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Joint Comprehensive Plan of Sanctions

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Biden hires Architect of Sanctions to revive a deal meant to lift sanctions

Hydro tourism on track to drive development in northern Iran

BY AFSHIN MAJLESI
Over the past couple of years, various categories of hydro tourism have attracted the attention of potential investors across Mazandaran province, which is bounded by the Caspian Sea.

Home to many dams, rivers, wetlands, and a beautiful stretch of coastline, the northern Iranian province has long been a major destination for local holidaymakers.

Creating the organizational, personnel-related, and financial conditions to improve the infrastructure for water-based tourism has been pursued more seriously over the past couple of years as a pillar for development in the lush green region.

“All water facilities [across Mazandaran] have a high capacity for tourism,” Mohammad-Ebrahim Yakhkeshi, the managing director of Mazandaran Regional Water Company, told IRNA on Tuesday.

“Mazandaran, which embraces 120 rivers with a total length of 7,000 km, and 10 dams, is one of the most prosperous provinces in the country in terms of the capacity to develop hydro tourism industry over its river basins.”

The official mentioned that hydro tourism could fetch a high-income, adding: “Since 1395 (2016), a number of dams in Mazandaran have been [temporarily] handed over to domestic investors for the implementation of water tourism.”

“Studies on the tourism infrastructure and identification of the capacities of each of the water resources and structures in Mazandaran have been [already] carried out to identify the needed facilities and capabilities,” the official explained.

“The implementation of tourism projects which are associated with water resources is now underway relying on the private sector,” he added.

The northern section of Mazandaran consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

Earlier this week, Mazandaran’s first hydro tourism complex, which has been developed across the Salahedin Kola Dam, was officially inaugurated by Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian via a video conference.

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EURORDIS praises Iran’s national document on rare diseases

TEHRAN – Yann Le Cam, the chief executive officer of the European Organization for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS), has praised Iran for preparing a national document on rare diseases, saying that it will change the lives of one million rare disease patients in the country.

In a video message on the occasion of the International Day of Rare Diseases, Le Cam said that “I would like to congratulate Iran on the development of the first national document on rare diseases.”

The move paves the way to improve the lifestyles of the one million rare patients living in Iran today. The document, created with the participation of the Rare Diseases Foundation, which is a full member of EURORDIS, is a great success.

I hope the national document can be a way to solve the problem of medicine and treatment

of rare diseases patients in Iran so that they can access medicine and treatment as soon as possible, he said, praising Iran.

He expressed hope to celebrate the International Day of Rare Diseases in Iran as glorious as possible.

The Document, approved by the Ministry of Health in December 2020, is being studied by the cabinet of ministers for final approval.

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

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

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Yemen releases footage of ballistic missile strike against Saudi capital

Yemen has released footage of a large-scale ballistic missile strike against the Saudi capital in retaliation for the devastating military campaign that the Riyadh regime and its allies are waging on the country.

The video, released by the media bureau of the Ansarullah movement, shows Yemeni armed forces and allied fighters from Popular Committees firing a domestically-developed Zolfaghar ballistic missile that struck King Khalid International Airport, located 35 kilometers north of Riyadh, on Saturday.

The spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree said in a press conference on Sunday that Yemeni army troops and allied popular fighters had targeted the Saudi soil with 15 unmanned aerial vehicles and a ballistic missile as part of “the 5th Operation of Balanced Deterrence.”

He said sensitive positions and places in the Saudi capital Riyadh were struck with a Zolfaghar ballistic missile and nine Samad-3 (Invincible-3) combat drones.

Saree noted that six Qasef-2K (Striker-2K) combat drones had also hit designated military targets inside Abha and Khamis Mushait cities in Saudi Arabia’s southwestern province of Asir.

“As long as the attacks and siege on our country [Yemen] continue, our operations will continue and will be more extensive,” he added.

Yemeni missile hits Saudi Arabia’s Jizan
Meanwhile, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported early on Tuesday that a missile launched by Yemeni armed forces had struck the Jizan region of southwestern Saudi Arabia.

According to Press TV, the spokesman for the Directorate of Civil Defense in Jizan, Colonel Mohammed bin Yahya al-Ghamdi, claimed the projectile had fallen in a street, resulting in the injury of five people.

They included three Saudis and two Yemeni nationals, he said. They suffered moderate injuries due to shrapnel and were transferred to hospital to receive medical care.

UN warns of Yemen ‘death sentence’ as donor pledges fall short

The United Nations chief has warned of a “death sentence” for Yemen as an international donor conference yielded less than half the funds needed to fund urgently needed humanitarian programmes and prevent a devastating famine in the war-ravaged country.

The UN had appealed for \$3.85bn at Monday’s virtual pledging event that was co-hosted by Sweden and Switzerland, but just \$1.7bn was offered.

“Millions of Yemeni children, women and

men desperately need aid to live. Cutting aid is a death sentence,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement, describing the outcome as “disappointing”.

“The best that can be said about today is that it represents a down payment. I thank those who did pledge generously, and I ask others to consider again what they can do to help stave off the worst famine the world has seen in decades,” Guterres said.

According to al Jazeera, last year’s humani-

tarian funding had dropped to half of what was needed and half of what was received the year before, according to the UN.

More than 100 governments and donors took part on Monday’s conference. Some of the headline pledges, including \$191m from the US and Saudi Arabia’s \$430m, were smaller than last year’s donations. However, Germany offered 200 million euros (\$241m), compared to \$138m last year.

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Crisis in NATO showed traditional security states have become unviable: Oxford professor

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – A professor of history at the University of Oxford says the crisis in NATO countries proved that traditional security states have become unviable, while countries like Iran can play their role in new world order.

“The unprecedented crises that have hit NATO countries from Turkey to the U.S. provide examples of the way in which such traditional security states have become unviable,” Faisal Devji

Tells the Tehran Times.

Devji also says, “One of the first countries to shed its Cold War regime, Iran has yet to find a place for itself in this emerging world.”

Following is the text of the interview:

Joe Biden pledged in his election campaign to revive the JCPOA. But why doesn’t he take any step in this regard?

The Biden administration is also in no hurry to stop deportations or the taking of migrant children into custody, to say nothing of forgiving student debt, all issues the President had promised to address. This is in part to mark a departure from the precedent set by Trump and make decisions on the basis of consultation and agreement within the bureaucracy.

But it is also to signal the unhurried pace of a great power that can afford to act at its own time. The administration’s recent bombing of assets in Syria after consulting its allies is part of the same logic, dictated by the effort to rebuild America’s damaged image and reputation in the world.

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TCCIMA honors exemplary entrepreneurs

TEHRAN- Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) awarded Amin al-Zarb badge of entrepreneurship to exemplary entrepreneurs of the country in a ceremony on Tuesday.

It was the fifth edition of awarding the mentioned prize by the TCCIMA for the promotion of entrepreneurship in the country.

The prize was first awarded in a ceremony in January 2017 on the occasion of the 133rd establishment anniversary of TCCIMA and the second ceremony for awarding the prize was held in January 2018 concurrent with the 134th establishment anniversary of the chamber.

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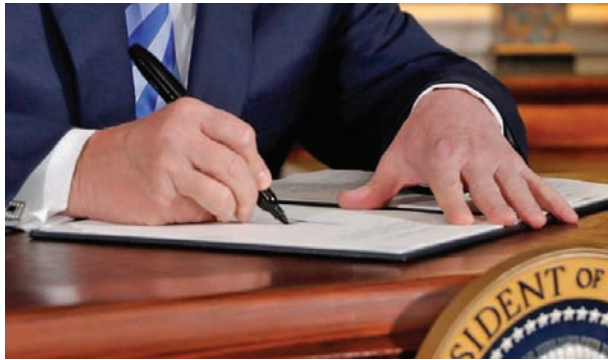
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Projection a political weapon for Washington in nuclear talks

By Azin Sahabi

In one of its latest commentaries, RAND Corporation, one of the top U.S. think tanks, has argued that Biden's administration cannot turn back the clock on the Iran nuclear deal.

On March 1, Raphael Cohen, the associate director of the Strategy and Doctrine Program of RAND Project AIR FORCE discusses that the Oval Office may probably find it demanding to keep this pledge. He believes: "Not only do all of the original flaws of the agreement remain but, more importantly, the agreement was predicated on a geopolitical context that no longer exists."



JCPOA and U.S. public opinion

RAND mentions that until Trump's withdrawal from 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the agreement was relatively popular among the American public. The author refers to the results of a public opinion poll conducted by YouGov in 2017 that indicated most Americans supported the JCPOA. The research found that 56 percent of the public approved of the agreement, of which 31 percent strongly approved and 25 percent somewhat approved.

Cohen also noticed that in 2018 less than one in three Americans agreed with Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the JCPOA. A national opinion poll conducted by Reuters/Ipsos on May 4-8 2018 found that 29 percent of adults wanted to end the deal with Iran. Meanwhile, another 42 percent said the U.S. should remain in the deal, and the remaining 28 percent said they "don't know."

Serving good politics but not a good policy

RAND points out that the agreement thwarted the Trump administration's "America first" foreign policy and writes: "While rejoining the JCPOA may make for good politics, it may not make for good policy."

Like his counterparts, Cohen, a military intelligence branched lieutenant colonel, accuses Tehran of pursuing nuclear weapons with "potentially explosive foreign policy". To explain the "flaws" of the JCPOA, he argues that the deal was neither a long-term agreement nor effective against the "Iran challenge."

In this regard, the analyst refers to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's interview with NBC News on February 1, his first television appearance since arriving at the White House, in which the secretary claimed that Iran could be just "weeks away" from having sufficient nuclear material for a bomb.

Against the backdrop, Cohen claims that rather than blocking Iran's path to nuclear weapons for good, the JCPOA just restricted it for 15 years and ignored the Iranian missile program, a potential delivery means for what he called Iran's nuclear weapons.

It is worth noting that notwithstanding the Obama administration approved the JCPOA, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned 11 companies and individuals in January 2016 under the pretext of helping Iran's ballistic missile program.

Cohen also claims that Tehran's sponsorship of terrorism was excluded from the 2015 agreement and Iran's missile program continued to develop after the deal.

Shattered pillars of the JCPOA

In this context, RAND argues: "Even beyond these issues, though, many of the underlying assumptions of the JCPOA no longer hold true and time is no longer on the United States side.". The author sheds light on the Iranian public opinion towards the JCPOA after Trump's withdrawal. Cohen reminds that a series of polls conducted in 2019 by the Center for

International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM) and IranPoll revealed that fifteen months after May 2018, a clear majority of Iranians wanted to leave the deal in response to the U.S. withdrawal and sanctions. To be precise, Iranians' support for the deal plummeted from 85 percent in August 2015 to 42 percent in October 2019.

Admitting that the economic benefits which Iran expected to enjoy under the JCPOA never materialized, Cohen argues to rebuild the trust between Tehran and Washington, lifting sanctions by the Biden administration may prove insufficient. Regarding this, he writes: "The chance that a future American administration could reimpose sanctions might deter companies from investing in Iran and limit the short-term impact of any relief."

Regional stumbling blocks for Biden

Israel and some of its Arab partners, who are not partners of the 2015 deal, claim that Iran is an existential threat to them and thereby try to propagate this illusion that the JCPOA will strengthen what they call Iran's "regional ambitions".

