



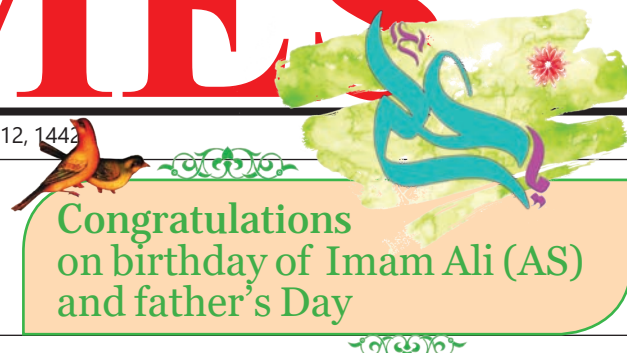
Quds Force chief: U.S. only understands language of force *Page 2*



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Congratulations on birthday of Imam Ali (AS) and father's Day

Iran, South Korea close to unlocking frozen assets

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Over 6,700 nomadic schools operating across Iran

Iran halts implementation of Additional Protocol

TEHRAN — Iran has stopped the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the United States failed to lift the sanctions it imposed on Iran during the Trump administration.

Under the Additional Protocol, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was allowed to carry out short-notice inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities. But

as of Tuesday, the Agency is no longer allowed to continue conducting inspections as per the Additional Protocol.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's permanent representative to Vienna-based international organizations, announced late on Monday that the IAEA will no longer be allowed to carry out inspections in accordance with the Additional Protocol as of midnight.

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Green puppet show warns about global garbage crisis

TEHRAN — Iranian playwright and director Nasrin Khanjari plans to stage a puppet show warning about the garbage crisis around the world.

The play entitled "No Place for Garbage" is scheduled to be performed by her troupe during the 18th Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival, which will take place virtually in Tehran during March.

"This puppet show is similar to a prediction portraying the situation of the globe and

people in the not too distant future," Khanjari told the Persian service of MNA on Tuesday.

"In this puppet show, Mrs. Crumpled Film Poster and Mr. Crushed Junk Can as representatives of the rubbish embark on a journey to visit people to tell them to stop generating trash because the Earth has been buried under garbage and there is no place for garbage anymore. They cross the seas, forests and deserts to reach the city of men," she said.

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Iran allocates €200m for promoting exports to Africa

TEHRAN — Iran's National Development Fund (NDF) has opened a €200 million credit line for the country's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) to use for developing exports of commodities and services to African countries.

The mentioned fund has been allocated as part of a \$2-billion support package which has been allocated by NDF for developing the country's non-oil exports, Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries said.

"The board of directors of the National Development Fund has approved this fund and it has scheduled to notify the relevant agencies for its implementation after the plan is reviewed and finalized in the next meeting of the African headquarters headed by the First Vice President," Piltan stated.

According to the official, despite all the opportunities and capacities for mutual cooperation, the development of economic and trade ties with Africa has been facing some problems such as lack of planning, lack of recognition and interest by the private sector organizations such as chambers of commerce and trade unions, lack of appropriate infrastructure and lack of government resources and facilities.

"These problems are expected to be resolved gradually with the opening of the mentioned credit line," he said.

The official noted that the TPO and other relevant government bodies and agencies are preparing various programs in order to boost the Islamic Republic's trade with African trade partners.

Holding three joint economic committees and four joint industrial committees with target African countries, holding 10 exclusive exhibitions in 10 different African countries, participation in 10 international exhibitions in African countries, sending 10 trade delegations and accepting 30 trade delegations from African countries, holding 18 trade promotion desks for introducing opportunities and fields of cooperation and export issues are some of the mentioned programs, he explained.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been pursuing new plans to promote the country's exports of non-oil goods and services to new markets in order to reduce the country's economic dependence on oil revenues.

In this regard, TPO has played a significant role in supporting the country's exporters and to follow up on the implementation of programs in this field.

Virus causes \$5.2 billion damage to Iran's tourism, minister says

TEHRAN — Iran's tourism industry has suffered a loss of some 220 trillion rials (about \$5.2 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister said on Tuesday.

"Iran's tourism has suffered some 220 trillion rials due to corona pandemic so far.... and we hope that with the production of domestic vaccines, tourism will flourish in 1400 [the new Iranian calendar year which begins on March 21]," Ali-Asghar Mounesan said.

He made the remarks during the opening ceremony of Tehran's international tourism and handicrafts fair, which is currently underway at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

"We hope that the widespread vaccine would bring prosperity to all branches of tourism

such as agritourism, ecotourism, and nature tourism," the minister said.

"Over 1.5 million jobs have been lost in the tourism sector of Iran due to the COVID-19 disease.... Many of the tourism-insiders are now unemployed or they are staying at home," Mounesan announced last December.

The government had previously allocated a total of 500 trillion rials (about \$12 billion) to the corona-affected sectors, of which 200 trillion rials (\$4.7 billion) will be given to the health ministry and the rest will be spent on other sectors, he explained.

Last month, the minister announced that the national budget bill for the next calendar year (starting on March 20) has proposed 70 trillion rials (about \$1.7 billion) to support tourism businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

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Ma'rib battle: Yemeni army close to retaking city from Saudi-led forces

Victory appears to be on the horizon in the heated battle for Yemen's strategic central province of Ma'rib as army troops, backed by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have reportedly taken control of most areas there and dislodged Saudi-led coalition forces and Riyadh-backed militants from those regions.

A Yemeni military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Arabic service of Russia's Sputnik news agency that Yemeni soldiers and their allies had encircled Ma'rib city, following weeks of fierce clashes with Saudi-led coalition forces and their mercenaries.

The source added that Yemeni forces had cut off the main supply route into the eastern flank of Ma'rib, which leads to the Arab country's largest province of Hadhramaut.

After gaining complete control over all the heights overlooking the city of Ma'rib from all directions, ? mopping up operations to clear the

last remaining pockets of al-Qaeda elements and mercenaries of the aggressors (Saudi-led coalition) are only a matter of time," he pointed out.

'Qaeda-affiliated Salafist Islah Party transferring militants to Ma'rib'

Meanwhile, the governor of Yemen's southern province of Aden has warned that the al-Qaeda-affiliated Salafist Islah Party is transferring Takfiri militants from southern areas to Ma'rib to join the ranks of Saudi-led coalition forces and Hadi loyalists in battles against Yemeni soldiers and their allies, Press TV reported.

"The Islah Party, which is on the verge of collapse in Ma'rib, is brining Takfiri militants from several regions, mostly from southern provinces under the occupation of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), into Ma'rib," Tariq Saleem told Yemen's official Saba news agency.

Negotiation with Iran and Turkey is essential: Mohamed ElBaradei

TEHRAN — Former Egyptian Vice-President Mohamed ElBaradei demands Arab countries to forge a regional security system capable of urgently addressing complex relations with Turkey and Iran, according to Anadolu Agency.

In an article titled "Is It Time for a Change in the Arab World?" published on Sunday by Arabi 21, ElBaradei noted he considered dialogue with Turkey and Iran "an issue that cannot be postponed."

"There is a significant need for an independent regional security system that depends on its members and whose capabilities can be trusted to

protect us and our interests, and this system must be able to take the initiative in dealing with complex relationships with our neighbors," stressed ElBaradei, who also served as the director general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency from 1997-2009.

Highlighting the importance of negotiations with Iran and Turkey, the former senior Egyptian diplomat said, "In this context, dialogue with Iran and Turkey, with whom we agree on many issues and disagree on a range of others, is something that cannot be postponed."

ElBaradei emphasized the need for a "unified and

clear strategy on how to deal with Israel's blatant denial of Palestinian rights", adding that it should start with putting an end to "unnecessary wars and horrifying bloodshed that crushes our people" and instead pursue dialogue to solve "our differences".

He acknowledged that the task will be a daunting one and expressed hope in the "the courage and wisdom" among Arabs to take the first steps.

ElBaradei briefly served as vice-president following Egypt's 2013 military coup, which led to the ouster of Mohamed Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood leader.



36th Fajr Music Festival honors winners

TEHRAN — The 36th Fajr Music Festival was brought to an end by honoring winners in various categories at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Monday with a limited number of participants.

In the Classical Music Composition category, the Barbad Award was given to Kaveh Mirhosseini for the album "Ehsraq".

In the Regional Music Performance category, the Barbad Award was handed to Hamzeh Moqaddam for the album "Black Hamzeh", and singer Abolhassan Khoshru was posthumously honored with a Barbad Award in this category.

Hushmand Ebadi won the Barbad Award in the Music without Vocals section for the album "Nayi".

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Joint wind farm to be inaugurated on Iran-Afghanistan border

TEHRAN — Head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has announced the inauguration of a huge wind farm project on the border of Iran and Afghanistan in near future, IRNA reported.

According to Mohammad Satakin, 25-megawatt (MW) capacity of the joint project, which is considered one of the biggest wind farms in the world, will be put into operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) while another 25-MW capacity is scheduled to be inaugurated in early next year.

The construction of this 50-megawatt power plant has led to the development of the region's infrastructure such as road construction, the construction of high-voltage electricity lines, substations, as well as telecommunication and Internet infrastructures, Satakin said.

Referring to the eagerness of new investors for the construction of other wind projects in the region, he added: "In addition to this project, another 50-MW wind farm project is under construction using 4.2-MW turbines, part of which will be completed by the end of this year and the other part will be constructed in early next year."

According to Satakin, having 30,000 MW potential of wind power capacity, the Iran-Afghanistan border area is one of the world's most windy regions.

"About 25,000 MW of the mentioned capacity is in the Afghanistan territory while the other 5,000 is on the Iranian side," he explained.

Back in November 2020, Satakin had said that over 30 MW will be added to the country's wind power capacity, of which 60 percent will be supplied by the mentioned wind farm on the Iran-Afghanistan border.

Open the window of rapprochement cautiously

By Azin Sahabi

TEHRAN — The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) made an agreement on Feb. 21 on Iran's parliamentary law in regard to suspending the implementation of the Additional Protocol to the NPT.

Called "Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Interest of Iranian Nation", the law obligates the Iranian government to stop implementing some nuclear commitments. Such a move, which is in line with Paragraph 36 of the JCPOA, sets certain conditions for Iran to reverse its nuclear decisions.

Many experts have shed light on the agreement from different aspects just to indicate that Iran's move in terms of nuclear safeguards seems quite critical.

In this context, on February 22, the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) released an opinion piece titled "US-Iran: The Rapprochement Gamble". The analysis was published just on the same day that Tehran and the IAEA concluded the agreement on the Additional Protocol.

The Italian institute focuses on the future of the JCPOA and speculates on "a new window for diplomacy" which seems to be opening between the United States and Islamic Republic of Iran.

The think tank points that Washington has declared that in case of receiving an invitation from the European Union High Representative, it would attend a meeting which is going to be held among Iran, E3 (Britain, France, Germany), China and Russia.

After a virtual meeting with E3, the U.S. stated that it is ready to attend talks with Iran and other major countries to discuss the Iran nuclear deal.

The article argues that such a decision by the Oval Office indicates that the new U.S. administration intends to choose an approach towards Iran that is quite different from its predecessors which were mainly confrontational.

By making such a decision, ISPI argues, President Joe Biden has taken the first tangible step to fulfill his promise to rejoin the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action which Trump's administration unilaterally withdrew in May 2018.

Regarding this, the think tank refers to the comments made by some experts on different aspects of the future diplomatic process regarding the JCPOA.

"The U.S.: Symbolic steps for a return to diplomacy"

For instance, Barbara Slavin, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, believes that although the U.S.'s stated eagerness to attend the meeting "is largely symbolic, (it) can begin the process of ending 'maximum pressure' and returning to diplomacy with Iran — with the European Union as the initial convener."

Expressing hope that Iran would agree to attend the meeting, Slavin stresses: "Regional issues should also be addressed but not in the P5+1 format. The first step is getting the nuclear deal back."

"Iran's position: Reciprocal, not forthcoming"

To speculate on Iran's likely behavior regarding the U.S. and other parties at the table, ISPI refers to Adnan Tabatabaei, CEO of the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO). Tabatabaei believes that Tehran has no meaningful incentive to "be forthcoming in the quest to revitalize the nuclear agreement." Thus, Tabatabaei argues, "At best, Iran will be ready for reciprocal action the moment President Biden effectively generates immediate economic relief by lifting nuclear-related sanctions and by unfreezing Iran's foreign assets."

