-making, which have long been practiced in the western province of Ilam, have won national cultural heritage status.

On Monday, the bread-making skills along with six other cultural elements were announced to be registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The tradition of sporting a customary headscarf called "Golvani", which is said to date back to the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC), and the art of making traditional sweet of Kalekonji were registered on the prestigious list as well, CHTN reported.

Iranian flatbread is produced by cooking fermented



dough, basically made from wheat flour, yeast, and water. Several additives may be added to the wheat flour-yeast-water dough to increase the shelf life of bread and improve its sweetness, quality, or even nutritional value.

The most commonly used additives are vegetables (such as potato, onion, and spinach), fruits and nuts (such as raisins, walnuts, and peanuts), seeds (such as poppy, cumin, and sesame), salt, sugars, lipids, milk, egg, spices, and food starches.

Home to almost half of Iran's UNESCO sites, western Iran is a land of hospitable people, wild extremes, and wilder history, and it may be an independent traveler's adventure playground. The region also witnessed the rise and fall of many great empires once bordering Mesopotamia, Ottoman Turkey, and Czarist Russia.

Historical properties in Lorestan demarcated to receive better care

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — New boundaries have been defined for two ancient hills, and a historical garden in the western province of Lorestan, the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

Brahmai hill in Delfan county, Kenijuni hill in Kuhdasht, and Falahat garden in the provincial capital of Khorramabad were demarcated to prevent further destruction

and damage, Seyyed Amin Qasemi stated.

The demarcation projects are aimed to pave the way for better conservation, and protecting them from illegal excavations within their properties

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittent-

ly ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.



Tehran hosts international event on women, sustainability, peace, security

SOCIETY TEHRAN – The 3rd d e s k International Event on Women, Sustainability, Peace, and Security was held in Tehran on Monday, attended by representatives from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan.

Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President for Women's and Family Affairs, stated that in Iran, domestic and social violence against women is not high, and compared to other countries, Iran is in a better situation, but even one case of violence against women is condemned.

There must be justice and security in Islamic society. Hence, the government approved the bill "preservation of dignity and protection of women against violence", she noted.

The bill addresses various aspects of domestic violence and other aggressive behaviors and will be an important step towards increasing security and observing women's rights, she added, ISNA reported on Monday.

There are strong civic organizations in Iran, 2,700 of which are active in the field of women, she further concluded.

Women's share of national budget

The budget proposed for women and family affairs has increased by 61 percent in the national budget bill for the next calendar year (starting on March 20).

The budget, which directly covers women



and family affairs, is equivalent to 37 trillion rials (nearly \$880 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), which increased by 61 percent compared to the current year's budget.

Steps taken toward women's empowerment

Ebtekar said in October 2020 that the government has taken major steps for the

advancement of women and families in Iran.

"Through an inter-sectoral process, we developed national indicators for gender equity, which laid the ground for the first result based Plan for Women and Family Advancement in 31 provinces and we recently launched the dashboard for monitoring indicators on gender equity and family prosperity."

"Based on our review of legislation on women and family, we have proposed 10 new bills including the bill on the Protection of Women's Security Against Violence and several new laws," the vice president added.

"At least 2700 women-focused NGOs are active in Iran and we have plans for the empowerment of civil society activities, we have successfully implemented schemes like enhancing social resiliency, also the economic empowerment of thousands of women heads of the household through micro-credit Funds and Cooperatives," she added.

She went on to highlight that the family is the cornerstone of human development, through the National Family Dialogue scheme. "We have taken an initiative to empower civil society in dialogue skills to enable family and social cohesiveness. The International Center for Family Dialogue has been recently launched in Tehran."

In the field of legislation, finalizing the bill to ensure the security of women against violence, which can play an important role in combating domestic violence, the implementation of the plan granting Iranian citizenship to children born to Iranian women and non-Iranian men, and the bill banning the marriage of girls under 13, has been among the government's efforts, she concluded.

Rare Diseases Document awaiting government approval

SOCIETY TEHRAN – The National Document d e s k on Rare Diseases, recently approved by the Ministry of Health, is being studied by the cabinet of ministers for final approval, Hamidreza Edraki, CEO of the Rare Diseases Foundation of Iran, has announced.