In this context, RAND explains the matter from a geopolitical perspective based on the Abraham Accords brokered between Israel and some Arab states of the Persian Gulf on August 13, 2020. The analyst believes that the agreement implies the Israeli-Arab split as the regional primary cleavage, does not exist anymore. As RAND argues, this as a new dynamic, can put any future nuclear deal in a regional context.

Domestic challenges against Biden

Cohen also points out that recently the U.S. has faced some pressing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic which the Biden administration is required to put them at the top of its concerns. Moreover, the analyst believes that in comparison to managing China and Russia, the Iran challenge may sit at the lower ranks of the Oval Office foreign policy agenda.

He also argues that while the U.S. may be less interested in solving the nuclear dispute, the opponents of the JCPOA are still vocal which may potentially make it more difficult for Washington to salvage the deal.

Projection as a political weapon

Reviewing the aforementioned, it sounds that in an attempt to induce failure of any future talks on the nuclear deal in advance, RAND invokes domestic, regional, and international political dynamics as inadvertent barriers which would prevent Biden to turn back the clock on the Iran nuclear deal. In other words, using the technique of projection, the think tank attempts to justify the U.S. likely cheating at the table under any pretexts other than Washington's bad faith.

'Resolution or statement will be interpreted as a negative signal to Iran'

POLITICAL
desk

TEHRAN — Diako Hosseini, director of the World Studies Program at the Presidential Center for Strategic Studies, says any statement or resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors will send a negative signal to Iran, according to IRNA news agency.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian foreign minister, on Monday warned the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal that a resolution against Iran by the IAEA Board of Governors would disrupt the current conditions.

Hosseini noted a resolution will question the goodwill of the U.S. and EU and increase the distrust existed between Iran and the U.S.

Pointing to the EU proposal for a direct negotiation between Iran and the U.S., he stressed, "While Biden's administration has taken steps to increase the trust and to redress Trump's wrong actions, Iran's positive answer could be fruitful."

Regarding the Biden administration's



policy towards Iran, he asserted, "Biden's administration has about a month

to show its goodwill. The condition of the JCPOA may intensify the crisis between Iran

and the U.S., if Biden does not build trust (between the two countries)."

With regard to unpredictability of international affairs, he noted, "Unpredictable events will likely happen. The U.S reacted to missile attack on Irbil by airstrikes that could lead to dangerous actions."

If the EU follows the United States' concern about Iran's nuclear program, it doesn't resolve the crisis, he noted, adding, "The Europeans have to play an effective role in the issue and persuade the U.S to rejoin the JCPOA and to prevent a crisis."

He added, "The Europeans support diplomacy. They see the JCPOA as their security achievement. So, they have to maintain the deal and consider mutual interest."

"Russia and China can encourage the U.S. to return to the nuclear deal. However, there is a competition among the U.S., China and Russia and, therefore, they don't trust each other and consequently China and Russia don't intervene in Iran's issue."

Iran calls verbal support for diplomacy 'hypocritical'

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"We believe in diplomacy as the only way out of the impasse created by the U.S. But the least thing to prove goodwill is that the U.S., which has reneged on its primary commitments under the (UNSC) Resolution 2231, should honor them," Rabiee stressed.

Rabiee emphasized Biden's administration cannot follow the policies of its predecessor and expect results.

In 2018, the U.S. abandoned the deal under former president Donald Trump and returned the harsh sanctions and added new ones. Iran has denounced the sanctions as "economic terrorism." Washington then successfully pressured the Europeans into abiding by the economic bans and barring their trade with Tehran.

The United States' violations came in sheer disregard

for the multi-party nature of the agreement. Taking the measures, the U.S. also ignored the fact that the deal has been ratified by the United Nations Security Council as one of its resolutions.

A year after the U.S. withdrawal, Iran took a set of countermeasures in accordance with paragraph 36 of the JCPOA as the signatories to the JCPOA failed to honor their commitments.

'Unexpected moves will immediately close windows of opportunity'

The government spokesman also said if the IAEA Board of Governors adopts a resolution against Iran, the Islamic Republic will "surely react" and will take a "proper decision", including a revision of the Feb. 21 agreement between the

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (IAEA) and the IAEA.

He said there is no reason that the U.S. express concern about the suspension of the Additional Protocol by Iran, adding if the U.S. is "really worried" it must lift sanctions on Iran and then Iran will return to full compliance to the nuclear agreement.

He also said Iran respond to "positive" or "negative" moves accordingly.

Noting that the "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran has failed and there is no alternative for the U.S. other than returning to its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, the government spokesman said, "Moves contrary to Iran's expectations will immediately close windows of opportunity."

'Jahangiri and I considered main potential presidential candidates by Construction Party'

POLITICAL
desk

TEHRAN — Mohsen Hashemi, the chairman of the policymaking committee of the Servants of Construction Party, has said he and Vice President Es'hq Jahangiri are considered the main potential candidates in the June presidential election, Tasnim reported on Tuesday.

"So far, the party has assessed possible candidacy of more than 10 persons that finally some possible candidates including me and Mr. Jahangiri were considered as the main potential candidates," said Hashemi, the current chairman of the Tehran City Council

However, he added, "There should be talks with us to see whether we intend candidacy or not."

Hashemi, the son of late President Hashemi Rafsanjani, cited other figures such as Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Oil Minister Bijan Zan-

ganeh and former health Minister Masoud Pezeshkian as possible candidates outside the party whose candidacy is being proposed.

Of course, he added, there is "more positive view" toward Zarif but still it cannot be said that this is a prevalent view by the party.

Zarif has vehemently rejected candidacy for the presidential election.

A few days ago, Mohammad Atrianfar, a leading member of the Construction Party, said, "If reformists are prohibited from fielding their main candidate, perhaps they will decide to support (former parliament speaker) Ali Larijani to stand for presidential election."

Mostafa Hashemi Taba, a reformist activist who ran for president in the 2017 election, has predicted the main competition will be among principlist candidates.

Qalibaf doesn't intend to run for president as possibility of Raisi candidacy rises: MP

POLITICAL
desk

TEHRAN — Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf does not intend to run in the June presidential election because there is possibility of a candidacy by Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi, a lawmaker close to Qalibaf announced on Friday.

Mohsen Pirhadi, a member of the Majlis presiding board, said this is because Qalibaf seeks to ally with Raisi in the presidential campaigns.

"Qalibaf does not intend candidacy in the 1400 presidential election... and my analysis is that with the rising possibility of the presence of Ayatollah Raisi, Dr. Qalibaf wants to help him," said Pirhadi.

The presidential election in Iran will be held in the calendar year of 1400 (2021) on Khordad 29 (June 18).

Since the report has not been an-

nounced by Qalibaf himself there was a doubt that it may not be authentic. However, some informed sources in interviews with the Tasnim news agency confirmed the report.

They said since Raisi may field candidacy Qalibaf has no intention to contest the presidential election and he has clearly announced this to certain individuals who are influential in shaping the policies of the principlist faction.

In the 2017 presidential elections, Qalibaf withdrew candidacy in favor of Raisi at the final hours.

Qalibaf, a former Tehran mayor and national police chief, came second in the 2013 election in which Hassan Rouhani won the election.

Among the principlists, so far former defense minister Hossein Dehqan and former senior MP Ali Motahari have announced presidential candidacy.

Blame game doesn't work to revive Iran nuclear deal: Guardian

POLITICAL
desk

TEHRAN — Biden may inadvertently achieve what Trump couldn't. He is destroying the Iran deal, Obama's main foreign policy achievement, according to the Guardian, a British newspaper.

"Diplomacy is back!" President Joe Biden declared at the Munich Security Conference, the newspaper said. But the newspaper asks: "So is bombing Syria."

Biden has only been president a bit more than a month, but he has already ordered his first bombing campaign, it said, adding it took Trump four months to do the same.

The target was facilities in eastern Syria used by Iraq's anti-terror forces.

The U.S. tried to justify attack on the Iraqi anti-terror forces by claiming that they attacked U.S. and Western targets inside Iraq with the permission of Iran.

Contrary to the claim by Biden, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told his Iraqi counterpart Faud Hussein, who visited Iran on Feb. 27, that the attacks and events inside Iraq are "suspicious" and suggested it is essential that the Iraqi government take actions against those behind such actions.

The Guardian argued Biden intended to signal to Iran that it would pay a heavy price if it ordered attacks against U.S. forces to pressure the U.S. to return to the Iran nuclear deal, and wrote, "By bombing Syria for this reason, Biden proved how failing to rejoin the nuclear agreement endangers U.S. national security — Iran's nuclear program continues to advance while the U.S. and Iran glide closer to a military confrontation."

The newspaper said, "Biden knows these arguments quite well. He made them against Donald Trump only a few months ago. His top officials have spent the past years extensively criticizing Trump's maximum pressure strategy. They were all correct."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



This indicates Iran's recognition of religious rights of Sunni Muslims.

Did you know that in Iran's Sunni mosques, congregational prayers, Quran classes, jurisprudential lessons, etc. are all freely conducted?

SYMPTOMS

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Sanctions

Biden hires Architect of Sanctions to revive a deal meant to lift sanctions

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The White House has taken a range of measures that run counter to Joe Biden's promises to rekindle diplomacy with Tehran after four years of Trump's harsh rhetoric against the Islamic Republic.

These measures were the latest indication that the Biden administration is still far from changing tack on Iran. On Monday, it was announced that Richard Nephew, a veteran sanctions expert widely known as the architect of U.S. sanctions against Iran under Barack Obama, joined the Biden administration.

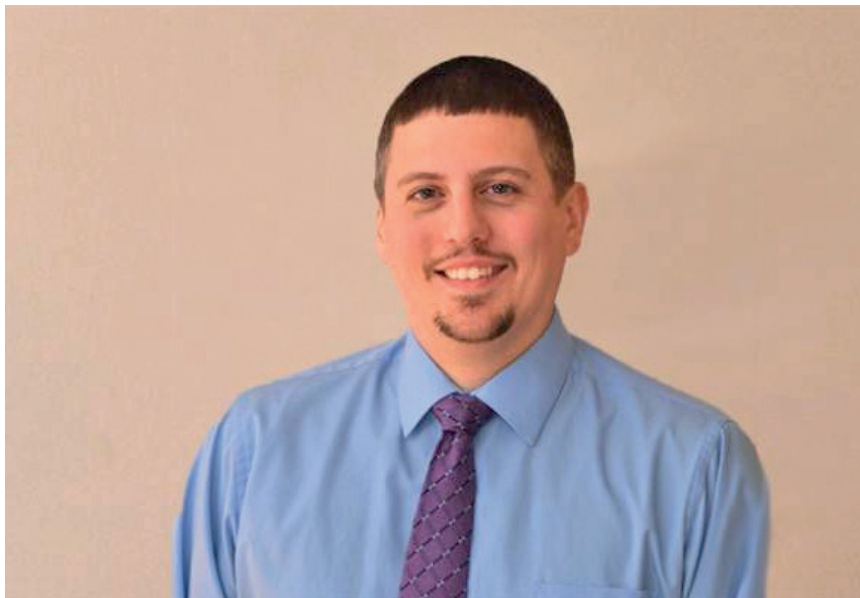
"Brookings experts @lindseyford and @RichardMNephew have joined the Biden administration, as deputy assistant secretary of defense for South and South East Asia, and deputy special envoy for Iran at the Department of State, respectively. Congratulations!" the Brookings Institution said in a tweet on Monday.