"A JCPOA revival will reinvigorate Iranian moderates"

Another analyst comments on future negotiations on the JCPOA with regard to Iran's domestic politics. Abdolrasool Divsallar, a policy leader fellow at the School of Transnational Governance in the European University Institute (EUI), writes that "a JCPOA revival will reinvigorate Iranian moderates." He describes the JCPOA as "a symbol of Iranian reformists' foreign policy achievements" that its collapse will underline "the bankruptcy of a reconciliation narrative with the international system within Iran."

Moreover, he says, with the June presidential election ahead, a revival of the JCPOA and the Biden administration's clean return to the deal can serve as a game-changer for the reformists to gain the upper hand at the ballot box.

"The EU should pressure to separate nuclear talks and regional security negotiations"

Annalisa Perteghella, a research fellow at ISPI, believes that mending a transatlantic relationship is good but the EU should revise its policy in terms of facilitating the negotiations. The bloc should clarify that if the Biden administration keeps sanctions in place and links nuclear talks to broader regional security negotiations, it may jeopardize the chances of concluding a desirable nuclear deal and will likely spoil both processes.

ISPI stresses that the EU should offer its mediatory role under the condition of "an immediate, simultaneous, return to the JCPOA." The expert argues that consequently resolving the nuclear conflict would provide a platform for setting confidence-building measures. This will pave the way to negotiate regional security issues at the table, the expert adds.

On dos and don'ts of the three European parties to the JCPOA, RUSI, one of the most prominent think tanks all over the globe, has proposed some recommendations, too.

"E3/EU should maintain a united front"

Aniseh Bassiri Tabrizi, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), stresses that E3/EU as a unified front of European states at the table "can incentivize talks between Iran and the U.S. and coordinate the process bringing the two parties back to compliance."

The analyst with expertise in security and geopolitics of West Asia also writes: "They (E3/EU) will have a crucial role to play in hosting and choreographing an informal meeting between the current members of the Iran deal and the U.S. which could lead to an initial agreement."

Against this backdrop, RUSI underlines that Europeans should keep a united front to "take the initiative in areas where they can contribute — process and mediation, but also economic incentives."

Along with this, Bassiri Tabrizi points out that the unified European front should act step-by-step to reinstate the nuclear deal as the primary goal.

The analyst says this will lay the ground for broader talks including additional issues and actors.

France's proposal to play the role of a mediator in the JCPOA talks has raised broad discussions among the experts. In this regard, Clement Therme, a post-doctoral research fellow, at the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS), has commented on the issue.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Quds Force chief: U.S. only understands language of force

'U.S. would back off from issuing threats if it were governed by a wise ruling system'

POLITICAL
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TEHRAN — Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Quds Force, says Iran has learned how to deal with the U.S., which only understands the language of force.

"Resistance has taught Iran how to speak with the U.S., which knows the language of force alone," the Quds Force chief told a conference in Tehran on Tuesday.

Pointing to Iran's success in turning threats into opportunities in light of resistance, the commander stressed, "The U.S. would back off from issuing threats if it were governed by a wise ruling system."

"Whatever threats they (Americans) posed turned into the best opportunities (for Iran)," Tasnim quoted General Qaani as saying.

He also referred to Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani who was martyred in a U.S. terrorist attack in Baghdad in Janu-



ary 2020, saying, "Commander Soleimani was seeking security from day one" and for

10 years he was "directly" in war with the world's monstrous terrorists.

Nonproliferation experts urge immediate talks between Iran and 5+1

POLITICAL
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TEHRAN — Nonproliferation experts are calling on the European Union, the United States, and Iran to immediately begin technical talks on the steps necessary to restore compliance with the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1, according to a press release by Arms Control Association.

The nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Kelsey Davenport, director for nonproliferation policy, announced her support for the JCPOA and noted, "We support European Union efforts to immediately convene discussions involving the current parties of the agreement, plus the United States, on the sequencing of the actions that the U.S. and Iranian sides will each need to take to properly implement and restore compliance with the nuclear deal."

Pointing to the key role of European Union regarding nuclear talks with Iran, she emphasized, "The EU should make clear that these talks are about coordinating the sequencing of the return to compliance and addressing any

technical issues that might need to be resolved—such as the future of Iran's advanced centrifuges not mentioned in the JCPOA—and that this not a renegotiation of the original agreement."

"We urge Iran and the other JCPOA parties to respond positively to EU-brokered discussions," Davenport remarked.

In a Feb. 1 interview with CNN, Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif suggested that Josep Borrell, the EU's top foreign policy official, could "synchronize" or "choreograph" the moves that the U.S. and Iranian sides will each need to implement to restore compliance with the JCPOA.

The U.S. State Department declared Feb. 18 that "the United States would accept an invitation from the European Union High Representative to attend a meeting of the P5+1 and Iran to discuss a diplomatic way forward."

Meanwhile, Daryl Kimball, executive director at the Arms Control Association, said that "the IAEA-Iran temporary arrangement on nuclear monitoring keeps open the diplomatic window of opportunity to salvage the nuclear deal, but the opportunity will not last."

Biden's Iran policy is a variation of Bolton's 'Libya Model': Responsible Statecraft

POLITICAL
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TEHRAN — Something is going very wrong with Joe Biden's approach towards Iran. Unless he corrects the path, Biden risks losing a vital deal and putting the two nations back on a course towards war — at precisely the time he intends to focus on the multiple domestic crises facing America, according to Responsible Statecraft.

In his first month in office, Biden quickly reversed the most damaging of Donald Trump's policies on climate, immigration, health care, and many others. But he has not changed Trump's Iran policy. He has retained all of Trump's sanctions and has not begun the diplomatic exchanges between the two nations that were usual during the last years of the Obama administration, the American publication writes.

Responsible Statecraft sharply criticized Biden's administration for continuing Trump's failed "maximum pressure" campaign, and noted, "Logically and legally, Biden should rejoin the agreement he helped craft, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the JCPOA. The current crisis with Iran began when Trump pulled out of the multi-nation accord. Biden harshly criticized Trump's action then, calling it a 'manufactured crisis' that made 'the U.S., the region and our world less safe.'"

The American publication praised the recent measure taken by Biden's diplomatic team towards Iran and writes, "Biden took the first tentative steps to resume diplomatic dialogue with Iran, agreeing to meet with the

Europeans, China, Russia and Iran and to lift travel restrictions on Iranian diplomats at the United Nations in New York."

Hailing Biden's team due to their diplomatic skills, Responsible Statecraft stressed, "Starting with the president himself, through national security adviser Jake Sullivan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Iran Envoy Rob Malley, Deputy Secretary of State-designate Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary of Defense-designate Colin Kahl and more — is highly capable and deeply informed on Iran. They want to get both Iran and the United States back into compliance with the deal that shrank Iran's nuclear program, froze it for a generation, and put it under the most rigorous inspection system ever negotiate."

Pointing to the advantages of the JCPOA for U.S. national security, the American publication underscored, "Until Trump left in May 2018, Iran was in complete compliance with the agreement. Iran had removed over two-thirds of its operational centrifuges, exported all but a token amount of low-enriched uranium, drilled holes into the core of their plutonium reactor and filled it with concrete, and had put all their facilities under cameras, seals, and inspections."

Meanwhile, it welcomes Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal and noted, "Iran waited a full year after Trump violated the accord. Then, it took what it says are compensatory steps away from the agreement, but repeatedly insists it will immediately reverse those steps once the United States returns to compliance

by lifting the Trump sanctions."

The publication argues Biden's approach on Iran is similar to Trump's and writes, "During the presidential campaign, it seemed that Biden's plan was to quickly rejoin the JCPOA, as he has quickly rejoined other critical arrangements Trump avoided. During the transition, he likely developed a plan to do so. But in the first month, he has made no progress, exchanging his original theory of 'compliance for compliance' with the mantra that Iran must first come back into complete compliance before the United States moves. This is a variation of John Bolton's 'Libya Model.' The other side must do everything before the United States does anything."

The Biden team may believe that this approach provides "leverage" and that it can use the so-called "sanctions wall" — erected by Trump's hawkish advisers to block Biden's return to the deal — as pressure to compel Iran to make concessions on its nuclear program or other issues. But, as Rebel Alliance Admiral Gial Ackbar from Star Wars warned, "It's a trap."

Leverage works two ways. Iran responded to each Trump move with its own moves and a dangerous cycle developed. On February 7, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that Tehran's "final and irreversible" decision was to return to compliance only after the United States lifted sanctions. On February 23, Iran took another step away from the deal, implementing a law passed by Iran's parliament that will reduce the access of IAEA inspectors to some of Iran's facilities.

In an address to assassins of General Soleimani, he said, "You are desperate individuals who attributed terrorism to Commander Soleimani and the self-proclaimed defenders of human rights kept silence."

In comments on February 10, top military adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, said foreign and extra-regional enemies of Iran, specifically "the triangle of evil, namely the Americans, Zionists, Britons and their regional servants" cannot pose serious military threats to Iran.

In a message marking the 42nd anniversary of victory of the Islamic Revolution earlier in February, Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri warned the enemies in the region and beyond of a crushing response they would get in case of military adventure against Iran.

"To accelerate progress and signal his intentions, we also urge President Biden to state clearly that the United States will remove the sanctions reinstated by former president Donald Trump in violation of U.S. commitments under the JCPOA when the IAEA verifies Iran is reversing its breaches of the JCPOA limits," Kimball added.

He argues the nuclear cooperation between Iran and international community is essential and highlighted, "It is also in the United States interest to immediately waive sanctions on multilateral nonproliferation activities mandated by the JCPOA to convert Iran Arak heavy water reactor. This move would further signal the Biden administration's intentions to meet U.S. commitments under the JCPOA."

"A return to full compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal by both sides would provide a solid foundation for potential follow-on negotiations on a longer-term framework to address Iran's nuclear program as well as on new, win-win solutions on other areas of concern, such as regional tensions and the ballistic missile programs of Iran and other states in the Middle East (West Asia)," Kimball said.

"Biden may believe that he will look weak if he moves first. His advisers are likely angered by Iran's pressure tactics. They are also under pressure from some donors and conservatives in the Democratic Party, such as hawkish Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez, to punish Iran," the publication says.

"The only certain path away from war is through a quick return to the agreement that prevented one," Responsible Statecraft asserted.

Pointing to a recent Washington Post survey, Responsible Statecraft highlighted the majority of West Asia specialists insist the U.S. needs to rejoin the nuclear deal as soon as possible and noted, "75 percent of Middle East (West Asia) experts polled said that returning to the JCPOA would make it less likely that Iran would get a nuclear bomb in the next decade — about as certain a prediction as is possible in global security. Only 2 percent said that returning would make it more likely. Sixty-seven percent said that returning immediately to the deal before addressing other issues would serve U.S. national security interests. Only 23 percent wanted to go for a 'grand bargain' instead."

"The greatest danger of Donald Trump's Iran policy was that the two sides would stumble into a war that neither government wanted. Now the greatest danger of Joe Biden's policy is that the two sides could fumble away a deal that both governments actually want," Responsible Statecraft argues.

Ex-Israeli generals, Mossad spymasters urge Biden's return to Iran deal

A group of former top officials from Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, the IDF and the Mossad sent a letter on Monday to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressing support for a U.S. return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, the Jerusalem Post reported on Tuesday.

Led by former IDF deputy chief of staff Matan Vilnai, commanders for Israel's security said in the letter that it "welcomes the American initiative to get Iran to again transparently follow the guidelines in the JCPOA as long as it includes an Iranian commitment to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 2231" regarding development of ballistic missiles.

In addition to Vilnai, the letter was signed by former Mossad director Tamir Pardo, former IDF OC Operations Directorate Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon, former National Security Council head Uzi Arad and Eli Levite, the former principal deputy director-general for policy at the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission.

The former senior defense officials expressed support for President Joe Biden's current position not to lift sanctions on Iran unless it returns to abide by the 2015 deal. The first goal needs to be to get Tehran back into compliance and then to work on a follow-up deal that would fill the holes in the JCPOA, they said.