The Document has been approved in December 2020, with the aim of preventing the birth of infants with rare diseases, medical and therapeutic problems.

Patients with rare diseases launched and signed a petition calling for drawing up a national document on rare diseases on the occasion of Rare Disease Day, February 28, 2019.

The National Document on Rare Diseases, recently prepared in collaboration with the Rare Diseases Foundation and the University of Tehran, was drafted by prominent domestic and foreign experts.

The main vision of this document is to prevent the birth of infants with rare diseases and to solve the medical and therapeutic problems of rare patients in the country.

Edraki said that the strategic document is a big step towards resolving medical and treatment problems and relieving the pain of rare patients, IRNA reported on Monday.

After the approval of the Document, all related bodies will be obliged to take measures in this regard, and the programs will be monitored nationally.

For example, the lack of wound dressing for patients

suffering from epidermolysis bullosa is a major problem in the country. In many cases, international organizations provide assistance to these patients, and it is necessary to identify and use them by establishing appropriate communication, he said.

One of the urgent needs of these patients is vaccination against coronavirus and influenza due to the vulnerability of these patients so that they should be among the first groups to receive the vaccine, he concluded.

Rare diseases prevalence

According to the statistics published in 2019, the number of rare diseases identified in Iran has reached 332 types of diseases and about 4,750 people are covered by the Rare Diseases Foundation of Iran.

Out of a thousand population, 2 people get a rare disease, while the prevalence can be curbed by changing people's culture, screening, identifying, preventing the births, and raising awareness.

According to WHO, rare diseases are often serious, chronic, and life-threatening. The European Union (EU) definition of a rare disease is one that affects fewer than 5 in 10,000 people. At present, more than 6000 rare diseases are known; around 80 percent of them are genetic disorders and half of them occur during childhood.

Grouped together, rare diseases affect 6–8 percent (or



about 30 million people) out of the 508 million population of EU countries. This roughly equals the estimated prevalence of diabetes in the World Health Organization European Region, which in 2013 was 6.8 percent of 658.7 million adults in the 20 to 79-year age group.

Rare diseases are associated with a high psychological burden for the patient but they can also have a major impact on a patient's family. In addition to the health burden on patients, few of these diseases have an effective drug treatment available.

Climate change may have driven the emergence of SARS-CoV-2

A new study published today in the journal Science of the Total Environment provides the first evidence of a mechanism by which climate change could have played a direct role in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study has revealed large-scale changes in the type of vegetation in the southern Chinese Yunnan province, and adjacent regions in Myanmar and Laos, over the last century. Climatic changes including increases in temperature, sunlight, and atmospheric carbon dioxide -- which affect the growth of plants and trees -- have changed natural habitats from tropical shrubland to tropical savannah and deciduous woodland. This created a suitable environment for many bat species that predominantly live in forests.

The number of coronaviruses in an area is closely linked to the number of different bat species present. The study found that an additional 40 bat species have moved into the southern Chinese Yunnan province in

the past century, harbouring around 100 more types of bat-borne coronavirus. This 'global hotspot' is the region where genetic data suggests SARS-CoV-2 may have arisen.

"Climate change over the last century has made the habitat in the southern Chinese Yunnan province suitable for more bat species," said Dr Robert Beyer, a researcher in the University of Cambridge's Department of Zoology and first author of the study, who has recently taken up a European research fellowship at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany.

He added: "Understanding how the global distribution of bat species has shifted as a result of climate change may be an important step in reconstructing the origin of the COVID-19 outbreak."

To get their results, the researchers created a map of the world's vegetation as it was a century ago, using records of temperature, precipitation, and cloud cover. Then they used information on the

vegetation requirements of the world's bat species to work out the global distribution of each species in the early 1900s. Comparing this to current distributions allowed them to see how bat 'species richness', the number of different species, has changed across the globe over the last century due to climate change.

"As climate change altered habitats, species left some areas and moved into others -- taking their viruses with them. This not only altered the regions where viruses are present, but most likely allowed for new interactions between animals and viruses, causing more harmful viruses to be transmitted or evolve," said Beyer.

The world's bat population carries around 3,000 different types of coronavirus, with each bat species harbouring an average of 2.7 coronaviruses -- most without showing symptoms. An increase in the number of bat species in a particular region, driven by climate change, may increase the likelihood that a coronavirus harmful to humans is

present, transmitted, or evolves there.