Nephew confirmed the news by changing his Twitter bio. "Deputy U.S. Special Envoy for Iran," his new Twitter bio reads.

The Brookings Institution said in a statement that Nephew was selected to serve as deputy special envoy for Iran at the Department of State.

Nephew has been a nonresident senior fellow in the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative at the Brookings Institution since 2015. He also was a Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University SIPA. He joined Columbia University in February 2015. Prior to that, he served as Principal Deputy Coordinator for Sanctions Policy at the Department of State from February 2013 to 2015. In addition, he was a member of the Obama national security team from 2011 to 2013 when he played a pivotal role in expanding U.S. sanctions against Iran, according to Columbia University.

"Nephew also served as the lead sanctions expert for the U.S. team negotiating with Iran. From May 2011 to January 2013 Nephew served as the Director for Iran on the National Security Staff where he was responsible for managing a period of intense expansion of U.S. sanctions on Iran. Earlier in his career, he served in



the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the State Department and in the Office of Nonproliferation and International Security at the Department of Energy," according to Nephew's short biography on Columbia University website.

Nephew's appointment does not bode well for the future of the Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), simply because he is joining the Biden administration at a time when Iran has placed the priority of lifting sanctions high on its agenda, linking the salvation of the JCPOA to the lifting of the U.S. sanctions on Tehran.

And Nephew, a functionary who perfected "the art of sanctions", is not going to lift the sanctions. Instead, he will likely turn the JCPOA into a joint comprehensive plan of sanctions. During the Obama administration, Nephew spent much time coordinating and managing Iran sanctions, gaining extensive field experience in implementing sanctions against a number of countries, including Iran.

He outlined his experience in a book titled "The Art of Sanctions," which serves

as a playbook for how to best implement sanctions as a foreign policy tool.

Considering his track record in driving U.S. sanctions policy, Nephew's appointment set off alarm bells in Tehran, with some Iranians describing this appointment as an indication of "Biden's maliciousness" against Iran.

"That Richard Nephew, an architect of cruel sanctions against the Iranian nation, is joining the Biden team is another proof that proves Biden and his foreign policy team's maliciousness. The Americans' grudge against Iran is not limited to Republicans or Democrats. The only way to confront the economic war of the enemy is to fight corruption and rely on domestic capabilities," Ahmad Naderi, an Iranian lawmaker, said in a tweet on Tuesday.

Further exacerbating Iranian concerns are the recent remarks of Wally Adeyemo, President Joe Biden's pick for deputy Treasury secretary.

Adeyemo underlined his commitment to rigorous enforcement of U.S. sanctions against Iran, according to Reuters.

In written responses to queries from members of the Senate Finance Commit-

tee, Adeyemo said Iran should only enjoy sanctions relief if it resumes compliance with the JCPOA, Reuters reported. He also vowed that Treasury would look carefully at "any Iranian efforts to evade sanctions and abuse the international banking system."

These remarks came amid a renewed U.S. push to ratchet up diplomatic pressure on Iran by pressuring the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors into adopting a resolution against Iran at the current session of the Agency's board.

Bloomberg reported last week that U.S. diplomats circulated a draft resolution on Thursday which lists Washington's grievances and orders Iran to fully cooperate with inspectors.

The proposed resolution would "underscore strong concern at the IAEA's findings" and "express the board's deepening concern with respect to Iran's cooperation," Bloomberg said, adding that this resolution would suggest that Iran could be providing incomplete information on its nuclear activities, something that has potentially serious consequences, including another referral to the United Nations Security Council.

According to a Reuters report, European signatories to the JCPOA — France, Germany and the UK (E3) — are pressing ahead with the U.S. efforts to pass the resolution, despite Russian and Iranian warnings of serious consequences.

Iran has said that the adoption of the resolution will further complicate the situation around the JCPOA and elicit a proper response from Iran.

Regardless of how Iran would respond, the U.S. push for the resolution is yet another sign that it is not interested in diplomacy with Iran. The renewed U.S. pressure on Iran comes after Iran showed its goodwill by striking a deal with the IAEA on how to continue cooperation in light of the start of implementation of a parliamentary nuclear law obligating the Iranian government to stop the implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the West failed to lift the sanctions.

Iran warns IAEA against adopting resolution

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Several Iranian officials have warned the UN nuclear watchdog as well as the West against adopting a resolution against Iran at the session of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned that any hostile move by the IAEA's Board of Governors against the Islamic Republic of Iran would further complicate the situation around the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting with members of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Monday, Zarif said the adoption of an anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA board will mess up the current situation.

"The Europeans have started a wrong move in support of the U.S. at the (IAEA) Board of Governors," Zarif told reporters, adding that the Western countries' measure could further complicate the situation, according to Fars News.

According to Zarif, Iran has already informed the IAEA Board of Governors of the potential consequences of the Westerners' move.

"We have provided the necessary explanations about the current situation to all members of the Board of Governors," Zarif said, warning, "We hope that reason will prevail, otherwise we have our own solutions."

Earlier on Sunday, Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) director Ali Akbar Salehi also had warned the IAEA board against adopting a resolution against Iran, saying that such a hostile move would prompt Iran to reciprocate.

"In case the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency adopts an anti-Iran resolution due to the suspension of the Additional Protocol, we will give a proper response," Salehi said.

Salehi pointed to the recent deal between Iran and the IAEA on how to continue cooperation in light of Iran's decision to implement a parliamentary nuclear law obligating the Iranian government to cease the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The nuclear law, officially called "Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Nation's Rights," 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.

The IAEA chief paid a visit to Iran a few days before the law was implemented. He succeeded in securing a deal with Iran that would ensure the IAEA access to Iranian nuclear sites.

Under the deal, the AEOI and the IAEA agreed to continue cooperation in a new way.

"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," according to a joint statement issued by the IAEA and the AEOI following the signing of the deal on February 21.

Salehi said the deal has a confidential part. "The appendix to this statement is confidential," the nuclear chief stated. "No specific conditions have been made in this regard, and according to the detailed information about the list of facilities and monitoring cameras mentioned in this appendix and also due to security considerations and the need to hide the location of key facilities in Iran, this appendix will remain confidential."

Salehi also said Iran has sent a letter to the IAEA warning it against adopting a resolution against Iran.

Iranian officials did not give detail about the content of the letter. But Reuters claimed that Iran has warned that it will put an end to the recent deal the IAEA struck with Iran if the West adopts the resolution.

"Iran perceives this move as destructive and considers it as an end to the Joint Understanding of 21 February 2021 between the Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iran purportedly said in its letter to the IAEA, according to Reuters.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday that U.S. diplomats circulated a document on Thursday which lists Washington's grievances and orders Iran to fully cooperate with inspectors. The proposed resolution would "underscore strong concern at the IAEA's findings" and "express the board's deepening concern with respect to Iran's cooperation," Bloomberg said, adding that this resolution would suggest that Iran could be providing incomplete information on its nuclear activities, something that has potentially serious consequences, including another referral to the United Nations Security Council.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei also said on Tuesday that if the Board of Governors adopts a resolution, Iran will review its agreement with the IAEA.

'The West's move is unconstructive'

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday lambasted the U.S. for trying to get the IAEA's Board of Governors to pass the resolution against Iran, underlining that this move is non-constructive and threatening the atmosphere created for diplomacy, especially after Iran and the IAEA reached an understanding recently.

Aragchi made the remarks in the fourth round of political talks between Iran and Austria, which was held through video conference with Austrian Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal.

"The removal of all the illegal and oppressive sanctions on Iran is the basic condition of Iran for going back to the implementation of its JCPOA commitments," Araghchi pointed out.

The U.S. and Iran are locked in a bitter dispute over how to revive the JCPOA. Iran has said time and again that the only way to revive the deal is for Washington to lift all the sanctions the Trump administration imposed on Iran. But the Biden administration, while admitting that Trump's policies against Iran were wrong, has so far refused to change these policies. The U.S. instead sought to ramp up the pressure on Iran by pushing for the adoption of a resolution against Iran at the IAEA's board.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reiterated this position on Monday. He said he is confident that the United States will finally have to kneel down before the Iranian nation and abandon its sanctions.

Rouhani referred to the failure of former U.S. President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" against Iran as well as his defeat in the U.S. election as a victory for the Iranian nation.

'Butcher and murderer was toppled'

"That butcher and murderer was toppled, and the new U.S. administration has confessed four times that the previous administration's maximum pressure was wrong," Rouhani said, describing them as two achievements for Iran, according to the official website of the Iranian government.

"It is our biggest success in history that, as a result of the Iranian nation's resilience, they admitted their pressure and sanctions have been futile," the president said. He also vowed that the Islamic Republic will be in a better situation this year in terms of the removal of sanctions and its fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm confident that the world and the U.S. will have to kneel down before this great nation, and abandon the cruel sanctions," he added.

'No change in Iran's policies unless Washington lifts sanctions'

Also on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, stated that there will be no bilateral talks or any change in Iran's policies unless Washington corrects its wrong policies and return to compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.

"We have no bilateral talks with the United States, and unless the US corrects its wrong path, there will be no change in Iran's policies," the spokesman said.

"Up to now, almost two months since the Biden administration took office, they have not officially declared their return to the JCPOA, even verbally. This is really a historical shame for Mr. Biden, who had set up his presidential campaign in a different way, but in practice, we are seeing a different administration," he noted.

"Nice words have been uttered sporadically here and there, and we have heard those words, but we want action, and don't base our policies on words. In other words, we will reciprocate the other side's action proportionately," Khatibzadeh added.

S P O R T S

Esteghlal part ways with Mahmoud Fekri

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football club parted company with Mahmoud Fekri on Tuesday

after a string of poor results in Iran Professional League.

He was sacked after five months in charge.

Under leadership of Fekri, Esteghlal ended the first half of the season as the third team behind Persepolis and Sepahan.

Farhad Majidi, Amir Ghalenoei and Javad Nekounam are reportedly candidates to replace Fekri.

The Blues look to bring an end to their eight-year's title drought in Iran football league.



Ali Karimi deserves more credit

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN — The Iran football federation knew its new president on Sunday but there is something wrong; Ali Karimi just earned nine votes out of 87 votes. And the question remains unclear that why the members of the presidential elections ignored a man from football.

In the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) presidential elections which were held at the Iran International Conference Center in Tehran on Sunday, Shahabeddin Azizi Khadem was elected as new president of football federation with 49 votes out of 87 votes.

You will win or lose the elections but the Sunday's votes show a weird thing. Karimi, as the only football icon in the elections, had to lose the campaign with more votes.

Nine votes? It's really ridiculous. It's unbelievable.

Karimi has not enough managerial experience to lead the football federation, that's true. But the three other candidates, in my opinion, were not the best choices to run the federation.

Iran football has headed by the persons who have not been the best options over the past 15 years and, as a result, has been seriously damaged. There is no hope, it seems, the new federation can change the wrong way.

Karimi lost the elections and it's normal. But, why he did garner a few votes?

He could lose the elections with 20, 30 or 40 votes but he, unbelievably, lost the elections with just nine votes. It's a shame that the Iranian football members have decided to ignore a football icon.

The Iranian football clubs' managers have always protested the football situation and said the football must lead by the football icons but they showed that there is no serious intention to change the condition.

Iran football needs a renaissance, but ...