Iran has been insisting that it is still a party to the nuclear deal and it is the U.S. that quit the agreement and naturally it is Washington that must return to its

obligations under the agreement. Officials in Tehran have said it will reverse its remedial measures in reducing nuclear commitments if sanctions are fully lifted in practice and not in words.

"This will take into account new information that has been accumulated since the JCPOA, as well as additional problems that Iran presents," the letter said.

It was not the first time that the group has come out against Netanyahu's efforts to stop the JCPOA. Ahead of the signing of the 2015 deal, the group called on the prime minister to cancel his speech to the U.S. Congress.

At that time, former Mossad deputy director Amiram Levin said while it was difficult for him to speak out against Netanyahu, who served under him in the IDF, the prime minister's navigation was off.

"Leaders speak privately, not out in the open," he said. "The visit and the speech are exactly the opposite of that."

"Rather than working hand in hand with the U.S. president, we are going there and sticking our thumb in his eye," Levin said. "That not only hurts the president, but above all, it hurts the citizens of the U.S., who [while they] are fans of Israel, are first and foremost Americans."

Iran remained fully loyal to the nuclear deal for a full year despite the fact that Donald Trump, who had struck a close relationship with Netanyahu, ditched the pact in May 2018 and imposed sanctions against Iran in line with his administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against

Tehran.

However, in May 2019 Iran announced that its "strategic patience" is over and started to gradually remove bans on certain aspects of its nuclear activities. At the time Iran announced that if the remaining members of the JCPOA, especially the European trio (E3) protect Iran from the U.S. sanctions it will reverse its decision. But Iran saw no practical action.

Exasperated over inaction by the JCPO parties, the Iranian parliament also approved a legislation a few months ago obliging the government to speed up nuclear activities if sanctions are not lifted within a specific period of time. The legislation tasked the government to increase uranium enrichment to 20 percent, install advanced centrifuge machines and limit IAEA inspections of Iran's nuclear sites.

Iran began enriching uranium to 20 percent on January 4. It also started limiting IAEA access to nuclear facilities on Tuesday (Feb. 23). According to parliamentary law, the inspections will take place only based on the Safeguards Agreement.

Even now that Iran has suspended the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol it will continue to "implement fully and without limitation its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA as before," the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said in a joint statement on Sunday.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Iran, South Korea close to unlocking frozen assets

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – After months of a bitter dispute over Iranian assets frozen in South Korean banks due to the United States sanctions, Tehran and Seoul seem to be inching towards an agreement on unblocking the assets.

Iran has announced that it reached a deal with South Korea on how to release its assets blocked in South Korean banks. Abdolnasser Hemmati, governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI), met with South Korean Ambassador to Iran Ryu Jeong-Hyun on Monday.

Following the meeting, state news agency IRNA reported that at the meeting, the necessary agreements regarding the transfer of assets to the intended destinations were made and the South Korean side was informed of the decisions of the CBI regarding the volume of transferred assets and the destination banks.

The South Korean ambassador expressed his country's readiness to facilitate the unblocking of Iranian assets.

"The country is ready to take all necessary measures to use all of Iran's banking assets in South Korea, and there are no ceilings or restrictions in this regard," Jeong-Hyun was quoted as saying by IRNA.

Hemmati welcomed the change in South Korea's approach toward Iran, adding that the Islamic Republic, although welcoming the increase of cooperation with other countries, retains the right to legally prosecute South Korea and demand compensations from it for not cooperating with Iran over the past two years.

"The [South] Korean side must do its utmost to erase this bad precedent," the CBI governor noted.

South Korea was quick to offer an explanation of what happened during the Monday meeting between Hemmati and Jeong-Hyun.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that the Iranian assets locked in South Korea will be released after consultations with the United States, Yonhap News Agency reported, without denying Iran-South Korea



negotiations over unblocking the assets.

"Our government has been in talks with Iran about ways to use the frozen assets, and the Iran side has expressed its consent to the proposals we have made," the South Korean Foreign Ministry told Yonhap News Agency.

"The actual unfreezing of the assets will be carried out through consultations with related countries, including the United States," the ministry continued.

According to Yonhap, earlier this month a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said Seoul was finalizing talks with Washington about using some of the frozen funds to pay Tehran's UN dues in arrears, to which the Islamic republic has also agreed. To facilitate the trade with Iran of humanitarian items, such as medicine and medical equipment, South Korea has been seeking to use a Swiss channel backed by the U.S., known as the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA), to use the money through Swiss companies' sales of goods to Iran, the news agency added.

Tehran and Seoul have been locked in a bitter dispute over Iran's blocked assets in South Korea, with the seizure of the South

Korean ship in early January being the latest in a series of disagreements between the two Asian countries. Some 7 billion dollars of Iranian oil revenues have been frozen in two South Korean banks since September 2019, when Washington's sanctions waiver for South Korea's imports of Iranian oil expired.

In January, Yonhap claimed that Iran was seeking to use its money frozen in South Korea to buy medicine.

Citing a diplomatic source in South Korea, Yonhap claimed that Iran made a request to South Korea for the use of the frozen money to purchase medicine, medical equipment and COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility, a global vaccine procurement mechanism.

The issue of Iran's funds was one of the main issues that were discussed during South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun's visit to Tehran in January.

A few weeks after the visit, Iran proposed paying its UN membership fees with its seven billion dollars frozen in South Korea.

"We should have paid \$16 million to settle our debts to the UN and secure our right to vote. The government allocated the fund

and urged that the country's frozen assets in South Korea be used [to pay the debts], but the U.S. blocked the payment to the UN account," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in January.

At that time, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, also echoed the same proposal. Khatibzadeh said, "Iran's latest proposal in this regard was to pay this debt by having the UN use Iran's seized assets in South Korea with the permission of the central bank, which is being discussed with the UN Secretariat and the necessary arrangements are being made."

Iran and South Korea appear to be moving toward settling the thorny issue of Iran's assets after a few rounds of failed negotiations in January. They are eager to find a solution to the issue. Over the past few months, both of them had proposed a number of solutions none of which broke the deadlock over the assets.

During the January negotiations, South Korea proposed to barter the whopping \$7 billion of Iran's assets blocked in South Korean banks for ambulance vehicles and coronavirus test kits, a proposal decried by Iran as "shameless."

During his visit to Iran, Jong-kun met with Iran's central banker to discuss how to release the Iranian assets. According to Iranian media, the South Korean diplomat proposed to provide Iran with ambulances and coronavirus test kits using Iran's assets. But Iran rejected the offer, saying that it wants to use the money to purchase foods and medicines. Iran also said that the Korean proposal did not include the release of all Iran's frozen assets.

With the negotiations still going on, Tehran and Seoul seem to be in the final stage of resolving the assets issue given South Korea's close contacts with the Biden administration, which has promised to rekindle diplomacy with Iran by reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

U.S. return to JCPOA only way out of nuclear impasse, China says

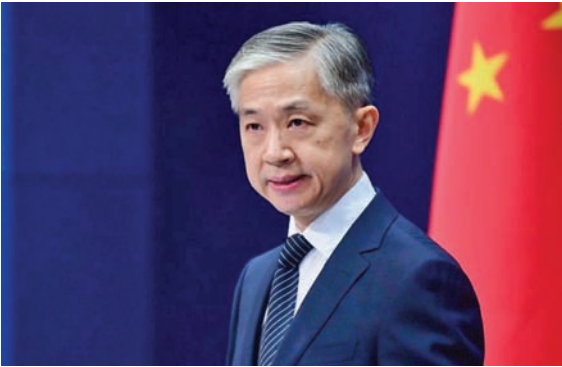
POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – China's Foreign Ministry has said that the United States' return to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal is the only way out of the standoff over Iran's nuclear issue.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called on the U.S. to rejoin the nuclear deal – officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) –, adding that the U.S. reentry into the JCPOA is the only solution to the current deadlock over Iran's nuclear issue.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, the spokesperson said, "China holds that the return of the United States to the JCPOA is the only correct approach to resolve the impasse on the Iranian nuclear issue."

He added, "All parties should act with greater urgency, work together to implement consensus reached at the foreign ministers' meeting last December, and bring the JCPOA back on track at an early date. Meanwhile, we urge relevant parties to remain calm and exercise restraint, avoid taking actions that will escalate the situation, and leave room for diplomatic efforts."

The spokesperson also welcomed the recent deal between



Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on how to continue cooperation between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog.

"The IAEA and Iran reached a technical plan on the verification and monitoring activities that is feasible and acceptable to both sides. China welcomes and commends

this and hopes that the two sides continue to work toward the same direction and earnestly follow through on this consensus. We also call on relevant sides to play a constructive role in this process," he said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry also announced that Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi held a telephone conversation with his Chinese counterpart Ma Zhaoxu on Monday, according to Fars News.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Beijing and Tehran believe that the U.S. return to the JCPOA and the lifting of sanctions are the key to resolving the nuclear deadlock. The statement also said that the two diplomats mainly discussed the situation around Iran's nuclear program.

During the conversation, Araghchi and Zhaoxu underlined that the situation of Iran's nuclear issue is changing rapidly and there are opportunities and challenges at the same time.

The Iranian and Chinese deputy foreign ministers called on the parties to the JCPOA to use this opportunity to resolve the Iran nuclear issue politically and diplomatically and to maintain peace and stability in West Asia.

Iran halts implementation of Additional Protocol

1→ "As of 12:00 p.m. local time (2030 GMT), we have nothing called obligations beyond the Safeguards Agreement," the ambassador said. "Necessary orders have been issued to nuclear facilities."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also announced the cessation of implementation of the Additional Protocol on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an international conference in Tehran on Tuesday, Zarif said, "We have officially announced to the International Atomic Energy Agency since February 15 that the Parliament's law on this issue will be implemented from the morning of February 23, and for this reason, the implementation of this law has started this morning."

The nuclear law, officially called "Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Nation's Rights," stipulates that the Iranian government should take certain nuclear measures such as raising the level of uranium enrichment to 20% and suspending the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol in few months if the Western parties failed to honor their obligations under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The sixth article of the law clearly stipulates that if the remaining parties to the JCPOA – Germany, France, China, Russia and the UK – failed to facilitate Iran's oil exports and the return of Iranian oil revenues in two months, the Iranian government would be obligated to stop inspections beyond the IAEA safeguards, including the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol, which allows unannounced and intensive inspections of nuclear sites.

Zarif also pointed to the recent visit by

the IAEA director-general, Rafael Grossi, to Iran, saying that the UN nuclear watchdog chief came to Iran to make arrangements for the implementation of the nuclear law.

"Mr. Grossi came to Iran to make arrangements for the implementation of the law. We have reached an agreement in this regard, and the principle of this agreement is that the tapes recorded from our nuclear programs, which were never presented live to the Agency, but were provided on a daily and weekly basis, will be kept from now on and will not be presented to the Agency," the chief Iranian diplomat said, noting that Iran will continue to implement the IAEA safeguards.

On Sunday, Zarif met with Grossi in Tehran to discuss issues related to the nuclear law.

"Collaborations between Iran and the IAEA, the Agency's efforts to settle the two sides' issues, and the cooperation between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog within the framework of the Safeguards Agreement were among the most pressing issues discussed by the Iranian foreign minister and the IAEA director general," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement following the meeting.

During his two-day visit, the IAEA chief struck a deal with Iran on how to continue cooperation between Iran and the Agency in light of the nuclear law.

"Intensive consultations led to a good result. A temporary technical understanding has been reached. The IAEA will continue its necessary verification and monitoring in Iran," the UN nuclear watchdog chief said in a tweet following his visit to Iran.

The IAEA and the AEOI issued a joint statement outlining the content of the understanding moments after Grossi concluded his visit to Iran.

"The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recalled and reaffirmed the spirit of cooperation and enhanced mutual trust that led to the Joint Statement in Tehran on 26 August 2020, and the importance of continuing that cooperation and trust," the statement said. "The AEOI informed the IAEA that in order to comply with the act passed by the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran called "Strategic Action to Cease Actions and Protect the interest of Iranian Nation" (The "Law") Iran will stop the implementation of the voluntary measures as envisaged in the JCPOA, as of 23 February 2021."