Most coronaviruses carried by bats can not jump into humans. But several coronaviruses known to infect humans are very likely to have originated in bats, including three that can cause human fatalities: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) CoV, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) CoV-1 and CoV-2.

The region identified by the study as a hotspot for a climate-driven increase in bat species richness is also home to pangolins, which are suggested to have acted as intermediate hosts to SARS-CoV-2. The virus is likely to have jumped from bats to these animals, which were then sold at a wildlife market in Wuhan -- where the initial human outbreak occurred.

The researchers echo calls from previous studies that urge policy-makers to acknowledge the role of climate change in outbreaks of viral diseases, and to address climate change as part of COVID-19 economic recovery programmes.

Sixth IoT exhibition underway in Tehran

SOCIETY TEHRAN – The sixth Internet of Things d e s k exhibition (IoTEx 2021) kicked off in Tehran International Exhibitions on Monday, IRNA reported.

During the event, domestic IoT-based products and services will be unveiled with Sourena Sattari, Vice President for Science and Technology, and Mohammad-Javad Azari-Jahromi, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, in attendance.

The unveiling of an IoT operator, smart farming system, smart



health gadgets, the introduction of gateway for monitoring industrial production lines, the unveiling of 5G mobile operators, and introduction of a system for connecting buildings to fire departments, are among the programs to be held during the event.

The exhibition is underway until February 16.

The Internet of things describes the network of physical objects -- "things" -- that are embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the Internet.

Chomsky to lecture on linguistics at Iranian university

SOCIETY TEHRAN – The renowned American linguist, d e s k historian, and thinker Noam Chomsky is going to deliver an online lecture on linguistics at Allameh Tabatabaee University in Tehran.

This is the first time Chomsky delivers a lecture on linguistics at an Iranian university, ISNA reported on Monday.

The event will start at 20:30 local time on February 24 and will be of high importance for those interested in the fields of linguistics, biology, psychology, artificial intelligence, philosophy, and cognitive sciences as a whole.

Sawfish 'facing extinction due to overfishing', scientists warn

The exotic sawfish is rapidly disappearing from the world's oceans and is at risk of extinction, marine scientists have warned.

An alarming new study examining sawfish records has found that these shark-like rays have been lost in half of the world's coastal waters and are on course to be wiped out, predominantly due to overfishing.

A team of researchers from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada, said the animals were once found along the coastlines of 90 countries but they are now among the world's most threatened family of marine fishes, and are presumed extinct from 46 of those nations.

There are 18 countries where at least one species of sawfish is missing, and 28 more where two species have disappeared, the Independent reported.

There are five species of sawfish in total, and three of these are now critically endangered, while the other two are listed as endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

The species are named after their unusual long, narrow noses, called rostra, which are banded with an external wreath of teeth, bearing resemblance to a saw blade.

The fish are among the largest in the ocean with some species reaching lengths of about up to 7.6 metres (25 feet).

They use their saw to detect and monitor the movements of smaller prey by measuring the electric fields they emit, before then attacking using the saw either to lacerate victims, or pin them down on the seabed, before eating them.

However, the teeth on their rostra are easily caught in fishing nets. Sawfish fins are among the most valuable in the global shark fin trade and rostra are also sold for novelty, medicine and as spurs for cockfighting.

The current presence of all sawfishes world-wide is unknown, but SFU researcher Nick Dulvy warns complete extinction is possible if nothing is done to curb overfishing and to protect threatened habitats, such as mangroves, where sawfish can thrive.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 130)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

ساختر

■ Past Participle

■ صِفَتِ مَفْعُولِ

صفت مفعولی از ستاک گذشته + ه ساخته می‌شود:

gone	رفت	+ ه	→ رفته
come	آمد	+ ه	→ آمده

■ Present Perfect

■ کُندَشْتِه‌ی نَقْلِی

گذشته‌ی نقلی از صفت مفعولی + شناسه‌های 'بودن' ساخته می‌شود.