Esteghlal directors are to blame as well: Sattar Hamedani

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN — Five months after it began, Mahmoud Fekri's career as Esteghlal head coach is over. Sattar Hamedani, former Esteghlal's player and director believes that the club's directors are as much to blame as the former head coach Fekri for the team's poor run of form.

Fekri, fired Tuesday, leaves with the club third in the Iran Professional League (IPL) table, six points off the top.

Hamedani, who was appointed as Esteghlal's sporting director, said to Tehran Times: "Fekri should have worked better at Esteghlal, there is no doubt about it. He couldn't handle the challenges and manage the problems in a difficult time for Esteghlal. However, I firmly believe that the club's top directors are also to blame for what happened to the club."

Fekri's downfall was the consequence of a string of poor results which saw the blues two defeats and just one win in their last five IPL games. His final game was Monday's draw against Mes Rafsanjan.

"Fekri was sacked but the managers who have made this chaos have stayed at the club and are deciding the future of Esteghlal," Hamedani said.

"I emphasize that the club's directors are also to blame because we have seen in the last few years that every coach who has worked at Esteghlal, has had problems and differences with the management of the club.

"Their approach to head coaches has been consistent during the recent years and Fekri knew that when he got the job. He'll have an understanding that he went into a club that has always been like this with coaches. The results and inconsistent form have cost him," Hamedani added.

Sports court lifts Iran judo suspension

Iran's suspension from international judo events was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Monday.

The case was prompted by former world champion Saeid Mollaei leaving the Iranian team in 2019, claiming he was ordered to lose matches and withdraw from competitions to avoid facing Israelis.

CAS said its judges hearing the Iranian judo federation's appeal decided the International Judo Federation overstepped its own authority with such a severe ban, which was imposed in October 2019. The case was sent back to an IJF disciplinary panel for review.

The court acknowledged the Iranian judo federation had "committed severe violations of the IJF rules" on discrimination and should be punished, though within the world governing body's rules.

During the case, the IJF said any action taken against Iran would not apply directly to the Tokyo Olympics, because athletes are technically entered by the Iranian Olympic Committee and not the national judo body.

(source: CTVnews)

Water, electricity projects worth over \$138m put into operation

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian inaugurated 20 major water and electricity projects valued at 5.8 trillion rials (about \$138 million) in six provinces through video conference on Tuesday.

Inaugurated in the 43rd week of the Energy Ministry's A-B-Iran program, six of the mentioned projects were put into operation in Kermanshah, four projects were inaugurated in Gilan, while six projects went operational in West Azarbaijan and Fars provinces.



The projects include several power supply projects, some power line reconstruction projects, an 8.6-megawatt small-scale power plant, a wastewater treatment project, as well as several rural electricity supply projects.

A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020), during which the minister made several trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

Since the beginning of the second phase of the scheme in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20, 2020), every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

According to Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, in the second phase of the program 250 projects were going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Earlier on Sunday, Ardakanian had also inaugurated several new systems for improving services in the water and electricity sectors.

The mentioned systems were put into operation in various areas including resource consumption improvement, asset utilization, human resource management, financial resources management, and reforming work processes in order to create transparency and to facilitate and accelerate affairs while eliminating possible bottlenecks.

A smart system for improving the Energy Ministry's support and emergency centers called Homa, as well as a new customer services system called Chavoush were also among the launched systems.

A mechanized network monitoring system called Sanam was also put into operation; this system is aimed at monitoring the electricity networks of various provinces in order to reduce electricity losses and improve the efficiency of the country's power network.

As reported, electricity losses in the country's power network have been reduced from 14.5 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 9.5 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20) and as a result, the fuel consumption by the country's power plants has also decreased by 16 billion liters.

The mentioned developments have saved the country about 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) during the said period.

Exports from Astara port rises 82%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — As announced by a provincial official, exports from Astara port in the north of Iran has increased 82 percent since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020), as compared with the same period of time in the past year.

Arsalan Zare, the governor-general of Gilan Province, where the port is located, said this growth is the result of efforts made by the traders of the province as well as the customs department of Gilan.

Astara Port is 60 hectares and it is the first port of the private sector in Iran. It is the closest and the most cost-effective way for trade and transport between Asia, Africa, and Europe. It has been designed for loading and unloading 2,500-ton freighters.

Located by the Caspian Sea, Astara has sea, land, and railway borders points with the Azerbaijan Republic.

Even during the coronavirus outbreak, the port is considered one of the main points for Iran's export and import.

Managing Director of Khazar Shipping Company has recently said that Astara Port, located by the Caspian Sea, has become a new hub for container shipping in the region following the launch of new shipping services from this port.

Mentioning the establishment of regular container transportation services from Astara port to Aktau port of Kazakhstan and Astrakhan in Russia, Davood Tafti said: "According to the plans, two regular transportation services will operate on this route weekly, one service from Astara to Aktau port and the other service is done from Anzali- Astara route to Aktau port."

Emphasizing that the launch of these regular services has created a competitive environment between road and sea transport, Tafti continued: "One of the most important effects of launching a regular container shipping service between Astara and the ports of Aktau and Astrakhan is reducing land transportation rates and breaking the monopoly of land transportation so that as soon as the news of the activation of these regular container shipping services was announced, the road transportation rate in the region decreased to one thousand dollars."

"Breaking the monopoly means reducing costs and increasing the options of traders, exporters and cargo owners," he added.

TCCIMA honors exemplary entrepreneurs

1 → Iranian First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari, and Tehran Mayor Pirooz Hanachi were present in this year's event.

The mentioned prize is named after Mohammad-Hassan Amin al-Zarb, a highly influential Iranian businessman (born in 1856), who was the first private sector investor in Iran and set up the first union of private sector in the country. He was one of the most famous and influential entrepreneurs of Iran with many prominent achievements in entrepreneurship.

Over 21m tons of basic goods imported in 11 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran has imported 21.4 million tons of basic commodities worth \$10.84 billion during the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020-February 18, 2021), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to Rouhollah Latifi, in the mentioned period a total of 30.818 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$34.321 billion were imported into the country, IRNA reported.

The shares of the basic goods from the country's total imports in the said period

were 69 percent and 31.5 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

The official noted that over 15.5 million tons or 72 percent of the imported basic commodities have been paid for by subsidized foreign currency.

As reported, corn was the top imported commodity during the mentioned time span both in terms of weight and value, with 9.125 million tons worth \$2.298 billion of imports.

The said commodity accounted for 42 percent and 21 percent of the total basic goods imports in terms of weight and value, respectively.

In addition to corn, medicines, medical



equipment, and essential medical supplies with 13,560 tons worth \$1.481 billion, oil-seeds with 2.04 million tons worth \$1.073 billion, edible oils with 1.034 million tons worth \$895.96 million, soybean meal with

1.615 million tons worth \$693.786 million, and barley with 1.702 million tons worth \$422.100 million were the top commodity items imported into the country during the period under review.

Online seminar on Iran-Pakistan trade to be held today

1 → In late December 2020, Pakistan's Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said his country was seeking to enhance ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in economic areas.

Mentioning his upcoming visit to Tehran for attending the two countries' ninth Joint Economic Committee meeting, Dawood said: "This meeting was due to be held in October but following the escalation of the coronavirus spread the event was postponed and the new date for the meeting will be announced soon."

He underlined his country's new policies for facilitating trade with neighbors, including Iran and Afghanistan, and stressed: "The barriers for trade with our country are gradually being removed, we are pursuing the same approach with Iran."



"Our relations with Iran are improving and we hope that the development of the two countries' economic ties

Iran-Syria trade conference held in Tehran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The International Institute of Iran Industries Research (MPSIran) hosted a conference on Iran-Syria trade cooperation in Tehran on Monday evening.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides including Deputy Director of Tehran Industry, Mining, and Trade Organization Houshang Rezaei Samarin, the Director-General of Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare for Intl. Affairs Ali-Hossein Shahrivar, Syria's Commercial Attaché in Tehran Ahmad Khamis, and Hamid Hosseini, board member of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce.

The attendees of the meeting discussed a variety of issues in this event and explored ways for removing the barriers in the way of the expansion of two countries' trade.

Speaking in the meeting, Sina Sanjari, the managing director of the MPSIran said:



"Syria is going through a period of stability and this has presented many opportunities in the fields of infrastructure reconstruction and trade development for Iranian companies, so the conference on Iran-Syria trade and economic cooperation has been held to take a step towards developing more economic cooperation between the two countries."

Elsewhere in the conference, Ali-Hossein

Shahrivar noted that Syria is one of the countries that can be a strong economic partner for Iran, adding: "When there are restrictions on trade relations between Iran and Syria, it will not be possible to invest and implement large projects."

"After solving basic problems, especially in the logistics and banking sectors, international standards should be taken into account for developing exports and trade relations between the two sides," Shahrivar added.

According to the official, Iran's exports to Syria are 10 times more than its imports from this country. This trend causes an imbalance in economic relations between the two countries.

Further in the gathering, Houshang Rezaei mentioned some of the problems in the way of expanding trade relations between the two countries including the

lack of efficient banking relations between the two countries, insufficient insurance coverage in the export of technical engineering services by Iran's Export Development Fund (EDF), and travel restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Earlier on Monday morning, the Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce had also organized and held a conference on the business opportunities of the two countries at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The conference was attended by senior officials from the two sides including the Head of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce Keyvan Kashefi and the head of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce Fahd Mahmoud Darwish, as well as the Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum.

Over \$70m of loans paid to production units of Bushehr in 10 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — A provincial official announced that 3 trillion rials (about \$71.42 million) of loans has been paid to the production units of Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, to promote production in the province during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021).

Saying that the completion of industrial units which are complete by above 60 percent is a prioritized program, Hossein Hosseini, the head of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Bushehr, said the completion of semi-finished industrial units, providing liquidity to industries and reviving stagnant units are in the priority of the programs.

Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade's data show that 101.941 trillion rials (over \$2.42 billion) has been paid to production units as part of a program for supporting domestic production during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year.

The mentioned payments were made to 3,439 production units.

As reported, under the framework of this program dubbed "facilities for production and employment", bank



facilities are offered to newly established production units or semi-finished industrial projects with over 60 percent of physical progress.

Based on the mentioned program, 201.299 trillion rials of facilities (about \$4.79 billion) have been planned to be paid to production units to support domestic production and maintain or create job opportunities.

TEDPIX gains 4,600 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 4,464 points to 1.186 million on Tuesday.

The first market's index gained 5,508 points, and the second market's index climbed 2,116 points on Tuesday.

TEDPIX had dropped 2.7 percent during the past Iranian calendar week.

The index stood at 1.205 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Tamin Cement Company, Amin Investment Bank, Mobarakeh Steel Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Tehran Oil Refining Company, and Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company were the most widely followed indices.

Last week, market analyst Amir-Ali Amir-Baqeri told IRNA that Iranian stock

market is moving in the right direction and will reach stability in the near future.

"Market authorities are currently using asymmetric fluctuations to improve the market situation, but we must move in a direction where there is no volatility in the market," Amir-Baqeri said.

Criticizing the government's interference in the capital market, Baqeri said the more the market moves away from ordained pricing, and government-set rules and regulations, toward a free market in which the pricing is set through supply and demand, the more realistic and competitive the economy will become in the mid and long term.