The statement added, "In view of the above and in order for the Agency to continue its verification and monitoring activities, the AEOI and the IAEA agreed: 1. That Iran continues to implement fully and without limitation its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA as before. 2. To a temporary bilateral technical understanding, compatible with the Law, whereby the IAEA will continue with its necessary verification and monitoring activities for up to 3 months (as per technical annex). 3. To keep the technical understanding under regular review to ensure it continues to achieve its purposes."

The deal was reached only two days before Iran started implementing the nuclear law.

The deal drew criticism from some Iranian lawmakers who accused the government of circumventing the nuclear law. But the government reassured them that the deal with the Agency was in line with the nuclear law.

"The result of what happened during Mr. Grossi's visit between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency is a remarkable diplomatic and technical achievement. Dr.



Salehi and his colleagues worked hard to move within the framework of the Parliament's binding law. As stated in the joint statement with the IAEA, all that has been agreed is in accordance with parliamentary law," Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said at a press conference on Monday.

Gharibabadi also offered assurances to the lawmakers that the deal is consistent with what the Parliament had enacted.

"The Agency will not be given any access beyond the [IAEA] safeguards. The continuation of the Agency's verification, as per the technical annex to the Joint Statement, is solely for the purpose of maintaining information on certain activities and monitoring equipment by Iran for three months. The Agency has no access to this information and the information remains exclusively with Iran. If the sanctions are lifted completely within three months, Iran will provide this information to the IAEA, otherwise, it will be deleted forever," Gharibabadi tweeted on Sunday night.

The nuclear law is part of Iran's strategy to force the West into lifting sanctions. Iran has said many times that it will return to the full implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal after the U.S. lifts its sanctions.

SPORTS

Nemati into Fazza Para Archery World Ranking knockout round

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Zahra Nemati of Iran booked a place at knockout round of the 7th Fazza Para Archery World Ranking Tournament on Tuesday.

The tournament kicked off on 23 Feb. in Dubai, United Arab Emirates with participation of 70 archers from 11 countries.

Iran's two-time Paralympic gold medalist defeated Indian Para archer Pooja Khanna and finished in first place in preliminary round with 620 points.

Turkish Para archers Merve Nur Eroglu and Sengul Yagmur came second and third respectively, with 596 and 566 points.

The tournament will run until Feb. 26.

The tournament is set to run until February 26 with the qualification rounds for recurve and compound open due to start on Wednesday.

The Dubai Club for People of Determination has been chosen as the venue for the 2021 World Archery Para Championships which has been moved to 2022 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Behnam Yakhchali undergoes surgery

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Rostock Seawolves basketball team guard Behnam Yakhchali underwent a foot injury in Munich.

The Iranian international suffered an ankle injury in the match against VFL Kirchheim Knights on Feb. 7 and has recently undergone a successful surgery.

"I can start my training in the next two weeks and will be ready next month," Yakhchali said in an interview with Iran Basketball Federation's website.

Yakhchali joined the German second tier side in June 2020 from CBA side Nanjing Monkeys.

He will be a key player for Iran national basketball team at the Olympic Games.

Friendly: Iran to meet Syria on March 30

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Iran national football team will meet Syria in a friendly match in Tehran on March 30.

The match will be held as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers at the Azadi Stadium.

Syria will play Bahrain on March 25 in Manama.

Dragan Skocic's team will hold a training camp in late March in Tehran.

According to AFC's decision, the Qualifiers have been postponed to June.



Iran are scheduled to play Hong Kong and Cambodia on June 3 and 7.

The matches against Bahrain and Iraq will be held on June 11 and 15.

Due to the coronavirus concerns, the remaining matches will be held at the centralized venue and Iran submitted its request to host the four remaining qualifiers.

Dragan Skocic's team sit third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain.

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

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

The FIFA World Cup in Qatar will run from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

Beiranvand has suffered thigh injury: Vercauteren

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Antwerp Coach Franky Vercauteren says that Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand has sustained a thigh injury.

Beiranvand had to limp off against Rangers after overstretching for a save, but he had recovered enough to play in their weekend goalless draw against St. Truiden.

However, the luckless keeper injured a thigh muscle and had to be taken off for the second game in a row to be replaced by on-loan Eupen keeper Ortwin De Wolf again.

With Antwerp No.1 Jean Butez still out with an ankle injury, it means Antwerp are likely to have to field third choice keeper De Wolf for the Thursday encounter.

"It's a different injury than the one he got against Rangers in the first leg. The first injury was an adductor muscle strain and this one happened at the top of his thigh," Vercauteren said.

"It's pure coincidence and his bad luck he had to leave two games in a row through injury.

"It's unlikely he will be ready for Glasgow, but we will give him every chance," he added.

Omani forward Al-Ghassani leaves Sepahan

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Oman international forward Muihsen Al-Ghassani parted company with Iranian football club Sepahan on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old player left Sepahan by mutual agreement.

Al-Ghassani, who has scored two goals for Oman national team at the 2022 World Cup qualifier Group E games, joined Sepahan in 2020 January on a one-and-a-half-year contract.

Sepahan are favorites to win Iran Professional League (IPL) in the current season.

The Isfahan-based football team sit second, two points behind Persepolis in the table.

Sepahan main forward Sajad Shabbazzadeh has scored 12 goals in 15 matches and it means the team didn't need to Omani forward.

A Glance at Salient Measures Taken by 12th Government Dubbed “Hope and Prudence” in Health Sector Medical Education Sector



Employing 5,225 faculty members within the framework of six editions entitled “Call for Cooperation Notice” at Medical Sciences Universities in the long run of the Health Reform Plan

Commissioning 30 portals in the field of education in the course of implementation of Health Reform Plan

Winning scientific and supporting more than 600 research projects, costing about 12 million tomans,

Designing and implementing “safeguards” of entrepreneurship and knowledge-based business at virtual University of Medical Sciences,

Commissioning National Center for Skill Training with the aim of meeting to the national demands,

Approving the land preparation criteria at the Higher Education of Health as the first Preparation Document of the country at the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution

Commissioning Virtual / Online University of Medical Sciences as a pattern with the aim of development of educational equality as well as promoting the equal accessibility to the Higher Education of Health as well as reducing the costs for training efficient manpower,

Presenting at least 20% expenses for each training curriculum in the form of online in order to reduce costs needed for training and upbringing student

Closure of personal and in-person training classrooms at universities hit with COVID-19 as well as using the capacities of online training, activity of 90,006 students and 17,967 faculty members at NAVID Online System as well as presenting 1,923 academic courses in online form

Presently, more than 3,000 foreign students from 43 countries are studying Medicine in Iran.

Commissioning Education Iran Online System for introducing scientific and training capacities of Iran Universities of Medical Sciences as well as training more than 1,200 educational and training programs in the nationwide

Launching 12,906 training programs continually as well as setting up 17 centers for organizing the continuous training courses

Employing about 1,380 applicants for taking membership at Faculty Member as well as employing 72 students as Faculty Members who are passing their military services with the special emphasis on less developed universities

Distributing graduated manpower in Highly-Specialized academic course

Health Sector

Of total 4,110 centers as commissioner of Rural Family Physician Program, 2,743 and 1,367 centers of which are the rural centers and comprehensive urban health services centers respectively. It should be noted that 265,337,800 people in rural and nomadic areas have received the aforementioned healthcare and treatment services at cities below 20,000 populations at least for once.

Provision of 436 items of basic medicines as well as seven items of pharmaceutical supplements for all centers as commissioner of program at villages as well as presenting pharmaceutical services by 4,135 active pharmacies within the framework of 1,125 state-owned pharmacies and 3,010 private pharmacies.

Activity of about 2,000 physicians in two and single working shifts as well as more than 1,700 healthcare services within the framework of Rural Family Doctor

Employing more than 1,800 Mental Health experts at universities of medical sciences

Employing 6,537 doctors, 5,497 midwives, 806 nurses, and 98 radiologists at centers as executor of Rural Family Doctor

Presenting laboratory services by 3,157 active laboratories at Rural Family Doctor Plan as well as presenting radiology services at 1,718 state-run centers as well as 251 private centers

Training rural nurses through the admission of 1,921 nurses for rendering quality medical services at rural areas of the country

Opening 75 centers for early diagnosis of

cancer in Bahman 97 (Feb. 2019)

Setting up Electronic Health File for 90% population of the country

Implementation of “National Blood Pressure Control Plan” across the country in 2019

Eliminating measles and rubella in 2019

Eliminating malaria in 2019

Eliminating the tuberculosis in the country with implementation of active diagnostic program at risky areas with densely and risky population

Implementation of 90-90-90 program for controlling AIDs in the country with the active diagnostic program in risky centers and risky populations

Monitoring centers tasked with providing foodstuffs as well as public places from August 2017 to Jan. 2020

Destruction and seizure of 857,379 kilograms and 758,200 liters of perishable and non-hygienic food products

Measuring the air special pollutants in 8 macro cities of the country

Provision of a 5-year plan for equipping healthcare centers at the region grappling with the dust particles in provincial centers of Khuzestan province in 2019

Admitting the document for the approval of Protocol for Uprooting Illegal and Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products by the United Nations and membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2018

Selection of two religious cities of Qom and Mashhad by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the implementation of plan on Free-Tobacco religious cities

Identifying more than 470,000 psychiatry patients who are suffering from psychological disorders in the population covered by the urban areas,

Implementing IRAPEN Pilot Program among 50,000 populations in each university of medical sciences

Risk assessment of 8,153,745 patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases, aged above 30 and more than 30 years old,

Opening Breastfeeding Bank at medical universities in East Azarbaijan province, Ahvaz, Yazd and Fars provinces,

Implementation of a nationwide program for the promotion of Dental Health Program among students studying at elementary school at 60,000 urban and rural elementary schools and for 7 million students

Implementation of a nationwide program for screening patients suffering from thyroid diseases, covering 98 percent of program with screening more than 3,500,000 infants as well as identifying and on-time treatment of 8,000 infected infants

Presenting fluoride therapy and varnishing services for 7 million students with the average coverage of 80 percent for all levels in three school years

Covering children aged below five years who are diagnosed with malnutrition

Implementation of National Mobilization Program to prevent from shortage of iodine

Regular implementation for monitoring edible salts in the levels of production, supply and consumption

Nursing Sector

Commissioning National System for the registration of data of nurses and affiliated groups,

Opening Nursing Faculties at Neyshabur and Jahrom universities of medical sciences

Opening 67 specialized nursing clinics for non-communicable diseases in the country

Launching National Network for Nursing Cares Research Centers

Developing and commissioning 702 Consultation Centers

Employing 3,000 nursing assistants at the universities of medical sciences

Notifying the Comprehensive National Nursing Document at 2025 Vision

Compiling and notifying the executive instructions entitled “Follow-Up Nursing Plan” to the selected universities of medical sciences

for pilot implementation of the project, etc.

Research and Technology Sector

Commissioning the National Institute for the Development of Research at Medical Sciences Universities (NIMAD) in order to support macro- and inter-disciplinary plans

Commissioning National Program for the registration of diseases and health consequences with the implementation of 100 programs in national and academic levels

Development of research-clinical units at training hospitals from 38 units in the beginning of government dubbed hope and prudence to 82 units in 2019

Commissioning, developing and completing the comprehensive laboratories at the universities of medical sciences from nine laboratories in the beginning of the current government to 24 laboratories in 2020

Building capacity and setting up 53 Medical Sciences Faculties

Producing 2,422 knowledge-based products in the field of health at knowledge-based companies based at the universities of medical sciences with the aim of realizing the resistance economy policy

Taking advantage of capabilities of research centers for producing products required in the clinical field such as Ophthalmology (Eye) Research Center for the production of simulator

Development of national program for the registration of population cancer at the universities of medical sciences

Supporting the development of knowledge-based companies in the health sector from 380 companies in the beginning of the current government dubbed hope and prudence to 1,400 companies with the financial turnover of more than 38.88 thousand billion rials

The number of magazines registered in the medical sciences in ISI promoted from 21 in last year to 83 in the current year.

Islamic Republic of Iran's rank was promoted to 45 ranks in 2019 as compared to 2015 in the field of data of Global Innovation Index.

Introducing domestic companies producing seven raw pharmaceutical materials as well as producing raw materials for “Remdesivir” and “Favipiravir” medicines to the National Innovation Fund for financial support

Islamic Republic of Iran stood at the first rank in the region and 16th rank in the world with publishing 60,268 articles at Scopus Databank, etc.