شناسه‌های 'بودن' بعد از صفت مفعولی با 'آ' می‌آیند:

I have gone	آم	→ رفته‌ام	} رفته +
You have gone	ای	→ رفته‌ای	
He has gone	آست	→ رفته‌است	
We have gone	ایم	→ رفته‌ایم	
You have gone	اید	→ رفته‌اید	
They have gone	آند	→ رفته‌اند	

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → چ

Iran to carry out cloud seeding project within two weeks

A cloud seeding project will be carried out within the next two weeks in some northern, central and southern provinces of the country, Farid Golkar, head of Iran's National Cloud Seeding Research Center, has announced. Golkar explained that the operation will be carried out on the Zagros and Alborz Mountains in the north, Isfahan and Yazd provinces in the center, and Fars and Kerman provinces in the south.

The first cloud seeding project was launched in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (March 2016-March 2017), he stated, adding that, each operation can lead to a 10-15 percent increase in precipitation.

He went on to highlight that this year, a total budget of 70 billion rials (about \$1.6 million) has been earmarked in this regard.

آغاز عملیات باروری ابرها تا دو هفته دیگر

عملیات بارورسازی ابرها تا دو هفته دیگر در بخش هایی از شمال، مرکز، و جنوب کشور انجام می شود.

فرید گلکار، رئیس مرکز ملی تحقیقات و مطالعات باروری ابرها، در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، توضیح داد این عملیات روی کوهستان‌های زاگرس و البرز در شمال کشور، استان های اصفهان و یزد در مرکز ، و استان های فارس و کرمان در جنوب انجام می‌شود.

او با بیان این‌که نخستین پروژه بارورسازی ابرها در سال ۱۳۹۵ انجام شد، اظهار کرد تاثیر یکبار عملیات در میزان افزایش بارش‌ها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد است.

گلکار اضافه کرد: امسال هفت میلیارد تومان بودجه برای این موضوع در نظر گرفته شده است.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever delights his/her parents, has delighted Allah and the one who displeases them has displeased Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

36th Fajr Music Festival launches online today

→1 A number of international musicians have been invited to give performances during the festival.

The musicians include cellist Martin Melendez from Cuba, pianist Moritz Ernst and saxophonist Timo Vollbrecht from Germany, and pianist Gianna Fratta and violinist Dino Di Palma from Italy.

In addition, the Austrian duos Vila Madalena and Sain Mus will also perform at the festival.



A poster for the 36th Fajr Music Festival.

Accordianist Nikola Zaric and clarinet and saxophone player Franz Oberthaler are the members of Vila Madalena, and the Sain Mus duo features guitarist Phillip Erasmus and cellist Clemens Sainitzer.

The performances by Martin Melendez and Vila Madalena have been recorded in their country exclusively for the festival and will be broadcast during the festival.

The piano solo by Moritz Ernst and the duet by Gianna Fratta and Dino Di Palma will be recorded in Iran.

The organizers also plan to honor veteran musicians Mohammadreza Es'haqi Gorji, Maliheh Saeidi and Hassan Nahid with the lifetime achievement awards.

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

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

Lidice Exhibition of Fine Arts honors Iranian children

ART TEHRAN — Members of Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) have won prizes at the 48th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice in Czech, the IIDCYA announced on Monday.

Ratin Eteqad won a medal in the painting section and Mahta Abed received a medal in the photography section.

Ali Ashrafi and Melisa Razavi received honorable mentions in the painting section, while Azam Azimi and Shadi Esmailinia received honorable mentions in the photography section.



A painting by an 8-year-old Iranian boy, Ratin Eteqad, received a medal at the 48th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice in Czech.

The International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice (ICEFA Lidice) was established in 1967 to commemorate the child victims from the Czech village of Lidice murdered by the German Nazis, as well as all other children who have died in wars.

Although national initially, the exhibition went international in 1973 and since then it has become well known among children and teachers not only in the country but also literally all over the world.

In recent years, more than 25,000 very good works of art by children have come regularly not only from the Czech and Slovak republics but also from some 60 to 70 other countries, including such distant ones as China, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Iran history book publishers to showcase latest offerings in virtual fair

CULTURE TEHRAN — Top Iranian history book publishers will put on view their latest offerings about contemporary history in a weeklong virtual fair opening on March 20.

Over 1200 books by different publishers will be shown at the fair, which will be available on ketabika.com.