The expert noted that political factors including the U.S. sanctions and their impact on the domestic markets which led to the increase of inflation in the country led people to bring their assets into the stock market, and that caused a significant

surge in the mentioned market.

However, several external factors, including the disputes between the oil and economy ministries over the offering of the second ETF (dubbed First Refinery, or Dara Second), increase in interest rates, and the ambiguities in the next year's national budget bill resulted in a recession in the stock market.

According to Amir-Baqeri, the changing political atmosphere in the United States and the world, and also Iran's economic resilience against the U.S. sanctions also impacted the market.

Consequently, Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)'s main index (TEDPIX) which had surpassed two million points in early August 2020, suddenly started a downward trend in late August and has since slumped about 38 percent.

To support the market, the government has started passing new regulations and



guidelines and has injected millions of dollars of resources into the market; however, these measures have been proven counterproductive, according to the expert.

The market is correcting itself and will reach stability in near future if the government stops interfering in it, Amir-Baqeri stressed.

Crisis in NATO showed traditional security states have become unviable: Oxford professor

➡ Such attempts to return to the status quo ante are not only unimaginative politically but betray the anxious recognition of America's slipping power and loss of prestige in the world. They are public relations exercises conducted at the cost of non-American lives and international as much as U.S. domestic law.

Biden's team is mostly filled with figures who served in the Obama administration. Do you think Biden would make more achievements in comparison to Obama?

Obama also relied on staff from the Clinton administration, not least Hillary Clinton, his designated successor. In making these choices, Obama betrayed his own promise of change, which, when it did finally come, took on the perverse form of the Trump revolution.

Relying on those who have had experience of government is important, but not without a vision for the future. Both Obama and Biden seem to want a return to the past, and in this their party is at one with others on the left in Western Europe and North America.

The left and right in the West seem to have changed places after the Cold War. The former has become conservative in its desire to regain a liberal international order, while it is the latter which approaches the future in radically new ways.

Because it is the right that is today defined by ideology rather than the left, it can dispense with the latter's mindless pluralism, evident in Biden's invocations of race, gender, sexual and other identities all added together into a constituency with no political meaning.

This is why it is the right that first puts ethnic and other minorities in positions of power for reasons of ideology not identity. Before the Democrats had Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, the Republicans had Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice.

This is even more true of Britain, where the Conservative government has been the first to appoint so many minority ministers in cabinet. And let us not forget that Trump's support among non-African American minorities rose between his first election and

“Crucial about the present moment and represented by the Trump presidency in particular, is the collapse of the West as a universal model.”



the second.

What is Trump's legacy for the United States?

In some ways Trump merely showed us the truth about America. For he represented the triumph of a certain vision of neoliberalism in which politics, too, was reduced to the economic logic of deal-making, with private profit meant to lead to public gain.

But Trump also demonstrated the limits of this model, since the economic interests he championed proved to be so unstable. It is because vested interests of this kind no longer define politics in the West that venerable parties like the Republicans can be taken over by adventurers like Trump and be gutted from within.

We see the same thing happening in Britain with the takeover of the Conservatives by Brexit supporters, and in France where long-established parties were defeated by a newcomer. India and Pakistan exhibit similar features outside the West. All over the world, it seems, the political party is in crisis as an institution meant to represent distinct interests.

It is not that such interests do not exist, but they no longer dominate or define social and political relations. This is why the party of big capital in Britain could push for Brexit in the teeth of capitalist opposition; or why the remnants of the working class there and in the U.S. could vote for the right.

Financialization and the replacement of manufacturing by services has both globalized and destroyed traditional class identities and politics, whose interests are now being replaced by racial religious and other apparently primordial ones. Trump represented this process.

Do you expect the Biden administration would give in to a multi-polar

globe in which China, Russia, and other powers would also play a prominent role?

The U.S. will acknowledge multipolarity where necessary, say with Russia and China, and ignore it where it can by the attempt to create new zones of influence. Yet the old system of client regimes that characterized Cold War alliances are no longer viable at any large scale.

Since the end of the Cold War, we have seen wave after wave of collapsing regimes moving from the ex-Soviet Union outwards. Beginning in the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia, these waves include the so-called colour revolutions in Eastern Europe and the Arab Spring.

While some focus on conspiracies and external causes to account for such events, we can understand them in a structural way as the collapse of Cold War regimes rendered meaningless after it. Today these waves have reached the West, itself a relic of the Cold War.

The unprecedented crises that have hit NATO countries from Turkey to the U.S. provide examples of the way in which such traditional security states have become unviable. One of the first countries to shed its Cold War regime, Iran has yet to find a place for itself in this emerging world.

The post-Cold War state can no longer be defined by old-fashioned sovereignty, itself rendered moot in many ways by globalization. This is why contemporary states are obsessed by the threat of external meddling, something that had once been a mark of dictatorships. Important here is not the external agent so much as the internal citizen given over to global agendas who must be put under surveillance as a potential enemy.

The crisis of sovereignty has led to its bifurcation. Some want to reclaim traditional

forms of sovereign power, of which Brexit Britain and Trump's America are the best examples. And others to reinvent a civic or civilizational sovereignty premised upon the loss of its old-fashioned predecessor.

Many countries in the EU belong to this latter group, led by French efforts to defend secularism against immigrant religions and Anglo-Saxon ideas. But there are also regions like Scotland and Catalonia that see the EU enabling their emergence as non-sovereign nations. Both visions of sovereignty, in other words, work to tear apart existing states.

The U.S. has been the sole hegemon in the world for many years. Don't not you think the U.S. power will decline in the coming years due to the challenges at home?

Trump's presidency revealed the weakness of America's governing institutions and the decline of its democratic model for a global arena. The Cold War had already empowered the executive more than a presidential system naturally does, and its unaccountability was only exacerbated by 9/11 and the War on Terror. All of this Trump only inherited and did not improve upon, though he did manage to strip presidential power of its dignity.

The Westminster or British model seems to be more resilient, but it, too, is under strain both in its country of origin and in many of her former colonies. Meanwhile, the EU is a bizarre contraption that is neither empire nor federation and yet far more than a trading bloc. It is an order without any sovereignty of its own, relying on NATO for much of the latter. And its unaccountable bureaucracy famously enjoys a 'democratic deficit'.

Russia and China do not represent global models either, but then they never have in any serious way. Crucial about the present moment and represented by the Trump presidency in particular, is the collapse of the West as a universal model. It may still offer the vision of relatively free societies marked by great wealth, but this fundamentally social reality is now endangered by the new politics of Western Europe and North America.

“Trump's presidency revealed the weakness of America's governing institutions and the decline of its democratic model for a global arena.”

Tehran-Baku-Moscow trade vol. increasing, dynamic: Azeri MP

By Zahra Mirzafarjouyan

TEHRAN— Commenting on the significance of regional cooperation and Baku's approach towards the issue, a member of Azerbaijan's parliament said that increasing Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan trade volume shows how the approach is dynamic.

Iran recognized Azerbaijan's independence in 1991, and diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1992.

Both countries are full members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

To a large extent, Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan share the same history, religion, and culture.

Utilizing the commonalities between the two countries, relations between the two neighboring countries have gradually but significantly improved since 2013.

Nowadays, after the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, a new chapter is going to be opened in the relation of all regional countries, particularly between Tehran and Baku.

During a visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan organized by GJC, a correspondent of Mehr News agency reached out to Tahir Mirkishili, chairman of the Industry & economy com-

mission of Azerbaijan's Parliament, to discuss Tehran-Baku relation in the post-Karabakh war.

Regarding the 6-party cooperation between Iran, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia and its positive effects on the region's development, stability, and prosperity, Tahir Mirkishili said that Azerbaijan is well aware of the significance of regional cooperation.

Referring to the Republic of Azerbaijan's approach toward the issue, he said that Baku has always made efforts to develop multilateral cooperation, which has been very fruitful for the country.

The Azerbaijani official said, 'A look at the volume of trade between Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan clearly shows how this approach is growing and dynamic.'

Stressing on the importance of having good relationships with all neighbors Iran, Turkey, Russia, Turkmenistan and etc., he noted that Baku is even after good cooperation with Armenia after resolving the problems with Armenia, adding that to this end, a commission has been established between Azerbaijan, Russia, and Armenia.

The parliamentarian said that Baku believes all the region countries, including Armenia and Azerbaijan, should enjoy good economic ties with each other to have a developed region and tackle poverty.



Commenting on Iran's participation in the reconstruction of the Karabakh region, Mirkishili stressed that due to the massive destruction of the infrastructures of the region during the occupation, Baku is not able to reconstruct the cities and villages by itself and needs foreign investment and help, adding that the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes Iranian companies' participation in the reconstruction of Karabakh, too.

He said, "Iran was invited to take part in the reconstruction process during the Iranian Foreign Minister's visit to Baku."

America shames itself by naming and not punishing Mohammed bin Salman as culprit in Khashoggi case

By Hossein Jelveh

The publication of the United States' intelligence report about the murder of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi did little to advance the case against Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi crown prince, who was already known to have hatched the plot to assassinate Khashoggi. But the passive approach that the Biden administration subsequently took to the case, deciding not to punish the murderer prince, helped demonstrate the lax moral codes of the administration.

President Biden, of course, set himself in contrast to his predecessor by publicizing the report, which had been finalized in 2018, the same year Khashoggi was murdered, and his body was dismembered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. Former U.S. President Donald Trump courted Mohammed, and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, famously mingled with the murderer prince seeking to cement the Saudi cow.

President Biden, however, chose to blame the prince in the case publicly. But few, if anyone, were awaiting the declassification of U.S. intelligence about Mohammed. Turkey had already collected and released incriminating intelligence of its own, and there was almost zero doubt about the prince's role among governments worldwide.

The only outcome of the episode was that the United States displayed its inaction in a high-profile case of murder and justice in which the United States itself was rekindling public interest by presenting its official findings. By naming the force behind the murder and refusing to punish him in any way whatsoever, the Biden administration did not publicly shame the murderer; it publicly shamed itself.

U.S. administration officials have implied that the decision not to punish the Saudi crown prince was intended to avoid alienating the Saudi government, that by declassifying the intelligence report, the Biden administration carried out a targeted raid against the prince

but avoided stretching the U.S.-Saudi relations to a breaking point. "The relationship with Saudi Arabia is bigger than any one individual," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said. "What we've done by the actions that we've taken is really not to rupture the relationship, but to recalibrate it to be more in line with our interests and our values."

But that does not make sense. Mohammed is already running most of the top posts in the Saudi government. He is Saudi Arabia's crown prince, defense minister, deputy prime minister (the king being prime minister), chairman of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs, and chairman of the Council of Political and Security Affairs. For all practical purposes, he is the Saudi government. Letting Mohammed walk could only have been meant to avoid alienating Mohammed. To have acted with integrity, the United States should have gone after the murderer prince, not putting on a fake show of scrupulousness.

U.S. administration officials have at the same

time characterized the decision to release the report as part of a broader Biden administration resolution to "recalibrate ties with Saudi Arabia. They have also attempted to portray President Biden and his administration as downgrading the crown prince's formerly privileged status with top-level officials in Washington; reportedly, Mohammed has been told to communicate with Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, and not higher-level officials. The Saudi prince formerly had almost direct access to the U.S. president, Trump, via Kushner.