Resources and Management Development Sector

Development and promotion of healthcare and treatment areas as follows:

Implementation of plan to complete construction operation of hospital beds:

& Operation of 117 projects in the field of construction, completion and development of hospital with the capacity of 10,592 beds

Implementation of a plan for the completion of Health rEform Plan projects

& Operation of 74 special clinics as large as 187,566 square meters

& Operation of 38 projects for the promotion and development of midwifery blocks with the capacity of 375 beds

& Operation of 70 upgrading and developing plan in Emergency Ward of hospital with the capacity of 1,723 beds

& Operation of 57 Cancer Diagnostic and Screening Center with the capacity of 318 beds,

& Operation of 170 projects for Special Intensive Care Unit (ICU) plans with the capacity of 2,161 beds

& Operation of 72 educational and prop-educational projects as large as 173,837 square meters,

Implementation of Health Network Completion Project:

Operation of 3,039 health projects with 782,000 square meters' built-up area

Salient and Important Measures Taken by 12th Government

Deploying CMMS System in 700 repair and maintenance centers including all covered hospitals, university complexes as well as other affiliated centers

Setting up Specialized Holding Company for correction of engineering structure of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education

Setting up EPM system,

Compiling and publishing standard books in the field of spaces of health sector (medical, training, educational, educational assistance, services and welfare)

Completion of construction operation of 10 hospitals with the capacity of 1,321 beds in disadvantaged and deprived areas of the country in cooperation with Barakat Foundation affiliated to the Execution of Imam Khomeini Order (EIKO)

Completion of construction of four hospitals with the capacity of 943 beds as well as 40 24-hr comprehensive health centers

Assessing the factors affecting the damages caused by the flood in Farvardin 1397 (April 2018)

Completion of construction of projects for the provision of housing units for specialists



in the cities with below 100,000 people

Compiling the instructions of medical centers and medical institutions

Controlling and monitoring the process of selection of land for the construction of hospitals as well as university complexes

Provision of a short list of consultants and contractors approved by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education

Provision of technical and engineering criteria

Managing on the process of conducting feasibility studies as well as designing to set up a technical working group to study and approve maps of mega projects

Compiling a comprehensive plan to equip newly-constructed hospitals

Holding specialized training courses for the managers working in technical offices

Drafting a bill in the field of Civil Engineering Supervising and following up necessary measures for the implementation of projects approved during Leader's visit

Supervising and following up necessary measures approved during President's visit

Treatment Sector

Organizing the provision of hospital services and reducing the direct payment by patients hospitalized in order to financially support the citizens in the face of health expenses with a focus on the vulnerable strata of society.

Preventing reference of patients for purchasing medicines and medical equipment to outside the hospital

Reducing the amount of payment by patients hospitalized at hospitals of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education

Upgrading and renovating about 300,000 square meters of medical space,

Fulfilling about 1,066,145 natural deliveries special of pregnant women free of charge at the state-owned centers by the end of July 2010

Increasing the number of physicians and doctors in the less developed and disadvantaged areas

Implementation of a program on attendance of physicians residing at hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in order to offer on-time medical services to referrals round-the-clock

Operation of 43 projects for the development and standardization of emergency wards of hospital across the country by the end of 12th government with increasing about 1,500 beds in various provinces of the country

Distributing the number of 28,558 beds and its essentials including walker, bed base, mattress, serum base, etc., 14,691 refrigerators and 11,720 TV sets as well as 4,584 stretchers across the country

Distributing over 37 million diagnostic medical devices in medical centers of universities of the medical sciences across the country

Allocation of 635,000 million rials to improve the nurses' residence

Allocation of cost of 37,578 consoles, 7500,000 Rials for each console to universities

Commissioning of 364 comprehensive centers for specific diseases (53 comprehensive centers for the treatment of MS, 11 centers for EB patients, 230 thalassemia centers, 70 hemophilia centers), 20 bone marrow transplant centers, opening of 4 cochlear implant centers, 80 dental centers to provide services to special patients And difficult to treat, setting up and activating dental emergency services, setting up 330 blood pressure centers, setting up 330 diabetes centers, opening 75 centers for prevention and early diagnosis of non-communicable diseases at the same time

Distribution of 1593 dialysis devices, development and operation of over 700 dialysis beds in universities of medical sciences of the country

Purchase of 16 accelerators for prioritized medical and university centers and install some of them

Special attention to patients in need of intensive care with the opening of 712 beds

Implementation of the national program for

advanced treatment of myocardial infarction on a 24-hour basis in 49 hospitals of the country in 24 cities, benefitted from 36996 people of advanced and vital PCI Primary service

Implementation of the national program for the advanced treatment of strokes, round-the-clock, in 110 hospitals of the country with the benefit of 7165 people from specialized thrombolytic therapy

Activity of 32 kidney transplant wards, 9 heart transplant wards and 11 liver transplant wards

Designing and implementing a resident dental program for the first time within the framework of the Health Reform Plan in 1996

Providing dental services to special and incurable patients in 58 universities / medical sciences schools in the country

Distribution of over 1150 dialysis sets between academic and non-academic departments

Equipping 50 comprehensive care centers for special patients in the country's universities of medical sciences

Iranian Medicine

Compilation of the first special textbook for Iranian traditional medicine specialists

Establishment of structure and allocation of about 400 official positions in the field of Iranian medicine in universities of medical sciences of the country

Beginning of presenting two compulsory units of the course “Introduction to the basics of traditional and complementary medicine” for seven medical and paramedical departments, in cooperation with the University of Virtual Medical Sciences and the successful completion of the first course

Cooperation of 41 Iranian medicine specialists and traditional pharmacists to provide advice to people with Behzi and Noban startups with the possibility of 15-hour response and free calls from all over the country

Significant growth of Iran's research rank among world countries of Iranian traditional medicine (based on an article in the field of indigenous pharmacology and traditional medicine published in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology - 2019 JCR):

From 2010 to 2018, Iran's share of knowledge production in traditional medicine and medicinal plants has been accompanied by significant growth (2439 scientific documents, 6.4% of all published articles) and the fifth largest science production after China, India, Brazil and America.

Establishment of an interdisciplinary clinic in neurology and oncology in order to prepare for the relevant fellowships at Tehran and Shahid Beheshti universities of Medical Sciences

Launching two inpatient wards of Iranian traditional medicine in Shahid Rahmoun Hospital in Yazd and Imam Reza Hospital in Mashhad

Implementation of 67 research projects on coronavirus, COVID-19, with the approach of Iranian medicine and complementary and medicinal plants, after receiving the code of ethics

Food and Drug Sector

Electronic processes related to the establishment and administration of the pharmacy, including 30 processes throughout the country

Control and reduction of smuggled and counterfeit health products

Preparation of coronavirus vaccine emergency registration criteria (EUL)

Lack of allocation of preferential currency for the import of pharmaceutical raw materials with domestic producer

Implementation of the program to achieve the Rial share of domestically produced drugs to 72% of the total pharmaceutical market of the country

Technical inspection of more than 300 export products and their registration as export goods

Registration of more than 140,000 items of medical equipment and supplies and registration of more than 2800 new agencies, and issuance of more than 2700 manufacturing licenses

The import ban has been increased from 182 items to more than 330 items.



Reduction of trans fatty acids in consumed oils with application in food formulations (4% reduction by the end of 1398)

Reduction of salt percentage in the formulation of food and beverage industrial production license with high risk assessment by 10% (2.8% of products by the end of 1398)

Cover flour fortification program with iron and folic acid

Reducing the percentage of simple sugars in the formulation of food production licenses with high risk assessment

Self-sufficiency in the production of 235 items of medical equipment and supplies

The growth of medical equipment manufacturing companies to more than 630 companies and meeting 35% of the country's needs in the field of medical equipment

Out of a total of 56,119 inspections carried out by about 30 universities of medical sciences in 1396 in the supply and distribution of health goods, 4,739 cases have led to the discovery of smuggling worth 151 billion rials.

In 1398, the statistics of discoveries and inspections of universities and the rial value of discovered goods (65 thousand inspections, of which 4566 cases led to the discovery of 7 million and 690 thousand items of smuggled goods worth about 280 billion rials based on information from 59 universities of medical sciences.

Pasteur Institute of Iran

Production of vaccine products, bio products, drugs, kits and laboratory animals required by the country's health system

73% increase in production of Pastosis in the first quarter of 1399 by more than 10,000 vials compared to the same period last year

Productions

No	Product	from August) 1396 (2017 to 2020)	ended March 20,) 1397 (2019)	By end of July 2010
1	Injected solutions	813752	1564447	2522963
2	Hepatitis B vaccine	3716970	4590750	3743453
3	B. Intravesical	26556	45341	325836
4	Antigens and antisera	143786	382736	909035
Total		984094	1992524	3757834

To monitor coronavirus disease until the end of June 1399, equivalent to 439838 virus and bulk transmission medium tubes by the research production complex, which was delivered to the health system and laboratory network of the country after the necessary controls.



Resumption of rabies vaccine production and production of 60,000 vials of livestock rabies vaccine during 1398 and 1399

A 17% increase in the production of antigen products in the quarter of 1399 compared to last year, due to the emergency situation and the country's need to monitor for coronavirus disease, the virus transmission medium (VTM) produced about 400,000 Falcons.

Development of new products and contract for pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccine production

Signing a contract for the production of pneumococcal vaccine with Cuban Finlay Company-1397

Research Sector

Publication of 912 scientific articles, of which 777 articles have been published in the journal with ISI-Pubmed-Scopus indexes.

84% of the articles have been published as original, 10% as review and 6% as other types.

Holding 134 specialized and scientific workshops for target groups

Specialized services sector

Presenting specialized laboratory services in 10 reference laboratories and two cooperative laboratories

Commissioning reference laboratory for molecular diagnosis of Zika virus

Launching the first Covid-19 diagnostic laboratory in the country

Conducting 40,000 Real Time COVID-19 PCR tests - 19 at Pasteur Institute of Iran

Activation of about 200 national laboratories under the management of the Pasteur Institute of Iran and in collaboration with the Health Reference Laboratory

Reviewing more than 2,500,000 test samples across the country

Increase the diagnostic capacity of coronavirus laboratory network to more than 25,000 tests per day and at the same time increase the diagnostic capacity of the Institute to 1800 tests per day

Production of a new product of lyophilized intraocular anti-cancer drug more than 15,000 vials since 2019

Production of a new product of lyophilized intraocular anti-cancer drug more than 15,000 vials since 2019

Emergency Organization Sector

Launching 42 ground emergency bases, 15 urban bases and 27 road bases.

Development of executive instructions for the management of the treatment of myocardial infarction 247 and stroke 724 in emergencies

Compilation of instructions for transferring patients and injured people by 115 emergency services from clinics

Development of telephone triage protocol for 115 emergency nurses and development of offline trauma protocol

Planning to buy 2 "mscu" ambulances for Tehran

With a 30% increase in air emergency services compared to 1397 (ended March 20, 2019), 4133 air emergency missions and 5193 patients and critically injured and 1652 cases of transplantation of organs, blood or blood products, specialists transferred, officials to assess accidents and transfer people to safe places have been done.

Since 2017, the number of emergency air bases has increased from 31 to 45. Since 2017, 200 helicopter landing pads have been created in medical centers and environmental areas

such as mountains and along the highway.