The Publications of the Institute for Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies will be attending the fair with 100 titles, the director of the publishing house, Reza Qaribi, has said.

"Everybody knows that history is a great source of knowledge for society. There are many historical events that help people avoid deviation, the events are all lessons for humankind," he said.

"If these events are analyzed and well clarified, they will surely be influential," he added.

"The Holy Quran also bears such great events and if they are well clarified they can help man. Anyone who does not know about his/her past, is forced to repeat the



This combination photo shows the front covers of a number of books on modern Iranian history.

Iran's Book of the Year Awards unveils nominees in art section

to write richer, more resonant short screenplays that will connect with your audience.

This category also features a Persian translation of Angelos Koutsourakis' "The Cinema of Theo Angelopoulos" by Vahid Ruzbehani. This book argues that Angelopoulos' films are not emblems of a bygone historical and cultural era or abstract exercises in artistic style, but are foreshadowing documents that speak to the political complexities and economic contradictions of the present.

Ben Long's "Complete Digital Photography" translated into Persian by Dariush Esmaeili is a highlight of the nominees in the Visual Arts category.

A Persian translation of François Soulages' "Esthétique de la photographie" by Mohammadreza Abolqasemi and Lucy Soutter's "Why Art Photography?" translated into Persian by Mohsen Bairamnejad are also competing in this section.

This category also has Erwin Panofsky's "Perspective as Symbolic Form" translated into Persian by Mohammad Sepahi and "Kubacheh Pottery" by Firuz Mahjur.

"Myth of Rasta" by Farshad Fereshte-Hekmat and "Karl Valentin" by Dariush Moaddabian are competing in the Play section.

A major nominee in the Architecture and Urban Planning section is a Persian rendition of "History of

Interior Design" co-written John Pile and Judith Gura. Mohammadreza Namdari, Lida Hosseinzadeh and Elaheh Neshat are the translators of the book.

Nominees in this section also include "Place and Place-Making in Public Spaces of Cities" written by Mohammad Naqizadeh, "Architecture of Formative Changes" co-written by Mahmud Golabchi, Katayun Taqizadeh and Ehsan Soroushnia, "High-Performance Architecture: Reframing the Future of Iranian Architecture" by Mohammad-Javad Mahdavienejad, "Landscape Architectural Concepts: Design Methods for Urban Parks" by Azadeh Shahcheraghi and "Stable Patterns for Green Walls" by Mehdi Hamzenejad and Mahyar Kolyai.

"Nicety in Public Places: Tehrani Ode Reciting and Its Socio-Cultural Provisions" by Sasan Fatemi and "Music in Ghaznavid Period" by Hossein Meisami are competing in the Music section.

A Persian translation of Claude Bouchard's "Molecular and Cellular Regulation of Adaptation to Exercise" is the sole nominee of the Physical Education section. The book has been translated into Persian by Abbas-Al Gaini, Javad Tolueiazar and Mohammad Hemmatinafar.

Winners receive their awards from the Iranian president every year during a special ceremony, which is organized by his office.

Iranian writer Ali Khodai's "Look at This Way" published in Turkish

CULTURE TEHRAN — Iranian children's writer Ali Khodai's book "Look at This Way" ("Bir De Böyle Bak") has recently been published in Turkish.

Nar, a major children's book publishing house in Istanbul, is the publisher of the book translated into Turkish by Milad Salmani.

The publisher acquired the right to Turkish translation of the book during the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair.

"Look at This Way" tells the story of animals that stumble upon an abstract picture in the heart of a jungle. Each animal finds its own image in the picture. However, several events cause them to change their minds.

The original book was published in 2017 by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

An English rendition of the book by Siamak Mazlumi was released in 2018.

The University of Science and Technology of China Press has acquired the rights to the Chinese version of the book. The agreement to publish the Chinese version of the book was negotiated during the 24th Beijing International Book Fair in August 2017, but the IIDCYA and the Chinese publisher have finalized the deal in 2018.

Khodai is also a skilful illustrator. The IIDCYA has previously published Iranian

writer Ebrahim Qadrdan's "The Little Key" with illustrations by Khodai. This book has also been published in English.

In 2016, he was honored with the Flying Turtle Award in the illustration section for his works in the book "Are You a Stork or a Woodpecker".

The Book City Institute and Pajuheshnameh, a Persian periodical on children's literary publications, are the co-founders of the Flying Turtle Awards.

Veteran children's writer Farhad Hassanzadeh's "A Careless Mouse" illustrated by Khodai was published by the IIDCYA in February 2020.



Front cover of the Turkish translation of Iranian writer Ali Khodai's book "Look at This Way".

"The Bookseller's Murder" by Saad Mohammed Raheem published in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Iraqi author Saad Mohammed Raheem's book, "The Bookseller's Murder", has recently been published by Neshat Rahmanienejad.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mohammad Hazbaizadeh.

"The Bookseller's Murder" follows Magid Baghdadi, an experienced journalist, who arrives in Baquba, 60 kilometers north of Baghdad, to conduct a two-month investigation commissioned by a rich and influential anonymous person.

He must write a book about the life and mysterious death of 70-year-old Mahmoud al-Marzouq, a bookseller

and artist.

Magid forms relationships with friends and acquaintances of the deceased and comes across a notebook containing some of his diaries. These record his life in the city since the first day of the U.S. occupation.

He also discovers letters between al-Marzouq and Jeanette, a Frenchwoman who worked as a model for artists, when he was a refugee in Paris. From these and other sources, the personality of al-Marzouq comes to life and various chapters of his interesting and complex life are revealed. What will remain obscure is the reason for his death.

Saad Mohammed Raheem born in Diyala province,

Eastern Iraq in 1957, has worked as a teacher and journalist, and his articles have been published in Iraqi and Arab newspapers and periodicals.

He is the author of six collections of short stories, a number of political and literary studies and three novels: "Twilight of the Wader", winner of the 2000 Iraqi Creativity Award for Fiction, "The Song of a Woman, Twilight of the Sea" and "The Bookseller's Murder".

In 2005, he won the Iraqi Award for Best Investigative Journalism, and was also awarded the 2010 Creativity Prize for the Short Story, for his collection "Almond Blossom".

Melinda Leigh's "What I've Done" comes to Iranian bookstores



Front cover of the Persian translation of Melinda Leigh's story "What I've Done".

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of American writer Melinda Leigh's book "What I've Done", the fourth book of the Morgan Dane series, has been published by Tandis Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Neshat Rahmanienejad.

In the fourth book of the multimillion-copy bestselling series, Morgan Dane's new client has blood on her hands, and no recollection of what happened.

Haley Powell wakes up covered in blood, with no memory of the night before. When she sees a man lying in the backyard, stabbed to death, she has only one terrified thought: What have I done?

Agreeing to take the case as a favor to her PI friend Lincoln Sharp, Morgan must scale a mountain of damning circumstantial and forensic evidence to prove her client innocent. Haley couldn't appear guiltier, her bloodstained fingerprints are on the murder

weapon, and she has no alibi. But Morgan can't shake the feeling that this shocked young woman has been framed.

Someone out there is hell-bent on sabotaging her defense, targeting Morgan, her partner and especially Haley; someone who will stop at nothing and whose next move will be deadly.

Wall Street Journal bestselling author Leigh is a fully recovered banker. A lifelong lover of books, she started writing as a way to preserve her sanity when her youngest child entered first grade.

During the next few years, she joined the Romance Writers of America, learned a few things about writing a novel, and decided the process was way more fun than analyzing financial statements.

The publisher has also already published "Bones Don't Lie", the third of the Morgan Dane series.

"Bones Don't Lie" is about private

investigator Lance Kruger, who was just a boy when his father vanished twenty-three years ago. Since then, he has lived under the weight of that disappearance, until his father's car is finally dredged up from the bottom of Grey Lake.

It should be a time for closure, except for the skeleton found in the trunk. A missing person case gone cold has become one of murder, and Lance and attorney Morgan Dane must face the deadly past that has risen to the surface.

For Lance, the investigation yields troubling questions about a man he thought he knew. But memories can play dirty tricks. For Morgan, uncovering each new lie comes with a disquieting fear that someone is out there watching, because someone is killing every witness tied to this decades-old crime. Morgan and Lance follow in the shadows of a relentless killer and walk right into the crossfire.