But then again, Mohammed is the future king of Saudi Arabia, and he will assume that position sooner rather than later (his 85-year-old father, King Salman, is hailed by old age and partial dementia). Once he does, the United States government will only have him and his government to interact with, and the U.S.-Saudi relationship will have been "recalibrated" in no way.

(Source: Press TV)

UN warns of Yemen 'death sentence' as donor pledges fall short

➡ Shrinking humanitarian budgets last year forced the closure of many programmes including health services and food distribution, heaping hardship on a country where some two-thirds of the population relies on some form of aid to survive.

According to the latest UN data, more than 16 million Yemenis – about half the population – will face hunger this year. Nearly 50,000 are already starving to death in famine-like conditions.

The world body has warned that 400,000 Yemeni children under the age of five could die from acute malnutrition.

U.S. imposes sanctions on Russia over alleged Navalny

The United States on Tuesday imposed sanctions on Russian individuals and entities over Russia's attempt to kill opposition figure Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent, senior Biden administration officials said.

The officials, speaking to reporters on a conference call, said the moves were being taken in coordination with the European Union. They reiterated President Joe Biden's call for Russia to release Navalny from prison, Reuters reported.

The sanctions were a response to what the officials said was a Russian attempt to assassinate Navalny last year, an accusation Russia denies. Biden's predecessor, former President Donald Trump, had not levied punishment on Russia over the Navalny attack.

Biden has taken a tougher approach to Russian President Vladimir Putin than Trump.

"The United States is neither seeking to reset our relations with Russia, nor are we seeking to escalate," one official said.

"We believe that the United States and our partners must be clear and impose costs when Russia's behavior crosses boundaries that are respected by responsible nations, and we believe there should be guard rails on how these adversarial aspects of our relationship play out," the official said.

Media watchdog seeks German investigation of Saudi crown prince over Khashoggi death

Global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has accused Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and several top officials of committing crimes against humanity in a criminal complaint filed in Germany.

According to Reuters, the 500-page complaint, filed on Monday with the German Public Prosecutor General in the Karlsruhe federal court, includes allegations of arbitrary detention of more than 30 journalists and the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Prince Mohammed has denied any involvement in Khashoggi's killing. Other Saudi figures named in the RSF filing could not be reached for comment and the Saudi government's media office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Those responsible for the persecution of journalists in Saudi Arabia, including the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, must be held accountable for their crimes," RSF Secretary-General Christophe Deloire said in a statement.

RSF said it filed the lawsuit in Germany because of its principle of universal jurisdiction, allowing its courts to prosecute crimes against humanity committed anywhere, and that other names could be added to the complaint at a later stage.

The German prosecutor's office said it had received the complaint and was assessing the legal and factual merits of it.

U.S. wasted billions of dollars on buildings and vehicles in Afghanistan

A scathing new report from a US watchdog says Washington wasted billions of dollars in war-ravaged Afghanistan on buildings and vehicles either abandoned or destroyed.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), which monitors U.S. taxpayers' money splurged on the long-drawn-out war, in a report released on Monday highlights massive US policy failures in Afghanistan, a country it invaded two decades ago.

The agency says it reviewed \$7.8 billion spent in the South Asian country since 2008 on buildings and vehicles, out of which only \$1.2 billion were used judiciously.

The report states that only \$343.2 million worth of buildings and vehicles "were maintained in good condition," pointing to rampant corruption and gross negligence on the part of U.S. agencies involved in the country.

"The fact that so many capital assets wound up not used, deteriorated or abandoned should have been a major cause of concern for the agencies financing these projects," John F. Sopko, the U.S. special inspector general, is quoted in the report.

Resistance News

UAE advancing normalization by sending envoy to Israel: Hamas

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN** – The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has slammed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for sending an envoy to the Israeli-occupied territories, saying the move shows Abu Dhabi is determined to insist on its "sin" of normalization with Tel Aviv.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem, in a statement released on Monday, reacted to news of UAE envoy Mohamed Mahmoud al-Khajah delivering his credentials to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at a ceremony in occupied Jerusalem al-Quds earlier in the day.

The statement said the move reflected Abu Dhabi's insistence on committing the "national sin" of normalizing relations with the Tel Aviv regime. "Normalization will always encourage the Israeli Occupation to deny our Palestinian people's rights, and continue its crimes against all segments of the Arab world," Qassem said.

On February 14, UAE's Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum swore in his country's first ambassador to the occupied territories.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani during an official ceremony hosted by ex-U.S. president Donald Trump at the White House on September 15 last year.

Palestinians, who seek an independent state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem as its capital view the deals as a betrayal of their cause.

Some \$154m paid to support tourism businesses across Iran

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Iranian government has paid 6.5 trillion rials (\$154.7 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in loans to the tourism businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic across the country in the current Iranian year 1399 (started on March 20, 2020), the tourism minister has said.



Although the coronavirus outbreak has caused significant damage to the tourism industry, one of the ministry's strategic plans is to diversify tourism products, which is expected to expand economic prosperity, Ali-Asghar Mounesan announced on Monday.

Several historical structures and aging buildings have been revived and repurposed into different accommodation centers to attract more domestic and foreign travelers, he added.

In recent years, nature tourism has also gained popularity due to the country's natural beauty and attractions, he explained.

In this regard, several eco-lodge units have been established even in the farthest regions of the country as well, the minister noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he expressed hope that limited Noruz trips would be possible, if practiced under health protocols, during the Iranian New Year vacations, which begins on March 21.

Government's care and support packages

Last October, the deputy tourism chief, Vali Teymouri, announced that a new support package was approved to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials (\$3,800 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to nine billion rials (\$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate, he said.

The loans would 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 in September 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."

Back in August, Teymouri announced that the tourism ministry had 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.

Tourism industry in critical situation

Mounesan in October warned that Iran's cultural heritage and tourism would be in a critical situation if the crises caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus continue.

Last August, the tourism minister said that the tourism sector of the Islamic Republic had suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

He also noted that the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. "Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning."

Optimistic forecasts, however, expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

Ancient potteries documented in laboratory of Abarkuh museum

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — A collection of earthen objects and clay vessels have recently been restored and documented in the laboratory of the Abarkuh Museum of Anthropology, tourism chief of the central Iranian town said on Tuesday.



Hamid Moshtaqian explained that some 35 historical earthen potteries including bowls, jars, vases, jugs, goblets, plates, candlesticks, and cups bearing engraved geometric and plant motifs have recently been added to the museum treasure trove.

Before being put on show, cultural heritage experts have to document the artifacts for better maintenance, he explained.

The official also noted that pottery is one of the valuable pieces of art and cultural heritage leftover from the past, which depicts a clear picture of the way people lived in this region.

Abarkuh is famed for its several historical castles and fortresses as well as being home to a 4000-year-old cypress, which is inscribed on the National Heritage List. Venetian merchant and explorer Marco Polo described the tree as one of the most stunning cypress trees he had ever seen in Iran.

Tourist cities not to return to pre-coronavirus levels until 2027, expert says

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Iranian tourist cities and some others in the world will not return to the way they were before the outbreak of the coronavirus until 2027, a senior advisor to Isfahan Chamber of Commerce has said.

Though a tourism-based economy is expected to replace the oil-reliant economy, tourism is still not a priority in the country's plans, which is one of the challenges of investing in this field, ISNA quoted Ali Karbasizadeh as saying on Tuesday.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the advisor lamented that the budget Iran spends on advertising and marketing in its tourism arena is not adequate.

"Although many countries such as Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Malaysia, and many others spend massive budgets for tourism marketing, Iran is lacking proper funding for advertising and marketing in the tourism arena, he explained.

Talking about the future of tourism in his hometown, Isfahan, he reminded that the development of Isfahan's tourism in this complicated situation requires very careful planning, as well as an ongoing marketing and branding campaign.

Back in January, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj said that the tourist flow from across the world to Iran will return to normal in 2022.

Although there are requests for trav-



eling to Iran in the current year (2021), most travel agencies and tour operators believe that the flow will go back to normal in the next year, he added.

He also noted that beginning mass vaccination against the coronavirus will provide better and safe conditions for international travels in 2022.

Last November, the World Tourism Organization announced that international tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight months of 2020 when compared to 2019, highlighting the severe

impact of COVID-19 as the main factor.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan in October warned that Iran's cultural heritage and tourism will be in a critical situation if the crises caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus continue.

In August, Mounesan said that Iran's tourism has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of interna-

tional trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

Hydro tourism on track to drive development in northern Iran

→ 1 "A budget of 280 billion rial (some \$6,650 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) was allocated to develop the first phase of the tourism complex, which covers 40 ha in area."

On Sunday, Deputy Energy Minister for Water and Wastewater Affairs Ghasem Taqizadeh Khamesi said 30 dams across Iran have been selected to be developed into tourism destinations, adding "Water tourism of the dams is estimated to generate 3,000 direct jobs when fully operated."

Back in May 2019, the Ministry of Energy inked a memorandum of understanding with the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry to lay the ground for launching dam tourism.

More glimpses of hydro tourism

Hydro tourism, or water tourism involves traveling to places specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some individuals who do not wish to partake in water-related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, dams, oceans, etc. Water tourists are regularly independent travelers, although some travel businesses do organize group trips.

While water tourism often includes active chases, some water tourists visit islands and shore regions to join more relaxed pursuits such as diving or swimming. Travel businesses organize tours of coral reefs and arrange for local tour guides to preside over excursions on which travelers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on

swimming and tanning rather than interacting with aquatic life.

Water trips occasionally involve inland destinations such as lakes and rivers. Holidaymakers can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ideally suited to white water rafting. Additionally, some leisure businesses operate water parks that contain swimming pools, water slides, and areas for kayaking or canoeing.

Mazandaran at a glance

Mazandaran, as a cradle of civilization, has a rich and colorful history. An early Iranian civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Tabarestan (Mazandaran). It was overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab general Yezid ibn Mohallab and was the last part of Iran to be converted to Islam, according to Britannica.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The highland slopes rise abruptly in the west and more gently in the east. Forests have been largely destroyed; the higher parts are cultivated summer pasture studded with villages partly deserted in winter. Wild boar, deer, and birds are numerous; the tiger, formerly found in the lowland, has disappeared. Cattle are usually humped; the buffalo is widely used as a draft animal. There are many rivers, including the Chalas,



Heris, Talar, Tajan, and Neka, which are well-stocked with trout and salmon.

Agriculture dominates the economy of the region; crops include rice, wheat, barley, tobacco, cotton, oilseeds, jute, tea, fruits, and vegetables. Agribusinesses, established under the agricultural reforms of the middle 1970s, undertook large-scale and mechanized farming. More than 247,000 acres (100,000 hectares) of land were developed for the production of rice.

Though much of Iran is composed of arid and semi-arid lands, the country has many rivers, waterfalls ponds, and wetlands offering scenic vistas to nature lovers and eco-travelers, backpackers, birdwatchers, and fishers.

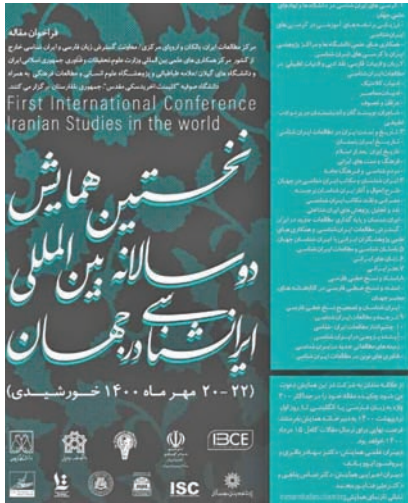
Intl. conference on Iranian studies to be held in October

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** —The first international conference on Iranian studies in the world will be held during October, IRNA reported on Monday.

Organized by the center for Persian language and Iranian studies development in collaboration with the Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' in Bulgaria, the event aims at paying more attention to the academic studies on Iranology and the Persian language.

It is also expected that the conference would lead to more academic cooperation, especially between Eastern European thinkers and Iranian scholars, according to organizers.

Submissions to the conference are divided into various categories such as literary criticism, comparative literature, Iranian arts and languages, and Persian



manuscripts.

Ancient Iran, also known as Persia, historic region of southwestern Asia that is only roughly coterminous with modern Iran. The term Persia was used for centuries, chiefly in the West, to designate those regions where the Persian language and culture predominated, but it more correctly refers to a region of southern Iran formerly known as Persis, alternatively as Pars or Parsa, modern Fars.

Parsa was the name of an Indo-European nomadic people who migrated into the region about 1000 BC. The first mention of Parsa occurs in the annals of Shalmanesar II, an Assyrian king, in 844 BC.

During the rule of the Persian Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), the ancient Greeks first encountered the inhabitants of Persis on the Iranian plateau, when

the Achaemenids—natives of Persis—were expanding their political sphere. The Achaemenids were the dominant dynasty during Greek history until the time of Alexander the Great, and the use of the name Persia was gradually extended by the Greeks and other people to apply to the whole Iranian plateau.

This tendency was reinforced with the rise of the Sasanian dynasty, also native to Persis, whose culture dominated the Iranian plateau until the 7th century CE. The people of this area have traditionally referred to the region as Iran, "Land of the Aryans," and in 1935 the government of Iran requested that the name Iran be used in lieu of Persia. The two terms, however, are often used interchangeably when referring to periods preceding the 20th century.

Historical caravanserai reopens doors to public following restoration

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan on Monday inaugurated the historical caravanserai of Dodehak after an extensive restoration job.

Located in Delijan, central Markazi province, the caravanserai, which was worn out over the years, was fully restored in collaboration with the private sector, the provincial tourism chief said during the re-opening ceremony.

A budget of 110 billion rials (\$2.6 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, Mostafa Marzban announced.

With an area of 2.8 hectares, the historical structure is planned to be used as a modern accommodation center, the official added.

The official also noted that some 3.7 trillion rials (\$88 million) have been invested in the tourism sector of the



province so far, which is expected to generate 605 job opportunities.

Estimated to date back to the Seljuk era (1037–1194), Dodehak caravanserai was added to the National Heritage list in 1998.

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

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country. For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

Iran targets Syrian market for technological, knowledge-based products

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Iran will open its third house of innovation and technology in the Syrian capital of Damascus with the aim of finding new markets for domestic technological and knowledge-based products, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, the first house of innovation and technology was inaugurated in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on January 27.

A house of innovation and technology has already been set up as a technology exchange office in China.

In this regard, the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari heading a delegation of 40 knowledge-based companies traveled to Syria.

During this trip, business meetings will be held between Iranian and Syrian companies to find an international market for the two countries' technological products. In these meetings, a safe and secure path will be created for the development of export and technology transfer from Iranian knowledge-based companies, Parviz Karami, an official with the Vice Presidency said.

The signing of a memorandum of cooperation for the development of scientific, technological, and political relations between the two countries are among the other purposes of the trip, he added.



He went on to say that other memorandums will be signed with the aim of cooperation in the field of building and equipping nanotechnology, biotechnology, and hospital equipment laboratories.

The Syrian Arab Republic, given its favorable geographical location in West Asia and the eastern Mediterranean coast, is a proper ground for exports of Iranian knowledge-based companies so that special programs have been prepared to

support the presence of Iranian knowledge-based firms in the region.

These sponsorships are implemented through the creation of an innovation and technology house and the provision of facilities such as permanent exhibitions, shared and private workspaces, meeting rooms, and services such as market research and local business partners.

By supporting innovative ideas, holding technological and innovative events,

the centers will be a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

Earlier in January, Ambassador of Syria to Tehran Shafiq Dayoub and Iranian Science Minister Mansour Gholami in a meeting in Tehran discussed ways to boost cooperation in the field of technology.

Setting up research laboratories, holding joint scientific conferences and seminars, boosting scientific skills training cooperation, exchanging students and professors as well as experiences, offering joint guidance of master's and doctoral dissertations, and publishing scientific articles in journals of the two countries were among the fields of cooperation discussed at the meeting.

The Syrian official emphasized that the realization of scientific advances in the field of economy and, more importantly, the transfer of these valuable experiences must be considered by developing countries.

Currently, over 5,700 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Biodiversity museum to offer free admission today



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — On March 3, which marks World Wildlife Day, the entry will be free to the biodiversity museum of Tehran located in the Department of Environment (DOE).

In the museum of the natural history of Iran, out of about 90,000 identified specimens in the world, there are more than 5,000 species of animals, plants, ancient and museums, while entry

is not open to the public.

The museum includes several sections, including a genetic bank that includes samples of genes from Iranian and foreign species for study, an herbarium collection, an animal taxidermy collection, and a geological museum.

There are the world's eight top specimens in the museum that are unique and there is no second specimen of them, including urials, hartebeest, dik-dik (the world's smallest antelopes), and Persian fallow deer.

Five ecoregions, rich biodiversity

Each region is defined by its characteristics that play a significant role in a land's biodiversity and richness, based on which, Iran shares five ecological zones with specific flora from the lowest to the highest parts.

The great difference between the two latitudes of the north and south of the country and the existence of different plains, altitudes, and climates have given a very diverse view to the vast land so that a variety of vegetation and plant species are grown across it.

World Wildlife Day

On December 20, 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 3 — the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973 — as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

World Wildlife Day has now become the most important global annual event dedicated to wildlife, which will be celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species, and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas.

The forests of the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological region include part of the southwest and all southern coasts, covering 2,039,963 hectares. Due to ecological differences, the main vegetation is divided into two territories of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

EURORDIS praises Iran's national document on rare diseases

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

Rare diseases prevalence

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

Out of a thousand population, 2 people get a rare disease, while the prevalence



can be curbed by changing people's culture, screening, identifying, preventing the births, and raising awareness.

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

Grouped together, rare diseases affect 6–8 percent (or about 30 million people)

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → E

Philanthropists support 28,000 orphans, deprived children

Iranian benefactors have made cash and kind contributions from the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (starting on May 6) to help 28,000 children who are either orphaned or whose parents are financially struggling, deputy director of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has announced.

There are currently 600,000 philanthropists who support orphaned children as well as children living in families in financial distress, IRNA quoted Alireza Asgarian as saying on Wednesday.

The foundation also intends to build housing units for families who cannot afford to rent houses, he added.

مردم ۲۸ هزار کودک بی سرپرست را تحت حمایت قرار دادند

معاون توسعه مشارکتهای مردمی کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) گفت: خیرین و نیکوکاران کشور از ابتدای ماه مبارک رمضان تاکنون ۲۸ هزار کودک بی سرپرست را تحت حمایت های مالی و غیرمالی خود قرار دادند.

علیرضا عسگریان روز چهارشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار اجتماعی ایرنا افزود:، ۶۰۰ هزار حامی در سطح کشور در یاری رسانی به ایتام و فرزندان محسنین با کمیته امداد همکاری دارند.

عسگریان اظهار داشت: ساخت مسکن برای خانواده های تحت پوشش کمیته امداد از دیگر برنامه های اجرایی و دارای اولویت کاری این نهاد در سال جاری است.

Floods cause annual loss of \$595m, FRWO says

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Annual floods bring Iran an average loss of 25 trillion rials (nearly \$595 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), head of the Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Organization (FRWO) has announced.

On average, 25 floods occur annually in Iran, ISNA quoted Masoud Mansour as saying on Tuesday.



Floods destroy resources, facilities, infrastructure, agricultural lands, and people's livelihoods, but the FRWO, by performing a series of watershed management measures in the form of mechanical, biomechanical, and biological measures, has reduced flood damage significantly, he explained.

With the implementation of watershed management projects, 9 tons per hectare of water erosion has been reduced annually, and in mountainous areas, 570 cubic meters of water has been extracted per hectare, he noted.

Moreover, some 1000 cubic meters of water per hectare is stored in underground aquifers and prevents the entry of 4 cubic meters of sediment behind the dams, he added.

He went on to say that 83 percent of the country is managed by the FRWO. To prevent the destruction of national resources, we need to accelerate cultural development.

Depletion of forest vegetation, low rainfall, and high water evaporation have caused the country's ecosystem to be sensitive and fragile, he lamented.

"Studies show that 16.4 tons of soil per hectare is eroded by water and 21 tons per hectare is lost by wind annually," he stated, adding, 450 cities and 8,280 villages are exposed to floods.

Watershed management saves 3,800 qanats

In recent years, 3,800 qanats have been rehabilitated through watershed and aquifer management, and people who had migrated due to water scarcity have returned to their homes, Mansour said.

The ancient qanat system of tapping alluvial aquifers at the heads of valleys and conducting the water along underground tunnels by gravity, often over many kilometers, first appeared in Iran, which was then spread to other West Asian countries, China, India, Japan, North Africa, Spain and from there to Latin America.

According to the Ministry of Energy, about 36,300 qanats have been identified in Iran, which has been saturated with water for over 2,000 years.

Qanats can come efficient to contain water scarcity due to relatively low cost, low evaporation rates, and not requiring technical knowledge, moreover, they proved sustainable being used in perpetuity without posing any damages to the environment, despite new water transfer projects, which not only puts the environment in danger but brings the country heavy economic burden.

Rangelands rich with 8,000 plant species

Referring to the country's rangelands stretching to 80 million hectares, he stated that 916,000 rural households depend on the country's rangelands to make a living.

According to Mansour, there are 8,000 plant species in the country's rangelands, of which 4,000 species are considered medicinal plants.

Explaining the potential of the country's rangelands, he noted that 2,000 tons of medicinal plants are exported annually.

Mansour also referring to forest functions, said that "according to the research, each hectare of forest produces 2.5 tons of oxygen annually."

Zagros forest covers 6 million hectares of the country stretching over 11 provinces, which produces 40 percent of the country's water, he said, adding, there are 2 million hectares called Hyrcanian or Caspian forests in the northern parts of the country, which can produce 5 billion cubic meters of water annually.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 137)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

جَدْوَل

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۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۱. فصل سرد ۲. در 'بزرگراه' است اما بزرگ نیست ۳. می رود است ولی 'می' ندارد. ۴. بعد از نه ۵. در رفتن ۶. نرفتنی، زدن ۷. پول ایران است اما 'ل' ندارد ۸. یک نان = ... ۹. رفتن ۱۰. روا گفتن ۱۱. چه کسی ... در نوشتن ۱۲. رفتن ۱۳. رقتیم، رسیدن ...
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● تمرین ۳. جمله را با "و" ترکیب کنید:							
۱. دانشجویان به سالن بسکتبال می روند. دانشجویان با هم بازی می کنند.							
۲. دیشب تکلیفمان را انجام دادیم. دیشب خوابیدیم.							
۳. بچه ها فارسی را کاملاً می فهمند. بچه ها قشنگ می نویسند.							
۴. خانم ها از مترو پیاده شدند. خانم ها دو ساعت خرید کردند.							
۵. ما صبح ها درس می دهیم. ما بعد از ظهر ها ورزش می کنیم.							

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Do not waste water even if you were at a running stream.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Lebanese scholar writes “Vanquisher of America” on Commander Qassem Soleimani

➔1 “The writer has introduced the characteristics of the commander in this book in addition to a brief history of the activities of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution, until the victory of the revolution and the political life of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei,” he added.



Front cover of Lebanese scholar Mohsen Saleh's book “Vanquisher of America” on Commander Qassem Soleimani.

“The writer has also carried out several interviews with Hassan Nasrallah, and Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, Mohammad-Jalal Firuznia, about Commander Soleimani to publish in the book,” he concluded.

Iran's chief of IRGC Quds Force Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy chief of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, were assassinated during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

Also in January, Iran's Cultural Office in Baghdad published a book on Soleimani in Iraq both in Persian and Arabic under the title “Guest of Iraq Written by Iraqi Personalities”.

The book has been written by several Iraqi cultural figures about the lofty characteristics of the commander.

“Characteristics of the School of Martyr Soleimani”, a book giving a brief analysis of the personal characteristics of Commander Qassem Soleimani through his discourses and memories, is another book on the Commander published in 12 countries. The book originally was written by Hojjatolislam Ali Shirazi in Persian.

“Alternative Journalism, Alternative Voices” appears in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — Tony Harcup's book “Alternative Journalism, Alternative Voices” has recently been published in Persian by Logos Publications in Qom.

The book has been translated into Persian by Jafar Mohammadi and Mehdi Montazer-Qaem.

Bringing together new and classic work, this book considers the development of alternative journalism from the 1970s up to today.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Tony Harcup's “Alternative Journalism, Alternative Voices”.

Harcup builds an understanding of alternative media through the use of detailed case studies and surveys. Including opinions of journalists who have worked in both mainstream and alternative media, he considers the motivations, practices and roles of alternative journalism as well as delving into ethical considerations.

Moving from the history of alternative journalism, Harcup considers the recent spread of ‘citizen journalism’ and the use of social media, and asks what the role of alternative journalism is today.

Harcup's writing about journalism can be found on university reading lists around the world, and has been translated into many languages including Chinese, Korean, Polish, Romanian and Persian.

Tony has more than 30 years of personal experience as a staff and freelance journalist in alternative and mainstream media ranging from small local weekly publications to national newspapers, magazines and websites.

“Saffron Land” by Hadi Dehqanpur wins FIAP Gold Medal at Pamir photography salon

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — Iranian photographer Hadi Dehqanpur's “Saffron Land” has been honored with the FIAP Gold Medal at the 2nd Pamir International Salon of Photography in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The photo showing a man passing through a farm covered with saffron flowers won the honor in the open color section, the organizers have announced last week.

The competition was organized by the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA) in the six categories of open monochrome, open color, people, landscape, nature and travel.

Several Iranian photographers have also been awarded other prizes.

In the open color category, Mehdi Kazemi Bumeh won the FIAP Ribbon for his photo “Ladder”, while Mohammad Esteki's “Sima” received an honorable mention.

The FPC Trophy in the open monochrome



“Saffron Lands” by Iranian photographer Hadi Dehqanpur won the FIAP Gold Medal at the 2nd Pamir International Salon of Photography in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Iranian doc “Maze of Progress” examines resistance economy in Russia, China, Turkey

Eslamzadeh and his crew have made trips to the countries to make the three-episode documentary, the first part of which was broadcast on IRIB's Channel 3 on Monday.

They have conducted interviews with dozens of officials and experts in the countries, including a former deputy director of the World Bank and senior officials in the Communist Party.

“This documentary's target audiences are elites, politicians, policy-makers and statesmen, however, it is certainly interesting for a general audience, because it has been produced to be broadcast on television,” he said.

The Open Door Policy in China, the struggle against the international sanctions on Russia and globalization in Turkey are among the topics scrutinized in this documentary.

The episode “Lottery in the Land of Coups” is dedicated to Turkey, while “Life without French Cheeses” focuses on Russia, and China has been surveyed in “The Mystery

of the Yellow Dragon”.

Eslamzadeh has previously made documentaries on international issues. “Life Among War Flags” is one of them.

It is the narration of war from two perspectives. At the beginning of the documentary, the camera accompanies the army into regions under the control of the government, and then it narrates the war from the perspective of the Taliban.

ISIS members from Turkey, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and some European countries who were interviewed inside the Taliban's secret prisons, provide another fascinating chapter of the documentary.

He is also the director of “Alone among the Taliban”, which portrays 15 days of his stay among the Taliban in Afghanistan.

This documentary won an honorable mention in a category titled “Terrorism, a Threat to Peace” at the 19th edition of DetectiveFEST in Russia in 2017.

Album featuring anthology of contemporary Iranian music for flute released

A R T TEHRAN — An album featuring an anthology of contemporary Iranian music for flute has been released.

This is the first collection of a series named “Iranian New Waves”.

The unique project presenting more than fifty compositions of new flute music by contemporary Iranian composers has been released by Petrichor Records, a newly established American record label dedicated to new music works by living composers.

The composers featured in this endeavor have benefited from this distinguished heritage to expand the repertoire of flute music with their own individual approaches.

This anthology encompasses a vast inspirational sphere, extending from village shepherd music to the hustle and bustle of today's metropolitan cities, from words by renowned Persian poets and traditional beliefs, to Western cultural influences.



“Iranian New Waves” by Petrichor Records.

The compositions presented in this project are either newly commissioned by the curators, or existing works that have never appeared previously on an album. This is an anthology of solo flute music by living Iranian composers. The result is a flute

repertoire endowed with the characteristics of Persian music.

The composers presented in this project are all of Iranian descent; although they reside around the world, each is significant in constructing today's music in Iran.

Composers of the first volume include Alireza Mashayekhi, Nader Mashayekhi, Reza Vali, Peyman Yazdani, Farnaz Modarresifar, Sina Fallahzadeh, Mehdi Khayami, Ankido Darash, Amin Sharifi, Arsalan Abedian, Ruzbeh Rafie, Ali Radman and Golfam Khayyam.

Musician Amin Sharifi and flutist Kelariz Keshavarz, both international award-winning musicians, are the project curators.

Sharifi's works have been performed in many countries and in his homeland, Iran. He has studied composition at the Art University of Tehran and Indiana University Jacobs School of Music under the direction of Sven-David Sandström,

Nader Mashayekhi, David Dzubay and Don Freund.

He has also worked as assistant conductor to Nader Mashayekhi with the Tehran Cultural Philharmonic Orchestra, and has conducted the Pierrot-Tehran New Music Ensemble, both in the First Tehran Contemporary Music Festival and in several recording seasons.

Keshavarz is an international award-winning musician in classical and contemporary flute playing, performing solo, chamber and orchestral works.

She has performed with Iranian and foreign orchestras in Iran, Austria, Lebanon and the United States.

Passionate about contemporary music, Kelariz has performed in many festivals including the Tehran Contemporary Music Festival, Missouri International Composers Festival, Flute New Music Consortium and several others.

Imagineindia festival picks four movies from Iran

A R T TEHRAN — Four movies by Iranian filmmakers have so far been selected to be screened at the 20th Imagineindia International Film Festival in Madrid.

“Charcoal” by Esmail Monsef will be competing in the official section of the festival.

“The Marriage Project” by Atieh Attarzadeh and Hesam Eslami, “Life Among War Flags” by Mohsen Eslamzadeh and “The White Whale” by Amir Mehran will be screened in other sections of the festival.

More films will be added as the organizers have not yet completed their lineups for various categories.

The story of “Charcoal” is set in rural northwest Iran, where Gheirat, a modest charcoal producer, is pushed into a

tragic spiral after his son, sentenced to jail, flees to Azerbaijan.

“Life Among War Flags” is the narration of war from two perspectives. At the beginning of the documentary, the camera accompanies the army into regions under the control of the government, and then it narrates the war from the perspective within the Taliban.

ISIS members from Turkey, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and some European countries who were interviewed inside the Taliban's secret prisons, provide another fascinating chapter of the documentary.

The documentary “The Marriage Project” is about Ehsan House, a center for patients with mental problems that initiates a plan to encourage its patients to form relationships with each other, get married and live as a family. As a selection

committee begins evaluating patients, hidden affections come to the surface. Finally, the team selects two patients to form the first couple. Are these two patients capable of having a relationship that leads to marriage?

In the animated movie “The White Whale”, many long years ago, a young man lost his friends in an air attack on a big river during the war. 30 years later, he is looking for their remains. A White Whale is the only sign he has.

Iranian director and producer Mehdi Rahmani is a member of the jury at the 20th Imagineindia festival, which will be organized in the Spanish capital of Madrid from May 17 to 31.

Hamed Behdad, the star of the Iranian drama “Castle of Dreams”, shared the award for best second actor of the Imagineindia festival in 2020.

James Delaney’s “Starting with Rousseau” comes into Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of “Starting with Rousseau” by James Delaney has recently been published by Markaz Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Masud Azarfar.

Jean Jacques Rousseau is one of the most important and influential thinkers of the Enlightenment period and, indeed, of the whole history of philosophy. His political theory heavily influenced the French Revolution, development of socialist theory and the growth of nationalism.

Clearly and thematically structured and covering all of Rousseau's key works, “Starting with Rousseau” leads the reader through a thorough overview of the development of his thought, resulting in a more thorough

understanding of the roots of his philosophical concerns. Offering coverage of the full range of Rousseau's ideas, the book firmly sets his work in the context of the Enlightenment, and explores his contributions to social theory, theories of human nature, philosophy of education, political philosophy and autobiography.

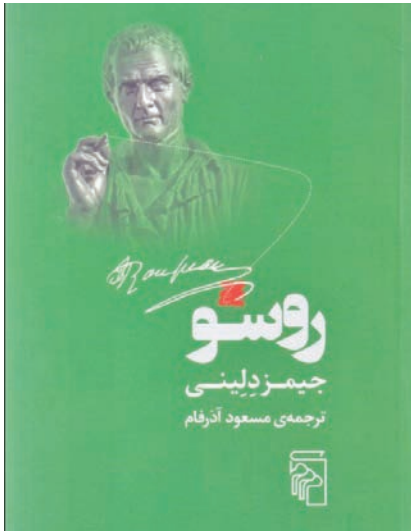
The concern that dominates Rousseau's work is to find a way of preserving human freedom in a world where human beings are increasingly dependent on one another for the satisfaction of their needs. This concern has two dimensions, material and psychological, of which the latter has greater importance.

In the modern world, human beings come to derive their very sense of self from the opinion of others, a fact which Rousseau

sees as corrosive of freedom and destructive of individual authenticity. In his mature work, he principally explores two routes to achieving and protecting freedom, the first is a political one aimed at constructing political institutions that allow for the co-existence of free and equal citizens in a community where they themselves are sovereign; the second is a project for child development and education that fosters autonomy and avoids the development of the most destructive forms of self-interest.

The book introduces the major thinkers and events that proved influential in the development of Rousseau's thought.

James J. Delaney is an assistant professor of philosophy at Niagara University in western New York.



Front cover of the Persian translation of James Delaney's “Starting with Rousseau”.