Equipping and launching modern and up-to-date dispatch in Tehran and Mashhad emergency centers

Setting up and equipping Tehran Emergency Data Center

Blood Transfusion Sector

Supplying blood required by the country:

Expansion of the approved blood supply network, including 201 blood transfusion hub centers and other active blood transfusion centers in 31 provinces

Expansion of approved blood supply network, including 201 blood transfusion hub centers and other active blood transfusion centers in 31 provinces

Achieving 7032412 voluntary blood donation units

Achieving index of 24/11 blood donation units per thousand populations in 1398

Achieving the number of continuous and long-term blood donations and supplying 88% of the blood required by the country through continuous and long-standing blood donation in 2019

Fulfilling free vaccination against hepatitis Type B virus

Reduce the incidence of allergic reactions caused by the blood donation to less than 0.01 per thousand donors

Execution of a project to set up Le Minsense quantitative devices for screening tests

Umbilical Cord Blood Bank Unit

Successful collection of 5,093 umbilical cord blood units;

Processing and storage of 797 umbilical cord blood units

Determination of HLA 647 umbilical cord blood units and registration of HLA information of umbilical cord blood donors in the national network system of Iranian hematopoietic stem cell donors

Sending 7 umbilical cord blood units to transplant centers for transplantation to patients

Processing and storage of 196 units of peripheral blood donated from transplant centers in the country for transplantation

to patients;

Developing and strengthening of "donor population health care system"

Isolation and bank of more than 11445 stem cell donor cell samples from all over Iran

Extract and bank more than 10,600 genome samples to the Genomic Bank

Thanksgiving Center

Attracting 15,000 volunteers at the Thanksgiving Center in the current year and determine the HLA for 2,483 volunteers

Performing 150 searches for patients in need of a suitable transplant donor in 1398

Services of Reference Laboratories

Restarting the Anti Xa test after one year of stopping the coagulation test

Restarting AntiPF4 Ab test after one year of stopping the coagulation test

Restarting VWF activity after six months of testing in the coagulation section

Admitting 119,560 patients and 1150752 tests

Sending antisera of blood groups and phenotypes required to provincial blood transfusion departments in the amount of 14925 vials

Sending Anit-Ki to General Offices in the Form of Kell Negative Blood Supply Instructions for Thalassemia Patients: 14960 Vials

Plasma:

Sending 5904713671 liters of Recovered plasma for refining to refining centers from 2017 to 2020

Sending 38109379 liters of rabies anti-rabies plasma to the refining company from 2017 to 2020

Production Plasmapheresis Performance Monitoring - Equipment Monitoring -

Waste Monitoring - Apheresis Performance Monitoring (29605/648 liters for refining

Rendering Services to Thalassemia Patients

Visiting and blood transfusion services to 19947 patients

28579 bags injected to patients

2072 serum injections to patients

5395 drug injections to patients

International Affairs

Developing internationalization of health services and IPD services in health tourism

Developing internationalization of educational services and attracting international students

Developing internationalization of research and technology activities and increasing international research projects

Quantitative and qualitative development of research centers cooperate with the World Health Organization to 46 centers out of 16 centers in the region

Proper preparation for the production of about 30 drugs out of 60 drugs in the world not listed in the Iranian clinic's pharmacopeia through international cooperation

Preparation for expanding drug exports to more than 50 countries and developing medical equipment exports to more than 30 countries through international cooperation

Public Relations and Information

Planning, coordinating and holding more than 20 in-person/online specialized training courses to boost public relations skills for managers and experts of universities / medical schools/headquarters as well as health correspondents of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)/journalists in print media/news agencies and social networks

Investigating, acting on and responding to 6252 public letters to the Minister of Health and Medical Education

Investigating, acting on and responding to more than 450 e-mails sent to public relations of the relevant ministry

Coordinating with the university/faculties of medical sciences for the simultaneous opening of health care projects on different occasions such as the opening of air medical services (helicopters), health week, comprehensive health service centers, and ...

Codification of information instructions for different occasions and sending them to universities / medical schools in the country

Planning and coordination for 90 provincial trips and visits of the esteemed minister

Providing of a database of human resources in the field of public relations of universities / medical schools

Planning and coordination for the hold 18 health campaigns

Holding virtual meetings with public relations managers of universities / medical schools in the country

Developing an instruction for senior health managers to media interviews

Interview instruction for with the media



Drafting a memorandum of understanding with the four headquarters areas of the relevant ministry in the field of news monitoring

Codification of a comprehensive information appendix for holding events, health occasions

238 written responses and insertion of statistics and information in "the management of the open access and publishing system" website

520 invitation for journalist and media activists and training them for news and video coverage of the occasions

182 Coordination for the full live broadcast or parts of the ministry's programs, including opening ceremonies, commemorations, festivals, and unveilings.

Holding 28 journalism tours to cover selected provincial special programs

33 cases of news/video coverage of meetings such as exchange of intersectional and international cooperation documents (signing a memorandum of understanding)

Holding 245 press conferences

Preparation of 48 texts (news pack) with the history and objectives of the topic and presenting them to the mass media in order to inform the media before the event

Coordinating and conducting 2569 exclusive interviews (Persian and English) in the field of health

Coordinating the participation of managers and senior experts in 972 Talk-shows

Preparation and publication of 56 news stories, subtitles, educational and information programs from different TV channels

Coordinating and sending 41 video clips - teasers related to promotional topics - to television networks and other audio-visual media platforms for promoting health issues

The presence of officials in more than 90 special news talk shows on various occasions

Providing the news regarding the holding of events and achievements in the news programs of different Persian- and English-speaking TV networks (45 cases)

Thematic monitoring of 77 cases of news and extraction of media coverage in specific topics

638 cases of news corrections, denials, additional explanations, enlightening answers, ... in various news agencies, newspapers, and media platforms

11 cases of media coverage of social campaigns in the field of health and safety

18 cases of coordination and planning for periodic visits of ministers or deputies from the country's prominent news agencies and conducting exclusive interviews

Coordinating for the presence of managers in Khabar 21 Studio (48 programs on Channel One TV)

Making necessary coordination for the presence of senior managers in the special news talk shows of Channel 2 TV (28 45-minute programs)

Holding 106 press conferences at the Health Studio of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Public Relations and Information Center

Announcement of the coronavirus statistics in live broadcast programs since

February 22, 2020, up to date (351 programs)

Preparation and production of more than 12,383 news pieces regarding the programs, achievements, and activities of the relevant ministry and uploading them on the website

News coverage of more than 151 officials' provincial trips

Sending 30,243 SMS messages regarding important events and news stories

Preparation and production of more than 527 news stories in the field of health promotion and uploading them on the website of the ministry

Preparation and uploading of 204 notes and articles in the field of health on the website of the relevant ministry

Uploading more than 1,179 photo reports (each report contains an average of 25 photos)

Uploading 500 educational videos, animations, and e-books on the website

Establishing an electronic library and publishing and uploading the content of 92 books on health issues on the website of the ministry

Using the RSS feeds of news agencies and news websites on the website of the ministry

Managing the ministry's SMS service center for developing communications and providing information

Conducting electronic surveys on various relevant topics

Reviewing and uploading videos on various health promotion issues on the website of the ministry

Designing electronic banners for various health events and occasions

Preparation, production, and uploading of health messages in the news portal and information base of the relevant ministry

Equipping and setting up a health studio

Holding 135 commemorative programs on various occasions

Holding more than 300 press conferences through video conferencing (2,661 participants)

Promoting and covering more than 300 press conferences on internet platforms

Preparing the content for more than 345 infographics and motion graphics in the field of health information on various occasions and programs

preparation and production of 90 video clips and 44 photo clips

preparing the content for a health calendar

Coordinating media coverage of more than 150 visits and provincial trips by the Health Minister

Planning, coordinating, and directing various TV and radio programs (for instance a TV program called Masks)

Setting up an internet TV network

Production of more than 65 short and feature documentaries for various cultural festivals

Preparing more than 100 posters for various health festivals, virtual meetings, educational programs and etc.

Coordinating, cooperating, and partnering with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting to produce more than 50 biography clips about health-defending martyrs



Tehran tourism fair opens; activists hope for boom when corona vaccine is ever-present

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Tehran's international tourism and handicrafts fair opened to the public on Tuesday in line with a government campaign to improve the hugely-battered travel sector in the face of the novel coronavirus. Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan and his deputies for tourism, and handicrafts were amongst attendees to the opening ceremony of the fair, which is underway at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds. Activists, including tour operators, hoteliers, transport businesses, and tour guides, are hopeful that such days would be numbered at the COVID-19 vaccine is getting more widespread.



Since it first surfaced late in 2019, the pandemic has created a greater demand for experiences away from crowds, which is opposite to many traveling pillars. Experts say that such preference for solo travel would probably continue till a coronavirus vaccine is ever-present.

"Safe and Responsible Travels" has been picked as the motto of the four-day event that according to organizers could help boost synergy among the two sectors as people have a chance to visit them maybe in a day-long visit!

The event is being held according to health protocols announced by the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, and following the necessary coordination with the relevant agencies in this field, according to Vali Teymouri, the deputy minister for tourism.

Travel agencies, airlines, sea or rail companies, entrepreneurs, startups, banks, insurance brokers, agents or hospitals in charge of health, medical tourism, sports clubs, pilgrimage & eco-tourism companies, representatives of hotels, guesthouses, touristic villages, and free zones are amongst exhibitors in the tourism sector.

Furthermore, tens of booths and stands in various exhibition halls have been dedicated to craftspeople, artisans, live performers, and tribespeople who are coming together from every corner of the ancient land to promote skills inherited from generation to generation.

Though its main goal of the sales exhibit is to make money and sails of the handicrafts, souvenirs, foodstuff, and various other regional products, it can be a venue for dialogue between exhibitors and visitors and even visiting officials, according to organizers.

The fair showcase arrays of personal ornamentation, woodwork, illuminated manuscript, miniature, textile printing, enamel, leatherwork, handwoven textile, calligraphy, traditional musical instrument, metalwork, and marquetry among tens of others while nomadic culinary arts, live workshops, and performances that would gather own fans every corner.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. So it will undeniably try its best to achieve a relatively ambitious goal but when that happens the travel industry is likely to look more altered.

Virus causes \$5.2 billion damage to Iran's tourism, minister says

➔ 1 If the budget receives parliament's approval, it will be injected into different sectors of the tourism industry, which has taken a major hit from the coronavirus outbreak over the previous months, he noted.

Despite the toughest economic pressures and sanctions, the government has provided good support to all sectors of tourism, the minister said. However, there is hope that the beginning of mass vaccination against the coronavirus will provide better conditions for tourism and businesses related to this sector, he explained.



A view of the touristic Nasir ol-Molk Mosque in downtown Shiraz

Government's care and support packages

In late October, the deputy tourism minister, Vali Teymouri, announced that a new support package to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic has been approved.

Depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials (\$3,800) to nine billion rials (\$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate, he said.

The loans will be allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers, the official explained.

Teymouri pointed to the 1.3 million tourism workers in the country, who are facing several issues due to the coronavirus crisis, and said "This number, in addition to their households, includes a significant population that makes a living through tourism, who are needed to be considered in ministry's decisions."

Teymouri has said that the tourism ministry has approved a total budget of 4,920 billion rials (over \$117 million) to support corona-affected tourism businesses, covering as much as 36,000 people working in the tourism sector.

We have gained permission for limited New Year travels: deputy tourism minister

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry has gained official permission for organizing limited intercity travels during the Iranian New Year vacations, which begins on March 21.

"We have obtained permission for limited Noruz trips from the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control," the deputy tourism minister, Vali Teymouri, announced on Tuesday.

With less than a month to go till the start of the Iranian New Year, which has long been associated with millions of domestic travels, the ministry wants to find a way to partially revive the already-slumped travels in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The tourism ministry has held several meetings with the National Headquarters for the Coronavirus Control during with we discussed the issues in detail. Based on our strategies, we proposed two travel models that can be implemented following health protocols in the country," Teymouri said last week.

The first [working] model for travels in the Iranian New Year, proposes travels by the means of package tours. "Throughout package tours, travelers benefit from services provided by the tour and they will stay in authorized accommodation centers [and destinations] which are under the supervision of



the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts," the official explained.

For the second model, people do not go on tours, but when traveling to their destination city, they must stay in authorized accommodation centers, which are under the supervision of the ministry, to comply with all health protocols and maintain public health, Teymouri stated.

Any other form of accommodation would be prohibited to curb the virus, he said. "To help prevent the spread of the coronavirus in Noruz 1400, the establishment of tourist

camps, camping, tourists staying in places such as schools, shrines, husseiniyahs, etc. is prohibited, and this issue has been announced to the provincial governors."

The arteria of Noruz travels is expected to be announced in detail during the upcoming exhibition for tourism and handicrafts, which will be held in near future, according to the official.

The tourism minister, Ali-Asghar Mounesan, publicized in November that mass, unplanned travels are not approved. "The outbreak of the coronavirus has caused damage to

the tourism industry in Iran and [other parts of] the world in such a way that according to statistics, 50 million people are directly and indirectly exposed to unemployment due to the virus spread in the global scene.... yet, mass or unplanned and irresponsible travels are not approved to take place during the coronavirus era."

Smart and responsible traveling should replace "do not travel" recommendations, the minister stressed, adding: "In our country, Corona has caused problems in the tourism industry and the worrying point is the continuation of this trend."

"We are well aware of what the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control proclaims [the health protocols], hence as a proposal, we have formulated some smart, responsible travel packages by the implementation of which we could have secure travels," the minister said.

He has repeatedly announced that his ministry is in full coordination with the Ministry of Health for strictly implementing health protocols in travel destinations, hospitably centers, and museums, amongst others, underlining that "people's health is our priority."

Iranians traditionally make hundreds of thousands of domestic trips during the New Year holidays, when most businesses and workplaces are closed, as are schools.

Moazzenzadeh Ardebili's ancestral house to be turned into museum

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The ancestral house of Moazzenzadeh Ardebili's family, who are known as icons of Islamic eulogy, and azan (adhan), the Muslim call to prayer, is set to be turned into a museum in Ardebil, northwest Iran.

"Having a formal permission from the Urban Regeneration Corporation of IRAN, it has been arranged to turn Moazzenzadeh Ardebili's ancestral house in Ardebil into a museum.... and to make it available to [open to] the public," ISNA quoted the deputy speaker of Iran's Parliament, Ali Nikzad, as saying on Monday.

"According to recent consultations, three billion toman (some \$714,000 at the official exchange rate of 4,200 toman per dollar) of credit is to be allocated to acquire and revive this residential house."

The late Salim Moazzenzadeh Ardebili was the last iconic

eulogist of the family, who resided in the house. Known as the king of eulogists in Iran, he passed away in 2016.

Salim was born in 1936 in Ardebil. He used to perform most of his eulogies in the Azeri language. However, he had a good command of the Persian and Arabic languages as well.

His father, Sheikh Abdolkarim, was one of the first who performed azan on Iran's national radio program, while the azan by Salim's brother, Rahim, was considered to be Iran's most popular. Salim's son, Vadud, is also a vocalist and an artist.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardebil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.



Iran to develop tourism infrastructure in Hendurabi Island

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Iran will be developing tourism infrastructure in Hendurabi Island, which is situated west of the touristic Kish Island in the Persian Gulf.

"Hendurabi, with an area of about a quarter of Kish, has beautiful beaches and nature. And it has a valuable capacity for the development of travel and ecotourism....It has also enormous capacity to attract large domestic and foreign investors," Mehr quoted Kish Free Zone Organization Director Gholamhossein Mozaffari as saying on Monday.



"A consortium consisting of banks and active holdings in the country is being formed to implement the [already-formulated] comprehensive development plan of Hondurabi," Mozaffari said.

"Kish Island, even during coronavirus pandemic, has enjoyed a tourism boom... [for instance] in the last two months, its occupancy rate of hotels has been 98 percent, which indicates the unique tourism capacity of the region."

When it comes to the southern islands of Iran, people tend to choose Kish, Qeshm, and Hangam Island. However, Hendurabi is just as amazing as these though less known. Being far from the constant visit of tourists, this sort of remote island in the Persian Gulf has preserved many of its natural beauties. It can provide a lot of fun water and beach activities. Swimming, above all, is one of the most pleasant things to do in the crystal waters.

Hendurabi is a small island of about 23 square kilometers, located between Kish Island and Lavan Island. It is flat land with no high mountains or hills. The highest point of the island is some 45 meters high.

Hendurabi has an old village of the same name. The material used in the construction of houses used to be stone, coral, and stucco. However, some of these houses have been renovated recently. The village also contains a school, shop, and a supermarket.

From February to June, the beaches of the island turn to a turtle hatchery. All the turtles of any size go to this area for hatching their eggs. The scenery of turtles being born out of the eggs and running to the water can be one of the most eye-catching moments of your travel. On the other hand, watching the colorful fish while diving is just another fun thing to do.

Second Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

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

Khouzestan Steel Company (KSC), intends to increase the capacity of its wagon unloading system by implementing an EPC contract for a new wagon tippler No. 3

Wagon tippler No. 3 must be able to unload all types of wagons with weight of 90 tons of load and a total weight of 120 tons.

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

1. Sufficient Technological Knowledge and experience in similar projects.
2. The ability of financing and implementing the project by EPCF approach is preferred.
3. The equipment must be supplied from European Companies in Europe or other country under their license with European Union Countries Standards.

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

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

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

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

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

Public Relations of Khouzestan Steel Company

Botulism kills 10,000 birds in Miankaleh peninsula, Gorgan Bay

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Some 10,000 bodies of lifeless migratory birds died as a result of botulism poisoning have been found so far around the Miankaleh peninsula and Gorgan Bay, located in the extreme south-eastern part of the Caspian Sea.

Botulism disease, which for the second consecutive year has caused the death of a large number of migratory birds in Miankaleh and Gorgan Bay, has reached Ashuradeh Island, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Botulism is caused by a toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*, and the birds become infected by the ingestion of plants or animals infected with the toxin and lose their lives.

Clostridium botulinum is an anaerobic bacterium that grows in decaying plants and animal material and often occurs in lakes during periods of lack of oxygen and poor water quality.

The carcasses were mostly from bird species of flamingo, coot, duck, and pelican, which have been discovered around the shores of the Bandar Torkaman city, Ali Bayani, head of the provincial department of environment said.

In January 2020, media reported the mysterious death of over 40,000 migratory



birds in the Miankaleh peninsula; a week later, the veterinary organization announced that "botulinum poisoning" was the reason behind mass bird mortality.

Management 'out of control'

Excessive hunting in migratory birds' habitats in the country has made the Convention on Migratory Species warn some

countries about this issue, which has always been a global threat to biodiversity and has attracted international attention.

Now, along with illegal hunting, there are other environmental threats, including water pollution and wastewater flow, lack of provision of wetlands' water right, cause the management of migratory birds' habitats

to get out of control.

A treasure under threat

The long and narrow peninsula is 48 kilometers long, and between 1.3 and 3.2 kilometers wide, which sets apart the Gorgan Bay from the Caspian Sea. Four villages namely Ashuradeh, Qezel-e Shomali, Qezel-Mehdi, and Qavasatl are situated on the peninsula.

Miankaleh was designated a Ramsar site in 1975. Major habitats include wetlands, inter-tidal mud with sandy shores, shallow marine waters, forests, peatlands, and agricultural areas.

It is home to many unique Caspian birds and reptile species native to this region. It's also a very important internationally-recognized refuge for migratory birds.

The peninsula water deficits, additionally mismanagement, unsustainable agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells and groundwater resources have exacerbated the Miankaleh peninsula's condition.

Local people earn their income from agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, carpet weaving, traditional poultry farming, and tourism.

Overgrazing, illegal hunting, fishing, deforestation, and the unplanned spread of villages are some of the challenges posing threat to the region's environment.



Over 6,700 nomadic schools operating across Iran

1 → Each year, Iranian students start the school year on September 23, after three-month summer vacation, while this year, in the light of the coronavirus pandemic, all educational centers in Iran have been closed since late February 2020, and education was followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based.

In order for students to keep in touch with their studies, the Ministry of Education launched a homegrown mobile application on April 9, called SHAD, providing students with distance learning programs. He added that more than 60 percent of students and 94 percent of teachers attended 64

percent of classes through the SHAD app, whose acronym in Persian translates as the Students Education Network.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) also began to broadcast televised educational programs on a daily basis after school closures.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control announced that schools with less than 50 pupils and vocational schools are allowed to start operating for practical and workshop courses in accordance with the health protocols, while the students' presence is voluntary and on their choice.

Japan, WFP support refugees in Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The Government of Japan has contributed \$875,000 to support refugees in Iran through the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

This contribution supplements a grant of \$7 million in March 2020 to support the WFP COVID-19 response in Iran. This contribution will be utilized to purchase wheat flour, pulses, and oil for the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements in Iran.

"We're extremely grateful for the Government and people of Japan for their continued support to our operations in Iran," said Negar Gerami, WFP Representative in Iran. "Refugees are the most vulnerable group in a society and they need support now more than

ever to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

WFP currently supports 31,000 destitute Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in 20 settlements across the country with food, education, and livelihood assistance.

Kazutoshi AIKAWA, Ambassador of Japan to Iran, said that "supporting refugees is one of the priority areas of the Japanese Official Development Assistance to Iran. The spread of COVID-19 in Iran has definitely affected the living situation of vulnerable groups, including refugees. The Government of Japan recognizes that the cooperation with WFP in Iran, which has continuously supported the food and sanitation of refugees in Iran, is effective in order to sustain the lives and livelihoods of the refugees in constantly

worsening conditions."

Iran has been hosting one of the largest refugee populations in the world for well over three decades.

Two million foreign nationals residing in Iran

Deputy Interior Minister Javad Nasarian said last week that about one million documented foreign nationals are residing in Iran, and perhaps another one million are illegally living in the country.

At the end of 2018, Iran hosted close to one million refugees, making it the sixth-largest refugee host country in the world. The country was also the eighth largest refugee-hosting country in the world in 2019, hosting 951,142 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees, according to the UNHCR.

One of the largest and most protracted urban refugee populations in the world is living in Iran; about 97 percent of refugees live in urban and semi-urban areas, while three percent are residing in 20 refugee resorts run by the UNHCR's main government counterpart.

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

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

Some \$3.4m of smuggled goods seized in week

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Goods worth 146 billion rials (nearly \$3.4 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been seized from smugglers in the country over the past week, police chief Mohammad Reza Moghimi has announced.

With these measures, the condition has become completely unsafe for the smugglers, Moghimi further stated.

Due to the necessity and sensitivity of providing basic and health-oriented goods, confronting and combating the smugglers of goods and currency is vital, and this is seriously pursued by the police throughout the country, he explained.



During the last week, all kinds of smuggled goods, including mobile phones, home appliances, Bitcoin miners, spare parts, currency, and cosmetics, were discovered in the country with the specialized measures and round-the-clock efforts of the anti-trafficking police, he stated.

The discovered goods were handed over to the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-owned Properties, and 6 smugglers were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities, he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Smugglers fined \$570m in 8 months

From the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2020) until November 16, 2020, smugglers of fuel and livestock were fined 24 trillion rials (about \$570 million), representing a 47 percent increase compared to the same period last [Iranian calendar] year.

Out of a total of about 42,000 smuggling cases, about 28,000 were related to export smuggling, of which 20,000 were related to the smuggling of fuel and petroleum products, mostly to Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to a lesser extent to Turkey and Iraq.

A number of these cases were related to livestock trafficking. Most of the cattle were smuggled to Iraq, and then to the Persian Gulf countries.

Every year, \$20-25 billion are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, Hassan Norouzi, a member of the parliament, said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), \$12 billion was smuggled into Iran and \$900 million out of the country, according to the Headquarters for Combating the Smuggling of Commodities and Foreign Exchange.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe.

Despite high economic and human costs, Iran has been actively fighting drug-trafficking over the past decades.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan was implemented with the priority given to customs, tobacco, and transit goods.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

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Wetlands restoration requires a budget of \$14b: DOE chief

In order to restore wetlands in the country a budget of 600 trillion rials (nearly \$14 billion) is required, chief of the Department of Environment (DOE) Issa Kalantari said on Sunday.

There are 80 big and small wetlands in the country and some are dried out, Kalantari regretted adding that last year (March 2017-March 2018) more than 20 trillion rials (nearly \$475 million) was allocated to wetlands restoration and the amount is projected to increase to 25 trillion rials (nearly \$595 million) for next fiscal year (starting on March 21), he said.

Some of the sand and dust storms originate from the dried bed of the wetlands and revival of these hotspots would help in decreasing sand and dust storms, he highlighted.

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست: احیای تالابها به ۶۰ هزار میلیارد تومان اعتبار نیاز دارد

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست روز یکشنبه گفت: برای احیای تالابها دست کم ۵۰ تا ۶۰ هزار میلیارد تومان اعتبار نیاز است.

کلانتری امروز با اشاره به وجود ۸۰ تالاب کوچک و بزرگ در کشور که بخش عمده‌ای از آن‌ها خشک شده‌اند، اظهار کرد: در سال گذشته بیش از ۲,۰۰۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای احیای تالابها و دریاچه‌ها تخصیص داده شد که سال آینده شاهد حدود ۲,۵۰۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای این امر خواهیم بود.

وی با اشاره به اینکه بخشی از وجود ریزگردها در کشور با خشک شدن تالابها در ارتباط است، تصریح کرد: اگر تالابها احیا شوند بخش عمده‌ای از ریزگردها کاهش می‌یابد.



Vacancy Notice

The Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in I.R.Iran, intends to recruit a Programme Associate/Population and Development for its office in Tehran, Iran.

Details of the vacancy can be found on UNFPA website on the following link:

<https://iran.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/national-post-programme-associatepd>

Please apply online by 8 March 2021, 5 PM Tehran

Time. This vacancy is open only for Iranian Nationals. Notice:

► "There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process".

► "UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV/AIDS or disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status and disabilities".

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There is reward for kindness to every living thing.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Green puppet show warns about global garbage crisis

→1 The play originally featured ten characters, however, Khanjari plans to stage it only with two characters due to the pandemic.

"This has made our job really complicated, but our puppeteers have found creative solutions to these difficult conditions, and we have prepared a lengthy performance with a small troupe," she noted.



A scene from the puppet show "No Place for Garbage".

and Shabnam Fattahi-Aref, and the puppets have been crafted by Nasim Yaquti.

A lineup of traditional puppet shows is scheduled to be performed during the 18th Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival.

The puppet shows have been chosen from 14 submissions by a selecting board composed of Pupak Azimpur, Shahrzad Mobarhan and Davud Fat'hali Beigi.

Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival to go online

→1 TEHRAN — A lineup of 57 puppet shows are scheduled to be performed during the 18th Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival that will go online next week.

"29 puppets shows from Tehran and 28 from other cities will be performed online from February 28 to March 7 available at tiwall, namayeshnet and Hashure, the Iranian platforms providing video on demand (VOD) service for films," secretary of the festival Mehdi Hajian said in a press conference held on Tuesday.

Hajian said that the veteran artists of Puppet Theater, Iraj Mohammadi and Mohammad-Hassan Abuyi Mehrizi, will be honored with the lifetime achievement awards this year.

Three books on puppet shows will also be published to promote the art of puppet theater, he said, adding that several virtual workshops and meetings have also been held that were warmly received by puppet theater artists in the country.



"Son of Hunter, Son of Hunter", a puppet show by Vahid Khosravi. (Iran Theater/Reza Moattarian)

The festival will open with a tribute to puppet show director Golzar Mohammadi, who was the secretary of the 18th edition of the festival.

The 42-year-old puppeteer died in March 2020 after months of suffering from cancer.

A lineup of seven traditional puppet shows have also been selected to be performed during the festival.

The puppet shows have been chosen from 14 submissions by a selecting board composed of Pupak Azimpur, Shahrzad Mobarhan and Davud Fat'hali Beigi.

The lineup includes "The Last Autumn Celebration" by Ali Jabbari, "Salim Khan Court" by Zahra Amini, "Salim Khan Court" by Safar-Ali Mohammadzadeh, "Salamand and Mobarak" by Mahmud Dehqan Harati, "Stay in the Jar" by Amir-Hossein Ensafi, "Favorite of the Stage" by Hossein Rabiei and "Korsibazi" by Mohammadreza Azadfar.

36th Fajr Music Festival honors winners

→1 The award in the Vocal Music Composition section went to Bahman Faryadras for "Flight and Song".

In the Dastgahi Music category, the Barbad Award was presented to Mojtaba Asgari for the album "Ashiran".

Damahi ensemble received a Barbad Award for best composition in their latest album "Go Hunting in Me", and Puya Kolahi won the award for best pop singer for his album "Peacock Feather Closed".

The Barbad Award in the Orchestral Music without Vocals category was handed to Reza Vaali for the album "Sorna", and in the Orchestral Music with Vocals category, the Barbad Award was presented to Amir Purkhalaji for the album "Who Is the Lover?".

The Barbad Award for Best Publisher was also handed to the Mahoor Institute of Culture and Arts.

The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Abbas Salehi, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Seyyed



Musicians Hassan Nahid (L) and Mohammareza Es'haqi Gorji (R) accept their lifetime achievement awards from Culture Minister Seyyed Abbas Salehi (C) at the closing ceremony of the 36th Fajr Music Festival at Vahdat Hall on February 22, 2021. (Mehr/Pantea Nikzad)

Mojtaba Hosseini and several musicians attended the ceremony.

The organizers of the 31st edition of the festival in 2016 named their award after Barbad, a renowned musician at the court of Sassanid king Khosrow II who ruled from 590 to 628 CE.

The 36th Fajr Music Festival was launched online 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.

A number of international musicians were invited to give performances during the festival.

The musicians included 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 also gave online performances at the festival.

Czech envoy awards Iranian winners of ICEFA Lidice

→1 TEHRAN — The Iranian children who won awards at the 48th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice received their prizes at the Embassy of Czech in Tehran on Monday from Ambassador Josef Rychtar.

In his short speech at a meeting with the children, Rychtar expressed his happiness over the Iranian children's regard toward the ICEFA Lidice, and said that all the entries to the exhibition were of high artistic quality, Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) announced on Tuesday.

All the children are members of the IIDCYA. Rychtar also said that the ICEFA Lidice received over 20,000 submissions, and the highest number of artworks were from Iranian children compared to participants from other countries.

The ICEFA Lidice was established in 1967 to commemorate the child victims from the Czech village of Lidice murdered by German Nazis, as well as all other

children who have died in wars.

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

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

Landscape was the theme of the 2020 ICEFA Lidice, during which Iranian children Ratin Eteqad, Mahta Abed, Ali Ashrafi, Melisa Razavi, Azam Azimi and Shadi Esmailinia were honored in various categories of the exhibition.

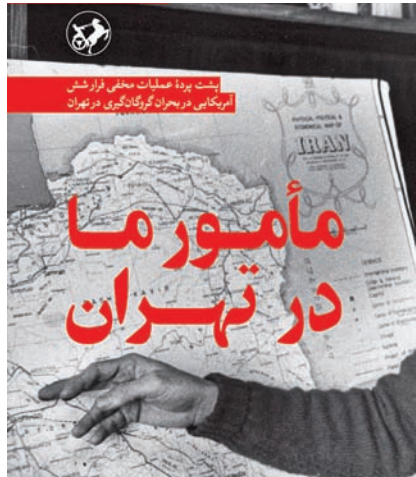
Ratin won a medal in the painting section while Ali and Melisa received honorable mentions in the category.

Mahta received a medal in the photography section and Azam and Shadi won honorable mentions in this section.



Czech Ambassador Josef Rychtar (2nd L) and a number of his colleagues pose with the Iranian children after honoring them with prizes of the 48th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice at the Embassy of Czech in Tehran on February 22, 2021. (IIDCYA)

"Our Man in Tehran" by Robert Wright published in Persian



Front cover of the Persian translation of Robert Wright's "Our Man in Tehran".

→1 TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Robert Wright's "Our Man in Tehran" has recently been published by Amirkabir Publications in Tehran.

"Our Man in Tehran: The True Story Behind the Secret Mission to Save Six Americans during the Iran Hostage Crisis and the Foreign Ambassador Who Worked with the CIA to Bring Them Home" has been translated into Persian by Mohammad Mozaffarpur.

Iranian students occupied the American Embassy in Tehran in November 1979. The Americans were caught entirely, and what began as a swift and seemingly short-lived takeover evolved into a crisis that would see fifty-four

embassy personnel held hostage, most for 444 days, the book says.

As Tehran exploded in a fury of revolution, six American diplomats secretly escaped. For three months, Ken Taylor, the Canadian ambassador to Iran, along with his wife and embassy staffers, concealed the Americans in their homes, always with the prospect that the revolutionary government would exact deadly consequences.

With limited intelligence resources available on the ground and anti-American sentiment growing, President Carter turned to Taylor to work with the CIA in developing their exfiltration plans. Until now, the true story behind Taylor's involvement in the escape of the six dip-

lomats and the Eagle Claw commando raid has remained classified.

"In Our Man in Tehran", Wright takes readers back to a major historical flashpoint and unfolds a story of cloak-and-dagger intrigue that brings a new understanding of the strained relationship between the United States and Iran.

Wright, a Ph.D., is a professor of history at Trent University, specializing in foreign policy. He is the author of "Three Nights in Havana", which won the 2008 Lela Common Award for Canadian History from the Canadian Authors' Association and is currently being made into a feature documentary. He resides in Toronto with his wife and children.

Tehran gallery to unveil new sculpture from Parviz Tanavoli's Lion Series

→1 TEHRAN — Hedayat Gallery in Tehran plans to unveil a new sculpture from world-renowned Iranian artist Parviz Tanavoli's Lion Series on Friday.

A number of his other sculptures as well as a carpet featuring a design by the artist will also go on display, the gallery announced in a press release published on Tuesday.

Photos and videos of Tanavoli's previous exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) in 2017 in addition to photos of the tribute concert held at Vahdat Hall will also be showcased at the gallery.

The Austrian-Iranian Symphonic Orchestra (AISO) honored Tanavoli by two performances at Tehran's Vahdat Hall in July 2017.

Maziar Yunesi conducted the AISO, which performed a repertoire of pieces composed by Yunesi and his fellow Iranian musicians Christophe Rezai and Peyman Yazdani.



A new sculpture from Parviz Tanavoli's Lion Series.

In addition, "Cypher and Lion, Visions of Parviz Tanavoli", a documentary by Sarvenza Alambeigi on the artistic insight of Tanavoli was screened at the opening ceremony of the TMCA exhibit.

Photos of the behind the scenes of the documentary as well as photos of the concert's rehearsals taken by Argahavan Bustan will also be showcased at the gallery.

Also included will be a photo of Tanavoli beside his great lion taken by famous photographer Maryam Zandi, as well as a series of photos from Tanavoli's workshop by Homeira Yaseri.

Tanavoli's collection of "Lions" went on view at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in July 2017.

About 150 artworks created by the artist with the central theme of the lion, beside his private collection of lion-themed works, as well as lion-themed ancient artifacts of Iran borrowed from different Iranian museums were displayed in the exhibition "Parviz Tanavoli and the Lions of Iran".

Tehran hall to host theatergoers for Tennessee Williams' "Glass Menagerie"

→1 TEHRAN — A reading performance of American playwright Tennessee Williams' memory play "The Glass Menagerie" will go on stage at Tehran's Jamshid Mashayekhi Theater on Saturday.

Romina Jahandideh will direct the play based on a Persian translation of the play by Hamid Samandarian, whose wife, Homa Rusta, staged it in 1972.

Shaahin Alinejad, Mojdeh Mohajeri, Narges Hashemi and Ali Barqani are the members of the cast.

In "The Glass Menagerie", Tom recalls scenes from his youth during the height of the Depression. It shows his mother, Amanda, trying to maintain a lost gentility in the midst of overwhelming poverty and cajoling her children into her idea of happiness.

Tom also has a crippled older sister, Laura, who resembles her collection of glass animals in her delicate beauty and fragility.

Tom works in a shoe factory to contribute to the family's support while dreaming of becoming a poet. At his mother's insistence, he brings a friend from work home as a possible suitor for Laura. The suitor went to high school with Laura. He is the only boy that she has ever had a crush on.

The evening turns into a disaster. After Jim leaves, Amanda scolds Tom, who runs off to join the merchant marine shortly after that disastrous night. But, as Tom tells the audience, he was never able to leave his guilt behind. So, in the end, none of them escaped from the traps in which they were caught.

The play catapulted Williams from obscurity to fame. It has strong autobiographical

elements, featuring characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister Laura.

In writing the play, Williams drew on an earlier short story, as well as a screenplay he had written under the title of "The Gentleman Caller".

The play premiered in Chicago in 1944. After a shaky start, it was championed by Chicago critics Ashton Stevens and Claudia Cassidy, whose enthusiasm helped build audiences so the producers could move the play to Broadway where it won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1945.

"The Glass Menagerie" was Williams' first successful play. He went on to become one of America's most highly regarded playwrights.

Earlier in 2017, Iranian director Mikail Shahrestani's troupe performed "The Glass Menagerie" at Tehran's Theater House.



A poster for Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie".