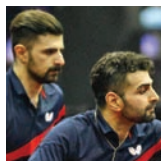




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**Yemeni drones attack Saudi air base, airport** *Page 5*

# Why is informal meeting so important for the West?

The West withdrew anti-Iran resolution in exchange for an informal meeting **See page 3**



**Richard Nephew a worrying signal to Tehran: British professor**

## Extremists exploit religious tensions to achieve parochial goals: South African scholar

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**  
A South African scholar believes that inter and intra-religious tensions help extremist groups to exploit the situation and attract the youth to advance their narrow-minded goals. "Violent extremist groups tend to exploit inter and intra-religious tensions to achieve parochial objectives," Akinola Olojo tells the Tehran Times.

"It is absolutely essential that cooperation across the religious spectrum is a component of preventing and countering violent extremism in African countries and indeed globally," says Olojo, a senior researcher in transnational threats and international crime at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria.

Following is the text of the interview:  
**What are the main reasons for the rise of violent extremism in Africa? Is Africa a safe haven for terrorists affiliated with ISIS?**

A combination of reasons helps us to make sense of the spread of violent extremism on the continent. These reasons can also be understood as risk factors that have existed for a long time in a number of African countries. These risk factors create conditions that violent extremist groups such as the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) and their affiliates are able to exploit.

Apart from ISIS, there are also groups such as Boko Haram and al-Shabaab. Decades of ineffective state institutions, longstanding neglect of communities living on the margins of society, failure to constructively engage local community actors or groups, including the youth, have collectively contributed to a situation where the aforementioned violent extremist groups exploit leadership gaps along with the power of ideology that equally exploits religion to appeal to vulnerable populations.

One must also understand that governments' weak understanding of the workings of these different groups and their strategies, as well as ill-informed state responses, also complicates the situation. Furthermore, in cases where good countering violent extremism (CVE) policies exist, the political will to implement these policies and the sense of urgency required are weak.

*Continued on page 5*

## IRGC Muhammad Rasulullah Division releases documents on Iran-Iraq war operations

TEHRAN – The 27th Mohammad Rasulullah Division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has declassified a large number of documents on the operations carried out during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in a book.

Besat 27 is the publisher of "Mountain of Fire" compiled by Golali Babai.

The book also gives extensive reports on the reconnaissance made by the division in the Bamu-Darbandikhan axis, and the operations Valfajr (Dawn) 3 and 4 from April to December 1983.

The reports have been produced based on a number of first-hand documents that have been preserved at some reliable archives, most of which have not been published before.

The major report of the book focuses on the long and difficult reconnaissance mission made by the division in the Bamu-Darbandikhan axis

during 1983 to gather information for carrying out operations Valfajr 5 and 3 in the Mehran and Diali regions, and Operations Valfajr 4 in the Shiler, Marivan and Panjvein regions.

In an introduction to the book, Babai wrote that the book line by line has been authored based on the written and verbal documents prepared by research centers for the war.

27th Muhammad Rasulullah Division was established as the 27th Muhammad Rasulullah Brigade by Ahmad Motevasselian and Mohammad-Ebrahim Hemmat during the war, and was expanded into a division just before the Jerusalem Operation.

A biography of Abbas Varamini, a commander of the 27th Muhammad Rasulullah Division was published earlier in 2018.

Javad Kalateh-Arabi is the writer of the book entitled "In the Tumult of Silence".

*Continued on page 8*

## Qais al-Khazali: Israel directing attacks on U.S. headquarters in Iraq

Qais al-Khazali, the secretary-general of Asaeb Ahl al-Haq, has said Israel is behind attacks on the U.S. embassy and military bases in Iraq.

In an interview with Iraq's Aletejah TV, Khazali stressed that Israel is directing the attacks on U.S. headquarters and embassies in Iraq and that the perpetrators are Iraqi mercenaries.

He said a number of Iraqi security figures also play a mediating role in managing operations against U.S. bases in the country.

Al-Khazali added that the Zionist regime is taking advantage of the situation in Iraq.

While Israel is behind such attacks it is accusing the resistance groups in order to bring the Biden government and the resistance groups into a conflict.

Meanwhile, Iraqi resistance groups have announced a new phase of resistance against U.S. forces in the country, vowing "confrontation with occupiers until the liberation of Iraq."

"The resistance sees confrontation as the only option that guarantees the freedom, dignity of this country after exhausting all the means that others have bet on with the occupation," the coordinating body for the Iraqi resistance factions said in a statement on Thursday, according to the Iraqi media.

"We are facing a new page from the pages of the resistance, in which the weapons of the resistance will reach all the occupation forces and its bases in any part of the homeland," they said.

Hailing the recent attacks against the "occupation forces", the statement added that "the resistance has the legal and national right and popular support for all of that, but will not target diplomatic missions."

*Continued on page 5*

## IRGC foils hijack attempt on Ahvaz-Mashhad flight

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has declared it has thwarted a plot to hijack a plane en route from the southwestern city of Ahvaz to Mashhad in northeast Iran, according to Press TV.

In a statement on Friday, the IRGC announced, "The noble and heroic nation of the Islamic Iran is informed that with the grace of God, the conspiracy to hijack a Fokker 100 aircraft belonging to Iran Air

... which had taken off from Ahvaz airport to the holy city of Mashhad at 22:10 hours Thursday night was neutralized with the vigilance of the Guard's flight security team."

The flight made an emergency landing in the central city of Isfahan and the hijacker was arrested, according to the statement.

"According to initial assessments, the

perpetrator of this conspiracy intended to land the plane at the airport of one of the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf after the hijack."

The statement said all passengers were safe and traveled to their destination on an alternative flight.

The IRGC said the "dimensions and angles of the conspiracy" are still under investigation.



**Ayatollah Khamenei urges all to prevent 'great blight' to environment**

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday warned against "the great blight" to the ongoing process of environmental degradation, urging both people and officials to resist natural resource destruction.

Environmental destruction will endanger the "future of human beings," the Leader said after planting two fruit tree saplings on the occasion of National Tree Planting Day.

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## Affordable prices expected to bring back boom into Iran tourism

TEHRAN – The reasonable prices of Iran tours are expected to bring back the boom into the tourism sector of the country in post coronavirus era, the head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association has said.

"Attractive tour plans are also being prepared for those who are eager to explore the historical attractions and natural wonders of the ancient country and want to experience a vacation here," Ebrahim Pourfaraj said on Thursday.

He also expressed hope that international tour operators and companies who have worked with their Iranian counterparts for years, would put Iran back on the world's travel route again, considering the facilities they can get at cheaper prices than in other countries.

Referring to health tourism as a popular branch in Iran, he noted that medical services in Iran are provided at a lower price than what may be offered at double the price in other countries. Back in January, the official announced that the tourist flow from across the world to Iran will return to normal in 2022.

Although there are requests for traveling 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 explained.

Beginning mass vaccination against the coronavirus will provide better and safe conditions for international travels in 2022, he added.

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.

*Continued on page 6*



## Zarif utterly rejects JCPOA renegotiation

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Thursday once again strongly ruled out any renegotiation of the 2015 nuclear deal and called for stopping “posturing”.

According to the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran agreed to put limit on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

The agreement was struck between Iran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France) and Germany.

“JCPOA cannot be renegotiated—period,” Zarif said on his Twitter account.



Zarif was responding to Wendy Sherman, U.S. President Joe Biden's nominee for deputy secretary of state, who said earlier that the facts on the ground have changed since the nuclear agreement was signed, calling for a “stronger” deal.

“I would note that 2021 is not 2015, when the deal was agreed, nor 2016, when it was implemented,” Sherman said during a Senate confirmation hearing on Wednesday, according to Press TV. “The facts on the ground have changed, the geopolitics of the region have changed, and the way forward must similarly change.”

Iran's chief diplomat said if 2021 is not 2015, the situation has also changed greatly since 1945 and it is time to abolish the veto right which the U.S. has misused it repeatedly since that time.

“If 2021 is not 2015, it's not 1945 either. So let's change UN Charter & remove the veto—so often abused by US,” Zarif asserted.

At the end of World War II in 1945, the victors, namely the U.S., Russia, France, Britain and China, gave themselves the veto right when the United Nations was established.

Zarif added “let's stop posturing” and “get down” to implementing the multilateral agreement.

The 2015 nuclear deal, endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, was abandoned unilaterally in May 2018 by the Trump administration in pursuit of a “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran. The “maximum pressure” was aimed to force Iran to renegotiate what the Trump team called a “better deal”. However, Iran adopted “maximum resistance” in the face of maximum pressure.

The current officials in the Biden administration have acknowledged that the “maximum pressure” campaign was a failure.

The nuclear deal between Iran and the West started in 2003 and lasted for more than a decade without producing any result. However, intensive nuclear talks were resumed in 2013 which produced the JCPOA.

Zarif said posturing produced nothing from 2003-2012.

Sherman, who had helped negotiate the JCPOA, suggested that Biden had deserted his presidential campaign promise to re-enter the deal, saying the US president's goal was “a deal that is longer and stronger.”

Tehran has repeatedly ruled out any renegotiation of the deal, saying the only way to save the agreement is for the U.S. to lift its sanctions on Iran and rejoin the accord.

Sherman also suggested that Washington should keep some of the illegal sanctions on Iran, even if the U.S. returns to the JCPOA—a move Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has warned about.

Earlier on Thursday, President Hassan Rouhani said the United States has violated the JCPOA and it is Washington that should take practical steps to rejoin the deal and lift all sanctions on Tehran.

The Trump administration not only returned the sanctions lifted under the JCPOA, it also added new ones, including a total ban on Iran's oil sale. It also refused to loosen the illegal sanctions amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

Iran has called the sanctions “economic terrorism”. In March 2020, Zarif said, “The world can no longer be silent as U.S. Economic Terrorism is supplanted by its Medical Terrorism.”

“The U.S., as the one who violated the deal, shall lift all sanctions and take practical steps in order to be able to return to the JCPOA,” Rouhani said during an address to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit, which was held through videoconference.

Progressive organizations are pressing the Biden administration to swiftly rejoin the Obama-era nuclear deal, warning that coming back into the pact will be more difficult as time goes on.

In a letter to the White House on Wednesday, the 32 progressive groups lambasted the Trump administration, which pulled out of the JCPOA in favor of “maximum pressure” strategy that imposed harsh sanctions on Iran, The Hill reported.

The groups said that approach must be quickly reversed to come to a new arrangement with Iran.

“The longer the elements of ‘maximum pressure’ remain in effect, the more it will continue to embolden hardliners and make U.S.-Iran diplomacy more difficult,” they wrote.

Biden campaigned on joining the nuclear deal. His administration recently said it was open to restarting discussions with European countries and Iran to begin the process of rejoining the agreement.

The president has maintained that the U.S. will only return to the table if Iran first brings its nuclear enrichment levels back down to levels when the JCPOA went into force in January 2016. However, the groups said that stance could hinder negotiations.

“We have been heartened by various developments over recent weeks, including the U.S. accepting an invitation from Europe to join talks on the future of the deal, the acknowledgement that Trump's attempted snapback of UN Security Council Resolutions failed, and the lifting of travel restrictions on key Iranian officials,” they wrote.

“However, we are concerned about the time that is being taken in the lead-up to formal negotiations and by recent statements that could be construed to indicate that Iran must take the first steps to meet its JCPOA obligations before the United States takes its own steps,” they continued. “We support your policy of ‘compliance for compliance,’ but the fact of the matter is that the United States was the first to violate the deal. It is therefore reasonable to expect the United States to at the very least take concurrent steps with Iran to rejoin it.”

Biden is staring down a dwindling timeline to rejoin the deal amid an array of developments in Iran.

Tehran confirmed in January that it intends to enrich its uranium to up to 20 percent at its Fordow facility. And elections in Iran in June are rapidly approaching.

The letter from the progressive groups comes amid burgeoning frustration among liberals with Biden's foreign policy.

# Moscow expresses hope for JCPOA revival in its original form

### Lavrov urges all parties to fully implement their commitments

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, has urged all parties to the 2015 nuclear deal -JCPOA- to fully implement their commitments, hoping for a revival of the deal in its original form, according to Tasnim news agency.

According to Russia's top diplomat, the window of opportunity for saving the nuclear accord has not been closed yet and the necessary condition is a full and consistent implementation of the 2015 agreement by all parties.

Lavrov made the remarks in an interview with the Russkaya Mysl magazine published in the UK.

“We hope that it will be possible to reverse the trend and return the process of implementing the JCPOA to the originally agreed on framework in the immediate future. Even more so, since Tehran has repeatedly spoken in favor of its willingness to completely unfreeze all of the plan of action's provisions that it had suspended as soon as the forfeited balance of interests is restored. For our part, we are ready to provide all kinds of assistance in reaching agreements on that score,” Lavrov emphasized when asked whether it was possible to restore the nuclear deal in cooperation with



European countries.

“However, not everything here depends on us or the European participants in the plan of action. The Biden administration's stance is of key significance. In our view, steps by Washington showing Tehran that the United States' intentions to return to the JCPOA are serious would help break the impasse

around Iran and its nuclear program,” the top Russian diplomat remarked.

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 between Iran and six world states — the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China—and was ratified in the form of Resolution 2231 at the UN Security Council, but in 2018 the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from

the nuclear agreement as his administration pursued a “maximum pressure” strategy against Tehran.

The remaining European parties also failed to compensate for Washington's sanctions. Since then, Iran has started to take its own measures in response to the Western parties' refusal to meet commitments under the JCPOA.

Iran's moves to reduce its commitment under the JCPOA have been within the framework of the nuclear accord and will not mean withdrawal from it.

However, Iran has expressed its readiness to reverse the suspension of its commitments only if the U.S. returns to the nuclear deal and lifts all sanctions without any preconditions or if the European co-signatories manage to protect business ties with Iran against Washington's sanctions as part of their contractual obligations.

Hassan Rouhani, the Iranian president, has declared that the Islamic Republic will honor its JCPOA commitments in full if the U.S. fulfills all of its undertakings, saying while the rhetoric has changed in Washington there has been no practical shift in the United States' policies toward Iran.

## Nuclear official says Iran will never surrender to pressure or threat

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), says Tehran will never forego its nuclear rights under pressure or threats by the West, warning that pressure on Iran will only destroy what has remained from the nuclear deal.

Kamalvandi said Iran has had the highest cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the history of the UN body.

“We have always said that Iran does not accept pressure and threat, especially since we have had the most cooperation with the Agency,” Fars quoted Kamalvandi as saying.

Kamalvandi made the remarks before E3 (the UK, France and Germany) withdrew their decision to submit a resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors that would have censured Iran for not cooperating enough with the UN nuclear watchdog.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry hailed the European countries' decision to avoid supporting such a resolution.

“Vote on the resolution was called off with intensive diplomatic efforts in Tehran, Vienna and the capitals of all members of the Agency's board of governors, specially the three European countries, as well as the support of China and Russia,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh stated.

Iran has suspended the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in response to the U.S. pullout from the JCPOA and a failure by the Europeans to honor their commitments.

“The implementation of the Majlis approval to stop voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol was the natural consequence of non-commitment of other parties to the pact,” Kamalvandi stressed.

The decision to was based on a parliamentary decision

which obliged the government to limit IAEA inspections until sanctions are lifted.

Under the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran promised to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of financial and economic sanctions.

Iran's moves are based on paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which has provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.

Kamalvandi emphasized that the U.S. and the three European governments party to the JCPOA must be held accountable for violation of their obligations.

Iran has been insisting that it will immediately return to full compliance if the other side honors its commitments and lift sanctions.

Though Joe Biden had promised to cherish the nuclear deal if he is elected president, he has done nothing tangible so far.

## Judiciary says to sue European firms for aiding Saddam's gas attacks on Iranians

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Ali Baqeri-Kani, the head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, says Iran has filed lawsuits in international courts against European companies that provided chemical materials to former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime, who used chemical weapons against Iranians in the 1980s, according to Press TV.

Baqeri-Kani noted the Judiciary has filed lawsuits for more than 200 of the victims of Saddam's chemical attacks, and final verdicts have been issued for 70 of the cases.

He lamented that the same countries which

“brutally” helped butcher the Iranian people through their “chemical weapons” are now “arrogantly” violating the rights of the Iranian people through their “economic and political” tools, making a reference to their use of sanctions and international institutions against Iran.

“The governments that are exerting the highest amount of pressure and the most extensive sanctions against the Iranian people today are the ones that provided Saddam with chemical weapons, prevented international action against the Ba'athist regime and prevented media coverage of Saddam's

crime,” he stated.

He also said the same Western countries that suffocated civilians in the Sardasht neighborhood now claim to champion human rights in Geneva fortresses.

The official went on to invite Western rulers to hold their next so-called human rights meeting in Sardasht, so that they closely see the effects of their atrocities against the Iranian people.

“In the Sardasht crime, although Saddam played the role of the executioner in the most criminal way, the approach and action of some Western governments were certainly

not less than the role of the executioner,” Baqeri-Kani remarked.

Sardasht, a small city in Iran's West Azerbaijan Province, was targeted by Saddam's Iraq on June 28, 1987, when Iraqi bombers attacked four densely populated parts of Sardasht with fatal chemical gasses.

Iraq launched over 350 large-scale gas attacks along the Iran-Iraq border between 1980 and 1988 on combatants and non-combatants, leaving behind over 107,000 victims.

As many as 2,600 of that total died at the time, and more than 45,000 others were left in permanent need of treatment.

## Things moving in right direction, French diplomat says of JCPOA

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran has given encouraging signs in recent days about opening informal talks with world powers and the United States, two European diplomats said on Thursday after European powers scrapped plans to criticize Tehran at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), according to Reuters agency.

The European powers, all parties to the 2015 deal, have been lobbying for the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors to adopt a resolution at its quarterly meeting this week expressing concern at Iran's latest moves, including ending the basis for snap IAEA inspections.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh praised the EU decision and noted the move kept diplomatic efforts alive.

“Today's development can preserve the path of diplomacy that was created by Iran and the IAEA and pave the way for returning to full compliance by all parties to the JCPOA”, Iranian state media quoted him as saying, referring to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal.

Iran has so far refused to participate in a meeting proposed by the EU between world powers and the United States on the revival of 2015 nuclear deal.

“Things are moving in the right direction and we have had positive signals this week and especially in last few days,” a French diplomatic source said. The diplomat noted the goal is to get everyone around the table before the start of Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, on March 20.

“The window would also narrow from mid-April when Iran's presidential election campaign kicks in,” he added.

“We are putting all our efforts so that this (meeting) can take place in the days or coming weeks,” the source asserted.

A second European diplomat also expressed hope there had been positive signals from the Iranian government.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))



Did you know that the number of Sunni seminary students and scholars has increased by more than 300%, compared to before the Islamic Revolution, and that they freely study Sunni religious sciences?

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





# Why is informal meeting so important for the West?

The West withdrew anti-Iran resolution in exchange for an informal meeting

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran and the West have reached a temporary understanding on deescalating tensions, a compromise that if not followed by a goodwill gesture from the United States, would end in failure, bringing the nuclear standoff back to square one.

After a few days of intensive diplomatic efforts, Iran and the European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal – France, Germany, and the UK (E3) – arrived at an understanding to resolve the outstanding issue surrounding Iran’s cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the second compromise in less than a month.

According to the Thursday understanding, the Europeans agreed to “pause” on their push to adopt a resolution censuring Iran at the IAEA’s board of governors “for now.”

“We have decided to pause on this initiative for now, despite clear support within the IAEA Board of Governors, to allow time for the Director-General to conduct the renewed effort he announced to this Board earlier this week to break the deadlock and to clarify and resolve these issues without further delay. We support the DG’s initiative,” the E3 three said in a statement on Thursday.

The Europeans were referring to the deal Iran struck with the IAEA chief Rafael Grossi on February 21 on continuing cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog while implementing a nuclear law passed by the Iranian parliament that obligates the government to stop the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by February 23 if the West failed to lift oil and banking sanctions on Iran.

By signing a deal with Grossi, Iran gave



the West yet another opportunity to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). However, the Europeans chose to ramp up diplomatic pressures on Iran instead of seizing on Iran’s goodwill gesture. They put forward a resolution against Iran at the Agency’s board and only withdrew it at the last minute after Iran once again chose diplomacy over the escalation of tensions.

The Europeans and their newfound allies in Washington had two main requests: First, they asked Iran to attend an informal meeting with all remaining JCPOA parties and Robert Malley, the U.S. special envoy on Iran. Second, they called on Iran to fully

cooperate with the Agency and resume implementing its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA.

Iran rejected the first request, saying that the U.S. must lift sanctions before any such an informal meeting can take place. As regards the second request, Iran has said that it will continue necessary cooperation with the IAEA for the next three months. After that, it will further reduce cooperation if the West fails to lift sanctions.

After a few weeks of diplomatic efforts, Iran and the West seem to have reached a new understanding concerning these two requests.

Reuters reported on Thursday that Iran

has given encouraging signs in recent days about opening informal talks with world powers and the United States.

A French diplomatic source told Reuters that the Europeans are doing everything in their power to hold a meeting between Iran and the U.S. “We are putting all our efforts so that this (meeting) can take place in the days or coming weeks,” the source said.

It is not clear why the Europeans and the Americans are eagerly pushing for a meeting between Iran and the U.S. but observers believe that the meeting would – at least in the short term – enable the Biden administration to brag about its diplomatic deftness in bringing Iran to the negotiating table without lifting sanctions, something that the Trump administration worked its butts off to achieve but miserably failed to.

If true, this means that the Biden administration should move beyond partisan politics and return to common sense before it’s too late. Iran has now proved its goodwill more than once and that the U.S. needs to reciprocate by taking concrete steps that would address Iran’s concerns regarding the sanctions.

Iran has said that the recent development at the IAEA board will pave the way for diplomacy.

“Today’s development can maintain the path of diplomacy opened by Iran and the IAEA, and prepare the grounds for the full implementation of commitments by all parties to the JCPOA,” Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, said in a statement on Thursday.

Therefore, now it’s up to the U.S. to move beyond hesitations and get back on track of diplomacy.

## Iran will ‘reciprocate action by action,’ Rouhani tells U.S.

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani of Iran on Thursday urged the U.S. to return to its commitments under the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal, reiterating Tehran’s position that the Islamic Republic will “reciprocate action by action”.

Delivering a virtual speech at the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit, the Iranian president decried the U.S. sanctions on Iran, saying “In the last four years, the international community has witnessed the U.S. illegal approach and a full-scale economic war against Iran. These cruel and illegal sanctions have inflicted irreparable damage to Iran’s government and people.”

Rouhani added, “As per Iran’s wisdom and insight, the JCPOA has so far survived despite the fact that the U.S. had opted for its obliteration. The U.S., as the one who violated the deal, shall lift all sanctions and take practical steps in order to be able to return to JCPOA. The Islamic Republic of Iran will reciprocate action by action. The return path to the JCPOA is straightforward, and if the U.S. government is determined to return, there is no need for negotiations.”

**Rouhani underlines need to operationalize ECO programs**

Rouhani also underscored the necessity to operationalize the programs and decisions of ECO, suggesting a number of proposals in this regard.

The president described ECO as a priority for Iran as he highlighted the unparalleled potentials of the economic bloc’s countries.

“Economic Cooperation Organization constitutes a priority in the paradigm governing Iran’s regional and neighborhood policies. ECO enjoys invaluable potential in terms of human and natural resources, energy reserves, complementary

economies, interested private sectors, and an incomparable regionally and globally transit and transport advantages. In fact, ECO meets all the requisites for being a success story of regional integration,” Rouhani said.

He added, “There have been major steps towards the enhancement of economic cooperation within ECO and precious achievements have been made. However, in certain areas such as trade, the achievements have not met expectations. Despite the high trade potential and the necessary infrastructure in place, intra-regional trade remains as low as less than 10 percent – totally unacceptable. This has also been addressed in the ECO Vision 2025.”

Rouhani told the summit that “we need to concentrate on operationalization of the ECO agreed programs and decisions with a view to accelerating the pace towards realization of the goals and objectives of the Organization.”

To this end, Rouhani suggested the following proposals:

- Implementation of ECO trade agreement as well as working out ways and means to expand intra-regional trade,
- Further activation of private sectors for the sake of trade boost,

- Strengthening and activation of the existing and new ECO agencies such as ECO Trade and Development Bank, ECO Reinsurance Company, ECO Regional Institute for Standardization (RISCAM), and ECO Chamber of Commerce,
- Removing the obstacles and challenges encountering transit and transport cooperation as the fundamental infrastructure for trade expansion.

The Iranian president added, “The Islamic Republic of Iran remains ready to actively contribute to the operationalization of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and creating

the necessary financial, banking and customs arrangements while having on board all ECO Member States. Given our geographical location, we are prepared to share our transport network as well as infrastructures and facilities along the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman with ECO Members, particularly the landlocked countries, bridging them with international waters and markets.”

Rouhani highlighted the challenges facing the international community, underlining the need for regional cooperation in the post-Covid era.

“The international community is now experiencing formidable challenges which have affected all facets of human life. The COVID-19 has deeply and destructively affected economic and welfare conditions of the countries in the world. No country can afford to tackle such challenges single-handedly. Rather, it requires collective will along with joint cooperation. Accordingly, we consider very timely and promising for ECO Region the theme of this Summit, namely ‘Regional Cooperation in the post-COVID era,’” he pointed out.

According to Rouhani, in the time of the pandemic, the international community has disappointedly failed to act against unilateral measures and unlawful sanctions dragged into the realm of the fight against the disease, targeting the countries’ capabilities in their struggle against this global plague.

“The great powers’ moves in depriving other nations of fundamental rights as well as their disrespect for international organizations necessitate response from the likeminded countries including through strengthening cooperation and creating a united front against these challenges,” Rouhani continued.

## Tehran welcomes withdrawal of resolution at IAEA

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran has welcomed a Western decision to withdraw a U.S.-backed resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency’s board of governors that would have censured Iran for allegedly not cooperating enough with the UN nuclear watchdog.

“Today’s development can maintain the path of diplomacy opened by Iran and the IAEA, and prepare the grounds for the full implementation of commitments by all parties to the JCPOA,” Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, said in a statement on Thursday, referring to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal by its acronym.

The spokesman said the plan to adopt an anti-Iran resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was shelved thanks to intensive diplomatic efforts in Tehran, Vienna, and the capital cities of all member states of the board of governors, especially the E3, and with the cooperation of China and Russia.

He also expressed hope that the parties to the nuclear deal – formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – would seize the opportunity to fully implement the nuclear deal.

Iran hopes the parties involved in the JCPOA would be able to tap into this opportunity, and guarantee the full implementation of the JCPOA by everyone through serious cooperation, Khatibzadeh continued.

The European signatories to the JCPOA

– France, Germany, and the UK (E3) – were expected to adopt a resolution that would have criticized Iran for reducing nuclear commitments but they canceled their plan to give more time to diplomacy, according to Reuters.

Citing diplomats, Reuters said on Thursday that Britain, France and Germany have scrapped a U.S.-backed plan for the UN nuclear watchdog to criticize Iran for reducing cooperation with its inspectors, in a bid to avoid escalation and make room for diplomacy.

The three European powers, all parties to the 2015 deal, have been lobbying for the International Atomic Energy Agency’s 35-nation board of governors to adopt a resolution at its quarterly meeting this week expressing concern at Iran’s latest breaches, including ending the basis for snap IAEA inspections, Reuters said, adding that the resolution also called on Iran to answer the IAEA’s questions on the origin of uranium particles recently found at several undeclared and apparently old sites. Just as time for a resolution was running out, the IAEA announced a new diplomatic push to get answers from Iran.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said the Agency will start talks with Iran in early April to resolve outstanding issues.

“We are trying to sit down around the table and see if we can resolve this once and for all,” Grossi said, noting, “We are going to be starting this process of focused analysis of the situation with a technical meeting which

will take place in Iran at the beginning of April which I hope will be followed by other technical or political meetings.”

The E3 issued a joint statement saying they have put on hold their plan to adopt a resolution against Iran at the IAEA board meeting.

“We have decided to pause on this initiative for now, despite clear support within the IAEA board of governors, to allow time for the Director General to conduct the renewed effort he announced to this Board earlier this week to break the deadlock and to clarify and resolve these issues without further delay. We support the DG’s initiative. We hope that Iran will use this time to enter into a substantial dialogue with the Agency on outstanding issues. We encourage the DG to keep the Board informed regarding progress on monitoring and verification in Iran in all its aspects,” the joint statement said.

Iran hailed the E3 decision to scrap their plan to adopt the resolution as a move that prevented unnecessary tension.

“Due to extensive diplomatic consultations at the @iaeaorg, a glimpse of hope is looming to prevent unnecessary tension. Wisdom prevails,” Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to international organizations in Vienna, said in a tweet on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned that the IAEA should not be a venue for political games.

## SPORTS

### Alamian’s brothers win bronze at WTT Contender Series

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian duo Nima Alamian & Noshad Alamian won a bronze medal at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender Series on Friday.

A competition is underway at the Lusail Sports Arena in Qatar’s capital city, Doha.

Alamian brothers failed to book their place at the final match, losing to Argentine pair Gaston Alto and Horacio Cifuentes 3-2 (11-8, 12-10, 12-10, 11-7, 15-13) in the Men’s Doubles Semi-Finals.

A WTT Star Contender event will follow from March 8 to 13.

The Contender series of events aims to provide opportunities for future and emerging players on the professional tour.

Players can earn ranking points which will allow them to feature in the top tier WTT Champion Series, an exclusive series for the top 32 men’s and women’s players.

### Persepolis midfielder Torabi eligible to play against Sanat Naft

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** —Persepolis midfielder Mehdi Torabi is eligible to play against Sanat Naft.

The Reds are scheduled to meet Sanat Naft on Saturday in Abadan.

Torabi joined Persepolis from Qatari club Al Arabi in early February but failed to accompany the team since the team were banned due to unpaid debts to its former striker Mario Budimir.

Now, Torabi can play for Persepolis since the Persepolis has been lifted. His International Transfer Certificate (ITC) has been issued by the Iran Football Federation.

He was sidelined in Al Arabi due to injury and was unhappy over his lack of playing time in the Qatari team.

Torabi joined Persepolis from Saipa in 2018 and claimed two Iran Professional League titles, one Hazfi Cup and one Super Cup with the team.

“I want to repeat my previous success with Persepolis, that’s why I have returned to the team,” Torabi had said after joining Persepolis.

### Azad University crowned Iran water polo league champions

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Azad University water polo team claimed the title of Iran Water Polo League on Friday.

Azad University defeated Nofallah 14-7 in the final match and came the first.

Earlier in the day, Raad Padafand Havaei defeated Naft Omi-dieh 16-6 in the third-placed match.

The 30th edition of Iran Water Polo League was played in centralized format at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran.

### Alireza Beiranvand returns to Antwerp training

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand has returned to Antwerp’s training

after two weeks.

In the match against St. Truiden, he suffered a thigh muscle and had to be taken off for the second game in a row to be replaced by on-loan Eupen keeper Ortwin De Wolf again.

Antwerp Coach Franky Vercauteren had said Beiranvand would likely miss several weeks but the goalie has returned to the training, the Belgium media reported.

Antwerp is scheduled to meet Kortrijk on Saturday at the Bosuilstadion.

### Amin Ghaseminejad close to joining Eteghlal

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian football media reports suggest that Shahr Khodro striker Amin Ghaseminejad will join Esteghlal within the next two days.

Esteghlal newly-appointed coach Farhad Majidi is going to sign the player.

The 34-year-old striker will pen a contract with the Blues. Esteghlal look forward to end their eight-year title drought.

Ghaseminejad has started his football career in Persepolis of Ghaemshahr in 2007 and has played in Giti Pasand and Machine Sazi as well.

### Sayyadmanesh, Gholizadeh shortlisted for AFC International Player of Week

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Allahyar Sayyadmanesh carved out a classic moment in Ukraine and has been nominated for the AFC International Player of the Week, the-afc.com wrote.

Another Iranian winger Ali Gholizadeh has been also shortlisted for the award and the Persian pair will vie with Wataru Endo (VfB Stuttgart, Japan), Son Heung-min (Korea Republic, Tottenham Hotspur), Yui Hasegawa (AC Milan, Japan), Musa AlTaamari (OH Leuven, Jordan), Saki Kumagai (Olympique Lyonnais, Japan), Mary Fowler (Montpellier, Australia), Rebin Sulaka (Levski Sofia, Iraq) and James Jeggo (Aris Thessaloniki, Australia) in the voting.

But who deserves the title of Asia’s leading legionnaire for the week just gone?

**Allahyar Sayyadmanesh (Zorya Luhansk, Iran)**  
90 minutes, 1 assist, 17 duels won, 83% pass accuracy (1-0 v Shakhtar Donetsk)

The moment of the week in Ukrainian football belonged to 19-year-old Iranian forward Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, who produced a sensational last-gasp assist for 10-man Zorya. In the final seconds of the match, the on-loan Fenerbahce youngster collected the ball in his own half and embarked on a brilliant solo run before setting up Dmytro Ivanisena’s winner against defending champions Shakhtar.

**Ali Gholizadeh (RSC Charleroi, Iran)**  
90 minutes, 1 goal, 10 duels won, 4 successful dribbles (1-2 v KRC Genk)

A return to the International Player of the Week list for Charleroi’s Ali Gholizadeh, who reacted quickest to slam a loose ball into the net in a 2-1 defeat against Genk. The Iranian winger now has seven goals and seven assists this season.



## Red meat price to fall in this week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The head of Tehran Guild Union for Lamb Meat Supply and Distribution, Ali Asghar Maleki, said that the price of red meat will fall in the country in this Iranian calendar week (started today).

As announced by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), production of red meat in Iran stood at 40,400 tons in the tenth month of the current Iranian calendar year (December 21, 2020 – January 19, 2021), showing 38 percent growth compared to the same month in the past year.



The SCI's report said that beef and veal had the lion's share in the country's red meat output during the tenth month with 23,500 tons, followed by lamb and mutton with 13,600 tons, goat meat with 2,500 tons, and red meat from other livestock with 775 tons.

The head of Iran's Livestock Provision Council has called on the government to purchase the red meat at guaranteed prices to support the producers.

Mansour Pourian has also recommended the exports of livestock to support the producers while bringing foreign revenue for the country.

Saying that the purchase of red meat at guaranteed prices started in the country in the middle of the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (early July, 2020), Pourian announced that 4,000 tons of red meat have been purchased in this way by the State Livestock Affairs Logistics Company since then.

The purchase of red meat at guaranteed prices is already done in 15 provinces, including Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Gilan, Alborz, Yazd, Isfahan, Fars, Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, East Azarbaijan, and Semnan, he said, adding that it will be then conducted in the other provinces as well.

Iran's deputy agriculture minister, Morteza Rezaei, has said that the total production of red and chicken meat is expected to reach 3.5 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

## Development projects worth over \$86m inaugurated in southern ports

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated 24 development projects worth over 3.626 trillion rials (about \$86.3 million) at the ports of southwestern Bushehr and Hormozgan provinces.

As reported by IRNA, 20 of the mentioned projects were inaugurated in Hormozgan province, while the other four were put into operation in Bushehr.

Overall, the mentioned projects, which were inaugurated during a visit by the minister to the mentioned provinces, are going to create direct job opportunities for more than 1,000 people.

An electricity dispatching project, a terminal for hazardous goods, some oil products storage tanks, as well as a transit and export terminal in Shahid Rajaei port, were some of the projects inaugurated in Hormozgan province.



Several tourist docks in ports and islands, inauguration and commissioning of CCTV monitoring system of Shahid Rajaei port's security unit, and overhaul of a railway line in this port were also put into operation in the mentioned province.

The fire extinguishing system of Kharg port, the overhaul of infrastructure facilities in Bushehr port, electricity supply to Kharg Island's Morvarid port, connecting Bushehr, Kharg, Genaveh, Mohammad Ameri, Kangan, Deir, Bolkheir, Rig, and Lavar ports to the international Navtex system and upgrading the telecommunication system of Bushehr port's passenger terminal, were also among the projects inaugurated in Bushehr province.

Given their significant role in the country's import and export of products as well as transit and transshipment via Iran, the development of southern ports has been among the most important priorities of the government in the past years.

Ports of Hormozgan province account for 52 percent of the country's total loading and unloading of goods; over 41 percent of oil cargoes, 60 percent of non-oil cargoes, and 82 percent of container shipments of the country pass through the ports of this province.

Located in Iran's southern province of Hormozgan, Shahid Rajaei is the country's largest and best-equipped container port.

Enjoying the most modern container terminals and port equipment, Shahid Rajaei accounts for 85 percent of the total loading and unloading at the Iranian ports.

Back in July 2020, the Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Mohammad Rastad said that the third phase of the development plan of Shahid Rajaei port was going to go operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

# Oil market is currently stable, Zanganeh says

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the 14th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting held on Thursday via video conference and said the oil market is currently stable.

Making the remarks after the meeting, Zanganeh noted that it was decided in the gathering to allow Russia and Kazakhstan to add 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) to their production in April, Shana reported.

Also, Saudi Arabia will cut its oil output

by one million bpd voluntarily for April, the official added.

The meeting was positive and did not last too long, Zanganeh said, adding the next meeting will be held on April 1 to review the market conditions and to decide the output level for May.

Amir Hossein Zamaninia, Iran's governor for OPEC also said on Thursday that the final decision made for April was ideal.

Instead of a 500,000 crude oil output rise in April, we agreed an additional oil production of 130,000 bpd for Russia and

## Urban management projects worth over \$2.38b inaugurated across Iran

**1 →** Since the beginning of the current calendar year, which has been named the year of "surge in production" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, the government has urged various bodies and ministries to take the necessary measures for the realization of the year's motto.

In this regard, every week several major projects have gone operational all over the country in different sectors.

The Energy Ministry has implemented a program called "A-B-Iran" based on which the ministry inaugurates several energy projects every week, and the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry is also following a new scheme called "Persistent Production-Effective Employment-Sustainable Exports" under which the ministry has inaugurated numerous projects so far.



## Iran's 9-month GDP growth at 0.8%: SCI

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's gross domestic product (GDP), including the oil sector, has registered a positive growth of 0.8 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 -December 20, 2020), according to the data released by the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI).

The figure increased by 0.2 percent with oil excluded, IRIB reported.

The SCI data put the growth for the country's agriculture, industries, and min-

ing, and services sectors at 5.5 percent, 3.7 percent, and -1.8 percent, respectively for the mentioned period.

Back in December 2020, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolnaser Hemmati had announced that the country's GDP growth - both with and without oil - became positive.

"Today's report of the Economic Accounts Department of the Central Bank indicates that the country's GDP growth in the first six months of the current year

(March 19-September 20) was positive with and without oil," Hemmati wrote in a statement.

According to the official, the country's GDP excluding oil rose 1.4 percent in the mentioned period, while the figure increased by 1.3 percent with oil included.

Iran's economic growth in the first and second quarters of the current year with oil were -2.9 percent and + 5.1 percent, respectively, and economic growth with-out oil in the mentioned quarters was -0.6

percent and + 3.2 percent, respectively, Hemmati said.

In one of its latest World Outlook reports titled "The Long and Difficult Ascend" published in October 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) put the Iranian economic growth in 2020 at 3.2 percent.

The international body's estimation of Iran's economy improved 0.1 percent in this report compared to its previous report published in June 2020.

## TEDPIX drops 2.3% in a week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 2.3 percent during the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.177 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Bou Ali Sina Petrochemical Company (BSPC), and Amin Investment Bank were the most widely followed indices.

TEDPIX had also dropped 2.7 percent in the week ended on February 24.

Market analyst Amir-Ali Amir-Baqeri has recently 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.

## Online conference on trade with Afghanistan to be held on Monday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — An online conference is planned to be held on opportunities and strategies for trade with Afghanistan on Monday, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) published.

The online event will be attended by Hossein Salimi, the chairman of Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce.

In this conference, the security and political situation of Afghanistan and the perspective of economic and political relations between the two countries, trade opportunities and goods and services needs of Afghanistan, investment opportunities in Afghanistan, how to participate in the Afghan market, Afghanistan and Iran credit lines and financial transfer will be reviewed.

Back in January, the director general of the Asia-Pacific Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) had said that a preferential trade agreement with Afghanistan was going to be signed in the near future.

Speaking in the fourth meeting of Khorasan Razavi-Herat Joint Trade Committee in Mashhad, Reza Seyed-Aqazadeh said: "Necessary coordination has been made with the Ministry of Commerce of Afghanistan."

He mentioned previous tariff agreements between the two countries and said: "Previously, in 2015, the tariffs for the imports of five commodity items from Afghanistan including the imports of sesame were reduced; the tariffs on sesame imports were reduced from 10 percent to five percent."

According to the official, balancing international trade, especially with Afghanistan

is one of the major strategies of Iran in foreign trade, and TPO's goal is to establish a balanced trade between the two countries.

Special strategies have been adopted by the Trade Promotion Organization for balancing trade with Afghanistan and for resolving problems in this field, he said, adding that the issues and demands of Afghan businessmen will also be reviewed in a special working group in this organization to take the necessary measures and resolve their issues.

Having shared historical, cultural, political, and economic backgrounds, Iran and Afghanistan have been allies for many years and the strategic cooperation between the two countries has been broadened especially over the past two decades.

The value of Iran's exports to Afghanistan is anticipated to reach \$3 billion in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20), according to Hossein Salimi, the chairman of Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, through launching Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) corridor and Iran-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan corridor, trade activities will be increased in the region via Iran-Afghanistan borders.

India-Iran-Afghanistan corridor is the other transit path which plays a significant role in boosting trade via borders between Iran and Afghanistan.

Regarding the significant status of the mentioned corridors in the expansion of trade among the countries located in these paths, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs



Administration (IRICA) is seeking to bolster trade via Iranian borders, according to the IRICA spokesman, Ruhollah Latifi.

Back on August 10, 2020, Iran sent two transit cargoes from Shahid Rajaei Port in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas to Uzbekistan through a newly established Iran-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan corridor under a pilot operation to assess the mentioned route, an official with the IRICA announced at the time.

According to IRICA Director of Transit Bureau Mostafa Ayati, following the successful launch of Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) in late July, this time two trucks loaded with transit goods from Shahid Rajaei Port headed for Uzbekistan by passing through Dogharoon border crossing with Afghanistan.

According to Ayati, as a short and low-cost route to Central Asian countries under the TIR Convention, the development of transit corridors through Afghanistan is supported by both international bodies and the Iranian government and IRICA, in collaboration with

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), are determined to develop this sector.

The new Iran-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan corridor can play an effective role in developing regional trade and cooperation, contributing to peace and security in Afghanistan.

On July 26, Iran sent two cargoes from Shahid Rajaei Port to Kyrgyzstan through the KTAI corridor for the first time to officially launch the mentioned corridor.

The KTAI Corridor was also established as a short and alternative route for sending goods from Iran's southern ports to Central Asian countries.

The corridor was launched by IRICA in collaboration with the International Road Transport Union (IRU), and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) under the framework of the TIR Convention.

The Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) is a multilateral treaty that was concluded at Geneva on 14 November 1975 to simplify and harmonize the administrative formalities of international road transport.

Meanwhile, in 2016, Iran, India, and Afghanistan decided to jointly establish a trade route for land-locked Central Asian countries.

India sent its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port back in 2017.

Later on, in February 2019, the Afghanistan-Iran-India trade corridor for the trade between the two countries through Chabahar Port was officially inaugurated.



*Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh*

20,000 bpd for Kazakhstan and therefore we got 350,000 bpd frozen, he said.

"Saudi Arabia said it will supply the 1 million bpd to the market gradually after

April to support market balance provided that other members compensate for their extra production until the end of July," Zamaninia stated.



# Richard Nephew a worrying signal to Tehran: expert

‘Using sanctions as leverage against the Islamic Republic was an abject failure’

➔ “This is Biden perhaps trying to show two different faces in relations to Iran, but the concern is that doing so will result in an incoherent strategy that may not be as much of a step away from the Trump regime as some observers may have hoped for,” Wastnidge argues.

Following is the text of the interview:  
**What do you think of Biden’s team, which includes Robert Malley and Richard Nephew, as some Iranians believe Biden is pursuing Trump’s Iran policy?**

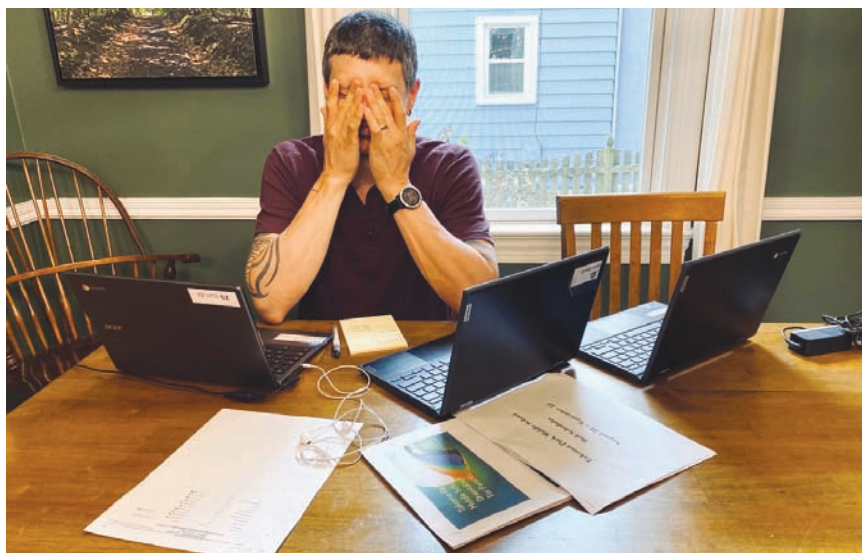
It appears that Biden is trying to balance between his campaign promises and the very real hostility that certain sections of the U.S. polity have towards Iran. On its face, Robert Malley appeared to be a rational choice, given his experience of working with key Iranian figures during the negotiations that led to the JCPOA.

This is in marked contrast to his predecessors, of course, whose outright hostility and unjust policies toward Iran are well known. However, we will have to see whether he can restore much-needed balance in America’s Islamic Republic approach. I would not be surprised if his instincts for diplomatic solutions were curtailed by more hawkish voices inside the administration and beyond.

Based on his previous experience, Richard Nephew is a more concerning choice. As someone who was the architect of successive punitive sanctions against Tehran, and a keen advocate for their usage, it sends a worrying signal. This is Biden perhaps trying to show two different faces in relations to Iran, but the concern is that doing so will result in an incoherent strategy that may not be as much of a step away from the Trump regime as some observers may have hoped for.

**Biden’s administration is going to be filled by some figures who served under Obama’s presidency and it seems that the new administration is too cautious and is not brave enough to make radical reforms. What is your view?**

I tend to agree with this view also. On the one hand, it is understandable why he would choose to go with trusted allies - people he has worked with under Obama - in order to shape what he might view as a more internationalist foreign policy, focused on multilateralism, rather



than the ‘America first’ policies of Trump.

On the other hand, though, this does have the effect of constraining innovative and radical voices that would seek to make a real impact in redirecting U.S. foreign policy. Biden is ultimately a man of the system, just as Obama was, and it is not a system known for favoring radical voices, Trump being the rather extreme exception in this case.

**Less than six weeks after leaving office, former U.S. President Donald Trump Sunday unleashed a torrent of attacks on his successor, contending President Joe Biden has had the “most disastrous first month in modern history” in the White House. Do you think Biden can handle the challenges?**

I think that these kinds of attacks are symptomatic of the many divides that we see in contemporary society and politics in the U.S. Within this context, Trump’s more extreme supporters demonstrated their ability to undertake violent insurrection against the state

earlier this year, as we all witnessed. However, Trump’s comments are more indicative of a bitter, conspiratorially-minded election loser than any kind of sane political analysis.

I think a key challenge for Biden will be trying to appease the more conservative-minded sections of the electorate while speaking to the desires of the more progressive forces within U.S. politics.

**Do you think using sanctions as leverage on Iran was successful?**

Using sanctions as leverage against the Islamic Republic was an abject failure - it was a vindictive and cruel form of collective punishment against the entire nation. Ultimately, it is ordinary Iranians that feel the impact of such misguided policies. The use of such measures is counter-productive and a morally bankrupt approach in which to conduct international affairs.

Iran can, of course, deflect some of the pressure from this kind of approach through strengthening its resistance economy and finding novel ways of

**“The use of such measures (sanctions) is not only counter-productive but also a morally bankrupt approach,” says Edward Wastnidge, a political science professor from Open University.**

circumventing the sanctions regime. However, the U.S. is still able to exert considerable control over the global economy, and it uses this to advance its aims in a high-handed, imperial manner borne of a sense of American exceptionalism.

Sadly, we see this arrogance manifested in successive interventions in the region that have sowed nothing but violence and division - much like the imperial projects of times past.

**Is there any conception or understanding in American media and among American politicians of why Tehran is angry with Washington?**

There are occasional chinks of light in the depressing picture that is U.S. foreign policy towards Iran. Firstly, we are seeing a younger, more critical generation of scholars and some politicians who are cognizant of the negative impact that successive U.S. government policies have had on Iran and West Asia more broadly. However, it will take some time for such voices to have any real impact on U.S. foreign policy, and the so-called ‘expertise’ of much of D.C. think tank community is utterly compromised by its links to some of the region’s most repressive regimes.

We might see slight nods in the right direction, but ultimately a lot of what we hear from the new administration, for example, with regards taking a firmer line with the Saudi regime, or pursuing diplomacy with Iran, is really just window dressing and these are still people who expect that the U.S. has a divine right to rule and therefore intervene as and when it pleases.

All it’s doing is just shifting the narrative to justify its policies to a wider international public and so make it more palatable to them. Ultimately, there can only be positive movement when the hypocrisy that continues to taint U.S. foreign policy in the region is finally recognized and understood.

There is an understandable lack of trust as to the intentions of any U.S. administration. This is not only due to Washington’s unreliability in the past and present but also because of the many vested interests it has with states hostile to Iran.

## Yemeni drones attack Saudi air base, airport

Yemeni armed forces, backed by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have launched fresh retaliatory attacks against Saudi Arabia, targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid Air Base in southwestern region of Asir.

Spokesman for Yemeni Armed Forces, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, said in a post published on his Twitter page that three domestically-manufactured Samad-3 (Invincible-3) and Qasef-2K (Striker-2K) combat drones struck designated targets inside the sites with great precision early on Friday.

He added that the airstrikes come within Yemen’s legitimate right to respond to the Saudi devastating war and all-out blockade against Yemeni people.

The latest drone strikes came a few hours after the Yemeni army forces and allies launched a ballistic missile at the southwestern Saudi port city of Jizan.

The Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed the missile.

On Thursday, Yemen’s military said it had launched a missile attack against Saudi Arabia’s Aramco oil facility in the kingdom’s Red Sea city of Jeddah.

According to Press TV, Saree said on Twitter that a Quds-2 cruise missile had hit the economically strategic site and the strike was accurate.

The senior Yemeni military official noted that the missile attack was in retaliation for a six-year military campaign led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen.

## Qais al-Khazali: Israel directing attacks on U.S. headquarters in Iraq

➔ “The Iraqi resistance is an Iraqi decision, and its choice is the choice of the Iraqi people, and it will continue circumstances and sacrifices until Iraq is liberated from the filth of the occupation,” it said.

According to Press TV, the statement came a day after 10 Grad rockets struck the Ain al-Assad airbase hosting American forces in the western Iraqi province of Anbar. The incident led to the death of two American contractors and injured as many as six people. It also resulted in material damage to both parts of the outpost.

## Pope meets Iraqi leaders in Baghdad’s Green Zone

Pope Francis arrived inside the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq’s government, to meet with President Barham Salih and other officials.

Horsemen carrying both Iraqi and Vatican flags escorted his motorcade inside the Green Zone, which houses key government buildings and foreign embassies, Reuters reported.

Salih greeted Francis outside the presidential palace. Both men wore masks as a band played the Vatican and Iraqi national anthems.

Francis, who has been vaccinated along with his entourage, shook hands with several Iraqi officials.

Public health experts have expressed concern about the first-ever papal visit to Iraq, fearing it could accelerate the country’s already worsening coronavirus outbreak. The Vatican said strict health measures would be taken, but many in the crowds greeting Francis were not wearing masks or keeping their distance from others.

## Resistance News

## Hamas calls on Arab countries not to receive Israeli leaders

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN — Hamas Movement has called on the Arab countries to boycott Israel and not to receive its “criminal” leaders following the International Criminal Court’s decision to probe “possible” war crimes committed by Israel.

Abdullatif al-Qanu, a Hamas spokesman, said in a press release on Thursday that a time the ICC decided to open an investigation into Israeli war crimes, a number of Arab capitals are preparing to receive Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu’s visit to those Arab countries, which had normalized relations with Israel, will only serve as a cover up for his crimes and will serve his political agenda, he added.

## Extremists exploit religious tensions to achieve parochial goals: South African scholar

“Violent extremism is a transnational challenge”

➔ Do you with this view that certain regimes in other regions, for example in West Asia, have exported their problems to Africa, especially in Libya? Is violent extremism a kind of imported phenomenon to Africa?

I would say that violent extremism is a transnational challenge, and this applies globally. In the context of Africa, the threat it poses and its multiple dimensions certainly transcend the borders of states. In the Lake Chad Basin region, countries such as Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria are faced with a regional challenge caused by Boko Haram. In the Sahel, countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger are faced with the regional challenge caused by the Jama’at Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM).

Similarly, in the East and the Horn of Africa, countries such as Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda face the regional challenge caused by al-Shabaab. The multi-dimensional character of violent extremism is expressed through combatants that cross borders, through the movement of weapons, and through the flow of ideological narratives. To some extent, the flow of weapons from Libya after the fall of Gaddafi also influenced the trends of violence in certain parts of the Sahel.

**Which countries and regions in Africa are at stake due to the rise of ISIS in the continent?**

In recent years, countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique have also come under the radar of what is referred to as the Islamic State Central Africa Province. The threat posed by ISIS should not be taken for granted because it concerns quite a number of regions, as earlier pointed out. In the Lake Chad Basin, Boko Haram called the Islamic State West Africa Province, and Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria are faced with challenges. There is the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, which threatens parts of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. There is also the Islamic State in Somalia which causes problems for places such as Puntland.

**What is the main social base of terrorist groups like Boko Haram in Africa? Why do some youth join Boko Haram and other groups?**

Attraction to or membership of Boko Haram must be understood in terms of phases/periods. During the early stages of Boko Haram’s rise, different population groups joined for various reasons. Some individuals were attracted by ideological reasons and the need to have a sense of identity. Others joined as a result of socio-economic or political grievances. Some also joined for reasons linked to vengeance, for instance, due to the killing of a family member or friend by security agencies. In other words, there is also a human rights dimension



associated with the rationale behind some individuals joining these groups. Each individual’s pathway towards joining Boko Haram is unique. However, in more recent years and especially in light of the group’s atrocities against both Muslims and Christians, Boko Haram lost a lot of appeals. Therefore, what is being witnessed in recent years is instances where the group engages in a series of abductions of individuals. Many individuals are forcefully recruited and manipulated to perpetrate attacks.

**What are the challenges and opportunities of African states when it comes to fighting violent extremism?**

There are a number of challenges and there is one related to the struggle to strike a balance between military versus holistic approaches when addressing violent extremism. Another challenge relates to the inadequate inclusion of local or affected communities when formulating and implementing policies. There are also other challenges linked to gaps in state inter-agency analyses and operational coordination. The challenge posed by the porosity of borders also exists.

In terms of opportunities, it is vital to mention that African countries are learning vital lessons from mistakes made in the past despite the challenges. There are quite a number of local, national, regional and continental frameworks already in place. There is the Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin. There is the G5 Sahel and a counter-terrorism Action Plan inspired by the Economic Community of West African States. There is also the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). All these multilateral frameworks are in progress and they represent oppor-

tunities for affected states to implement comprehensive strategies and revise existing ones such that they are people-focused.

**How do you see the importance of dialogue between religions in undermining the position of violent extremists in Africa?**

The idea of inter-religious dialogue is very crucial. Dialogue provides a platform for key conversations between religious leaders as well as other community members of different religious faiths. These conversational frameworks enable different groups to seek clarity, demystify stereotypes, foster collaboration towards a common societal good, and share lessons. Violent extremist groups tend to exploit inter and intra-religious tensions to achieve parochial objectives. Therefore, it is essential that cooperation across the religious spectrum is a component of preventing and countering violent extremism in African countries and globally.



## Vacancy Notice

**The Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in I.R.Iran, intends to recruit a Driver for its office in Tehran, Iran.**

Details of the vacancy can be found on UNFPA website on the following link:  
<https://iran.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/national-post-driver-2>

**Please apply online by 16 March 2021, 5 PM Tehran Time. This vacancy is open only for Iranian Nationals.**

Notice:

- “There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process”.
- “UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV/AIDS or disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status and disabilities”.



## Affordable prices expected to bring back boom into Iran tourism

➔ **1** 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.

Last 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.



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). Iran welcomed some 7.8 million foreign nationals a year earlier, achieving a 52.5 percent increase year on year.

The ancient land embraces hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

## Handwoven carpets depicting tourist destinations unveiled in Kashan

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – Two handwoven carpets, which depict arrays of significant tourist destinations of Kashan, have been unveiled in the central Iranian city.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan was amongst attendees to the unveiling ceremony of the carpets, which was held on Tuesday night.

One of the carpets is set to go on show at the museum of the UNESCO-registered Fin Garden in Kashan while the other will be put on show at the headquarters of the ministry, IRNA reported.

The richly manicured and historical garden together with eight other counterparts have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden."



Kashan not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders, an atmospheric covered bazaar, and a UNESCO-recognized garden, but it also offers some of central Iran’s best traditional hotels.

Many travelers opt to pass the oasis city on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz and Yazd, because this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir, is one of Iran’s most alluring destinations.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and their good quality. Among Persian carpets, particularly those of the classic period, the medallion may represent an open lotus blossom with 16 petals as seen from above, a complex star form, or a quatrefoil with pointed lobes.

Medallion carpet is any floor covering on which the decoration is dominated by a single symmetrical centerpiece, such as a star-shaped, circular, quatrefoil, or octagonal figure. The name, however, is sometimes also given to a carpet on which the decoration consists of several forms of this kind or even of rows of medallion figures.

## Sassanid-era arch bridge restoration work completed

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – A project to restore and reinforce Pol-e Shapuri, a Sassanid-era arch bridge in western Iran, has been completed.

"The restoration and strengthening works on Shapuri bridge, which is one of the architectural masterpieces of Lorestan province, were carried out by experienced masters using traditional building materials," the provincial tourism chief, Seyyed Amin Qasemi, announced on Wednesday.

Named after the Sassanid King Shapur I (reigned 241 CE–272), the bridge has 28 arches (of which only 6 remain) and 27 pile bridges, each 61 square meters; five of its arches are intact and the others have been destroyed by natural factors.

The arches of the bridge have been constructed of stone, whereas the bridge itself is a mixture of stone and mortar. The monument is registered on the list of national cultural heritage as well.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

# Cheshmeh-Ali gains natural heritage status

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – The historical, cultural, and recreational site of Cheshmeh-Ali, which is situated south of the Iranian capital, has been named a natural heritage amidst hopes to safeguard it for the next generations.

"In a [follow-up] meeting held today, Cheshmeh-Ali was added to the natural heritage list of the country..." Parham Janfeshan, the tourism chief of Tehran province, told IRNA on Wednesday.

The new entry, however, does not include Cheshmeh-Ali’s surrounding archaeological lands, which had previously been inscribed on the national cultural heritage list of the country, the official added.

Cultural and natural heritage advocates believe the inscription would help the site to receive better care and maintenance to preserve that for future generations.

A couple of years ago, the water-flow shrined dramatically, prompting voices of dissatisfaction over the fate of the ancient site. Officials and cultural heritage enthusiasts repeatedly warned about the vanishing spring with some blaming the Tehran Urban & Suburban Railway Operation Co., saying the problem arises from a tunnel construction. Narratives say



that the locals used to clean their rugs in the pool, believing that the properties of the mineral water make the rugs brighter in color.

Cheshmeh-Ali, literally meaning Spring of Ali, embraces an underground mineral stream that pours into an open-air pool that has long been a destination

for sightseers and a recreational center for the locals. During the summertime, the site is occupied by hundreds of locals who came for swimming and having fun.

Cheshmeh-Ali is in the neighborhood of the ancient Ebn-e Babveyh cemetery, the 12th-century Tughrul Tower, the historical Rashkan Castle, and next to

the aged Rey Castle. Another attraction of the site is a 19th-century rock-carved relief that overlooks the pool. The artwork was commissioned by the Qajar king Fath Ali Shah who reigned from 1797 to 1834. Cheshmeh Ali also contains an archaeological site estimated to date from the 4 millennium BC.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

According to Britannica, Islamic writers described it as a city of extraordinary beauty, built largely of fired brick and brilliantly ornamented with blue faience (glazed earthenware). It continued to be an important city and was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century, it was weakened by the fierce quarrels of rival religious sects. In 1220 the city was almost destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

## New light shed on Persepolis

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – An archaeological discovery lately been made in the vicinity of Persepolis has shed new light on the once ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid empire.

Excavations and surveys on Tall-e-Ajori, which is situated in the surrounding areas of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, are expected to help archaeologists uncover more about the history of the royal city.

Regarding the significance of such excavations around Persepolis, the director of the World Heritage site on Wednesday noted: "[Some] half of the ancient world was led and managed from the Persepolis."

There is ample evidence for the claim, which could be found across the Marvdasht plain, which is also home to the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae, and several historical sites as well as villages and small towns scattered in an area of 85,000 hectares around Persepolis, Hamid Fadaei added.

However, protecting and preserving such a vast area would be a challenging and time-consuming task, he explained.

The official also noted that besides the archeological significance, the ecosystem and natural resources, and capacities of the area should be taken into consideration.

Supervised by a joint mission of Iranian and Italian archaeologists and cultural heritage experts, the excavations on Tall-e-Ajori uncovered vestiges of a massive gateway measuring 30 by 40 meters with a height of approximately 12 meters.

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

"The building had a corridor in the center, which was in form of a rectangular room measuring eight by twelve

meters, and inside this central room, there were four living chairs. And the central corridor opened on both sides to the Achaemenid campus," according to Alireza Askari-Charoudi who is a senior Iranian archaeologist.

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

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy) is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

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

The city’s immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire’s king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

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

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

The site is marked by a large terrace with its east side abutting the Kuh-e Rahmat ("Mount of Mercy"). The other three sides are formed by a retaining wall, varying in height with the slope of the ground from 13 to 41 feet (4 to 12 meters); on the west side, a magnificent double stair in two flights of 111 short stone steps leads to the top.



On the terrace are the ruins of several colossal buildings, all constructed of a dark gray stone (often polished to a marble-like surface) from the adjacent mountain.

According to Britannica, the stone was cut with the utmost precision into blocks of great size, which were laid without mortar; many of them are still in place. Especially striking are the huge columns, 13 of which still stand in the audience hall of Darius I (the Great; reigned 522–486 BC), known as the Apadana, the name given to a similar hall built by Darius at Susa. There are two more columns still standing in the entrance hall of the Gate of Xerxes, and a third has been assembled there from its broken pieces.

In 1933 two sets of gold and silver plates recording in the three forms of cuneiform—ancient Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian—the boundaries of the Persian empire were discovered in the foundations of Darius’s hall of audience. Several inscriptions, cut in stone, of Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes III indicate to which monarch the various buildings were attributed.

## Over \$470,000 paid to support tourism businesses in Lorestan

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – The Iranian government has paid some 20 billion rials (about \$476,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in loans to the tourism businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic in the western province of Lorestan.

The province’s tourism industry has taken 1.2 trillion rials (\$28.5 million) hit from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) so far, the deputy provincial tourism chief, Eskandar Fallahvand, said on Friday.

Furthermore, he noted that 1,200 people working in the province’s tourism sector have lost their jobs during the pandemic.

Lorestan is a region of raw beauty that an avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring.

Lorestan was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the



Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan (Lorestan) Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period.

Lorestan was incorporated into the

growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

**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.

## Neglected craft of Aba-bafi to be revived in western Iran

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – The dying handicraft field of Aba-bafi (weaving cloak) has been planned to be revived in the western province of Ilam, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The field of handicraft that has been obsolete will be brought back to life with careful planning and the expertise of skilled craftspeople, Abdolmalek Shanbehzadeh announced on Friday.

Aba (cloak) has had various uses in the past and was mostly used as the outer garment for the people of high social status, he added.

"Handicraft businesses play a vital role in the economic prosperity of the local communities. They could easily generate jobs and reach profitability with the least amount of investment," the official noted, citing reasons for such revival attempts.



With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19, 2020). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornate decorations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.



# Half a million Hyrcanian saplings being planted in Mazandaran

**1 →** Due to soil fertility, temperature changes, and numerous rainfalls, this ecological area is rich in plant species, so that more than 80 species of broadleaf trees, 4 species of conifers, and 50 species of shrubs have been identified so far, most of which are beech, hornbeam, oak, maple, and alder.

The forests of this region, as an intact and healthy generation, form a belt of deciduous trees of the third geological period. These forests, which are called wet or Caspian forests, have high environmental and economic values, which are considered as world natural heritage.

Northern forests save 3.6bcm of water annually

The forests of northern Iran save 3.6 billion cubic meters of water annually, playing an important role in preserving



the aquifers.

Apart from physical care of natural resources, biological protection of these resources is also on the agenda of the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), Abbas-Ali Nobakht, deputy head of FRWMO, said in December 2020.

In this regard, development, rehabilitation, and enrichment operations in more than 232,000 hectares of rangeland, desert and forest lands of the country are underway, he added.

Referring to the northern forests of the country, especially Golestan province, as the reserves of the rarest plant species, Nobakht noted that the importance of these natural resources is so high that some European countries requested to receive seeds of plant species of northern Iran.

## Tehran Subway expands stations

**SOCIETY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The total number of Tehran Subway stations increased to 132 by inaugurating two stations in line 7 of the underground transport system on Thursday.

Some 5.8 trillion rials (around \$140 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials) have been spent on the project, ISNA quoted Tehran Mayor Pirooz Hanachi as saying.

Under the situation of sanctions, most of the equipment for the two stations has been provided for the first time by domestic suppliers, Hanachi added.

The national train, eighty percent of which has been designed and manufactured inside the country, will be unveiled by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year

(March 20), he added.

Subway line 7 is 22 kilometers long. With 23 stations the line also connects southeastern Tehran to northwestern parts of the city. The subway line was first partially opened in June 2017 but was closed due to safety issues in November 2017. Tehran subway line 7 was partially reopened in mid-July with 5 stations stretching over 6 kilometers.

Tehran subway system consists of five operational lines, stretching to 170 kilometers, and lines 6 and 7 are partially opened. The lines link south to north, east to west, and are gradually covering more neighborhoods. By completing the two aforementioned lines 70 kilometers will be added to the current railways.



## Ayatollah Khamenei urges all to prevent 'great blight' to environment

**1 →** He emphasized the need to prevent incidents such as forest fires, noting that those in charge who are not committed to their duties should be held accountable.

Environmental activities are of a "religious and revolutionary nature" and should not be regarded as luxurious or ornamental, the Leader stressed.

National Tree Planting Day is annually celebrated

on the fifteenth day of Esfand, the last month on the Iranian calendar, which usually corresponds with March 5. The day marks the beginning of National Week of Natural Resources.

## UK has broken air pollution limits for a decade, EU court finds

The UK has "systematically and persistently" broken legal limits on toxic air pollution for a decade, the court of justice of the EU (CJEU) has ruled.

Levels of nitrogen dioxide, mostly from diesel vehicles, remain illegally high in 75% of urban areas and on Thursday the court said the UK had failed to tackle the problem in the shortest possible time, as required by law.

The case began before the UK left the EU and the legal limits remain in UK law. The UK could face financial penalties if it still fails to take action to comply. The court also ordered the UK to pay the legal costs incurred by the European commission. UK ministers had already been defeated three times in British courts by environmental lawyers ClientEarth.

Dirty air causes 40,000 early deaths every year in the UK and scientists think the pollution is likely to be damaging



every organ in the body. A landmark coroner's report in December found that illegal levels of air pollution had contributed to the death of nine-year-old Ella Kissi-Debrah.

"The government has been dragging its feet for too long on the air pollution crisis, downplaying the problem and passing the buck to local authorities," said Katie Nield, of ClientEarth. The government's own research shows that clean air zones, where charges are

used to deter the most polluting vehicles from urban centres, are by far the most effective action. But only one has been implemented, in London, with others put on hold, delayed or rejected.

"It's up to the UK government to work with local leaders to make sure these schemes are put in place as quickly as possible, alongside support for people and businesses to move to cleaner forms of transport," Nield said. "While authorities dither and delay, people's lives are being ruined by toxic air."

A proposed Office for Environmental Protection will be the new domestic institution holding the UK government to account. But Nield said: "There are big question marks as to whether the OEP will have the independence, authority and resources [it needs]."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: "We are considering this judgment

from the CJEU. We continue to work at pace to deliver our ambitious NO2 plan and our 2019 clean air strategy, which was praised by the WHO as an example for the rest of the world to follow."

She said the government's 2017 NO2 plan and its 2018 supplement went further than before in requiring local authorities to assess how to bring down air pollution levels in the shortest possible time.

If the UK fails to end illegal levels of pollution within a reasonable period, the European commission could issue a formal letter requiring the UK to remedy the situation. If the UK fails to do that, the commission could seek the imposition of financial penalties by the CJEU, although it is uncertain whether it will have the power or the inclination to do this, now the UK is no longer an EU member.

## Iran to begin COVAX COVID-19 vaccination in weeks

**SOCIETY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran will start the first phase of vaccinating prioritized groups against coronavirus using COVAX Facility vaccines as the country is projected to receive one million doses of the vaccine in the next two weeks.

The first batch of COVAX vaccines will be delivered between March 18 and March 28, ISNA quoted Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, as saying on Friday.



People over the age of 80 and patients suffering from underlying illnesses are the first to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with vaccine doses shipped by the COVAX Facility, he explained.

In December 2020, Christoph Hamelmann, WHO Representative in Iran, said that sanctions imposed by the United States will have no effect on importing coronavirus vaccines by Iran from the COVAX, a global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

"We support and assist Iran in obtaining essential items from the global market, and we did so since the beginning of the pandemic, as we anticipated the provision of medicine to be affected by sanctions," he added, ILNA reported.

COVAX member states, including Iran, will jointly decide on which brand of vaccine each country to purchase, and the final decision will be announced by the officials, he noted.

In January, the Central Bank of Iran announced an advance payment to purchase 16.8 million doses of coronavirus vaccine through the COVAX, a global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

In order to receive 16.8 million doses of the COVAX vaccine, an advance payment was credited to the World Health Organization with the cooperation of two Iranian banks and three European banks, CBI Governor Abolnasser Hemmati wrote on his Instagram account.

More budget has been proposed to buy the vaccines, which is awaiting the Ministry of Health's approval, he added.

In February, the Iranian Ambassador to the UK Hamid Baedinejad said that 4.2 million doses of the Anglo-Swedish AstraZeneca vaccine will be imported in the near future within the framework of the agreement with COVAX.

Moreover, Food and Drug Administration spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour has said that those other vaccines made in India, China, and Russia are also under evaluation.

In January, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that there are four different ways to supply the coronavirus vaccine, including direct purchase from a foreign country, procurement from the World Health Organization's COVAX facility, a joint production with a Cuban company as well as domestic production of the vaccine.

He emphasized that Iran will soon be one of the world's important manufacturers of the COVID-19 vaccine.

In a press briefing on Friday, Health Ministry's spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 8,367 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 1,673,470. She added that 1,428,008 patients have so far recovered, but 3,767 remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 81 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 60,512, she added.

So far, 11,151,509 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

Lari noted that currently, 11 cities are at high-risk "red" zones, 32 cities are in medium-risk "orange" zones, and 251 cities are in low-risk "yellow" zones.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 139)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

rest	استراحت	
to rest	استراحت کردن	
hospital	بیمارستان	
to become ill	بیمار شدن	
illness	بیماری	بیمار
foot	پا	
modern	جدید	
ache	درد	
to ache	درد کردن	پزشک
hand	دست	
stomach	دل	
mouth	دهان	
severe	شدید	دارو
to call	صدا کردن	
face	صورت : رو	
throat	گلو	
examination	معاینه	داروخانه
to examine	معاینه کردن	
time	موقع : وقت	
when	موقعی که : وقتی که	
prescription	نسخه	مُنشی

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → E

## Home to home program to be launched to combat COVID-19

The Ministry of Health is to start a home to home program on Tuesday with the aim of finding people suspected of having coronavirus from around the country. Some 300,000 teams of specialists will visit homes in collaboration with health centers for COVID-19 screening, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said, IRNA reported.

"As one of the leading countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region, we have started a big move and have prepared a plan that will be implemented as part of the national campaign to defeat COVID-19," he explained.

"We are also preparing the health centers and we will identify sporadic cases, and all suspected cases will be referred to health centers for further treatment." The number of coronavirus cases in the country has risen to 1501, with 66 deaths so far.

## آغاز طرح بیماریابی خانه به خانه برای مقابله با کرونا از فردا

وزارت بهداشت طرحی را با هدف یافتن افراد احتمالی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا از فردا در سراسر کشور آغاز می کند.

به گزارش ایرنا، سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت گفت ۳۰۰ هزار اکیپ با همکاری مراکز درمانی برای غربالگری کرونا و بیماریابی خانه به خانه مردم از روز سه شنبه به خانه های مردم مراجعه می کنند.

او افزود: حرکت بزرگی را شروع کرده ایم و طرحی را آماده کرده ایم که در قالب بسیج ملی شکست کووید ۱۹ به عنوان یکی از پیشتازان کشورهای شرق مدیترانه اجرا می کنیم.

نمکی گفت مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی را نیز آماده می کنیم. در اسرع وقت موارد پراکنده بیماری را شناسایی می کنیم و موارد مشکوک به مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی ارجاع می شوند و تحت پیگیری قرار می گیرند.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Heaven lies beneath the feet of mothers.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

### Print

■ An exhibition of prints by a group of artists, including Kajar Fakhri, Mahbubueh Esfandiari, Shadi Saeidi, Abbas Mirzai, Fereshteh Motaqqi, Ahmad Vakili, and Bahareh Bahrami, is currently underway at A Gallery. The exhibit named "Impression 1" will run until March 15 at the gallery that can be found at 7 Arshad Alley, Azodi St. off Karim Khan St.

### Multimedia

■ Artworks in various media by Ali Mirazimi, Mohammad Hassanzadeh, and Neda Saeidi are on view in three separate exhibitions at Argo Gallery. The exhibits will continue until April 30 at the gallery located at 6 Behdasht Alley, Taqavi St. off Ferdowsi St.

■ Artworks by a group of artists in various media, including Mina Qahramani, Ghazal Felan, Masih Toluei, Hamid Pirayesh, Arezu Shahdadi, and Azam Qezel Safu, are on view in an exhibition at Artibition Gallery. The exhibit runs until March 14 at the gallery located at Qandi Alley, Sasanipur St., Golnabi St., off Shariati Ave.

■ Soo Gallery is showcasing a collection of artworks in various media by Ebrahim Yaghmai, Reza Hedayat, Leila Vismeh, Hadi Nikan, Bahman Mohasses, Bahram Dabiri and several other artists, in an exhibition named "Birds". The exhibits will run until April 4 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.

■ A group of artists, including Sogol Hejazi, Roya Mohammadiha, Mehri Ekhtari, Zeinab Taheri, Shahla Agah, and Atefeh Rad, are currently showcasing their latest artworks in various media in an exhibition at Ayrik Gallery. The exhibition will run until March 10 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.

■ Saeid Emdadian, Reza Hedayat, Dariush Mohajer, Mehrdad Mohebbi, Reza Emadi, Sadeq Adham and several other artists are displaying their latest artworks in various media in an exhibition at Shalman Gallery. The exhibit will run until March 14 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.

■ A collection of artworks in various media by Nilufar Bakhshi, Monireh Bahrami, Farzaneh Lak, Alireza Kamali, Saeideh Qadimi, Amin Hashemi and several other artists are on view in an exhibition at Ehsan Gallery. The exhibit entitled "Happening" will run until March 10 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

### Painting/calligraphic painting

■ Elena Qasemi, Shadi Azimi, Mona Oruji, Saeid Shafei, Azadeh Tohidi, and Nasrin Taqavi are displaying their paintings and calligraphic paintings in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery. The exhibit runs until March 15 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.

### Sculpture

■ An exhibition of sculptures by Farzaneh Abdolo is currently underway at Etamad Gallery 1. The exhibition will be running until March 16 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

# Mobarak puppet festival picks Brazil's "Babysitter Curtain", Slovenia's "Somewhere Else"

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iran's 18th d e s k Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival has picked "Babysitter Curtain" from Brazil and "Somewhere Else" from Slovenia.

The festival is currently going online due to the pandemic and the puppets shows will stream on some Iranian platforms during the event.

This year's festival is being organized nationwide due to the pandemic, however, the two plays have been selected for performance on the last days of the event, Saturday and Sunday, the organizers have announced.

"This festival has a good background, and is quite well known in the world. Many international groups were interested in taking part, however, we could only choose two plays that were suitable for virtual performances," director of the festival workshop Fahimeh Mirzahassani said in a press release published on Friday.

"Babysitter Curtain" by Luis André Cherubini is inspired by Virginia Woolf's short story, "Nurse Lugton's Curtain". The play brings the story of a nanny who snoozes



"Somewhere Else" by Tin Grabnar from Slovenia.

while sewing a huge curtain and dreams of the village embroidered on the fabric

"Somewhere Else" by Tin Grabnar tells about a little girl, who finds herself caught

in the middle of a war. It is through her eyes that viewers observe her changing city, filled with horrors, violence and fear, but hope, too. Threatening planes are flying over the city, the streets are empty and there is no food left on the shelves in the store. The school is closed, and every now and then gunshots are heard nearby. Her environment gradually changes and becomes intolerable.

A lineup of 57 puppet shows were selected to be performed during the festival running from February 28 to March 7 available at Tiwall, Namayeshnet and Hashure, the Iranian platforms providing video on demand (VOD) service for films.

The veteran artists of Puppet Theater, Iraj Mohammadi and Mohammad-Hassan Abuyi Mehrizi, will be honored with lifetime achievement awards on the closing day, Sunday.

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

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

## Masumeh Abad's "I'm Alive" published in German

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — "I'm Alive", the memories d e s k of the young Iranian woman Masumeh Abad during her long captivity in Iraq in the 1980s, has been published in German in Austria.

The Iranian Cultural Center in Vienna affiliated with Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) is the publisher of the book translated into German by Abd al-Karim al-Sadiq and Ulrike al-Sadiq, the ICRO announced in a press release on Thursday.

The book has been translated into German in line with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's call for translating the book into other languages, the center said.

Abad was 17 at the time she was captured by Iraqi forces in the early days of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. She was a social worker in a field hospital and in medical clinics for

the Iranian Red Crescent Society during the war.

"I'm Alive" has previously been published in Swahili in 2018. Abdul Fattah Musa Aidi is the translator of the Swahili edition.

"I'm Alive" was originally published in 2013 by Boruj Publications, and Ayatollah Khamenei wrote a commendation for the book.

"I read the book with mixed emotions of sadness and pride, and sometimes from behind a veil of tears, and highly praise that patience and endurance that visualized beauty, ugliness, pain and joy in an artistic way," the Leader wrote.

He said that "I'm Alive" is an important book that should be translated into other languages.

The book has also been published in English, Russian, Arabic and Urdu.

## Tehran cultural center opens with new painting by Iran Darrudi

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — An art and d e s k cultural center named Khatte Sevvom was inaugurated in Tehran on Friday with the unveiling of 84-year-old Iranian surrealist artist Iran Darrudi's latest painting.

She talked to the visitors by telephone at the center located near Tehran's City Theater Complex.

The center includes a theatrical performance plateau, a theater rehearsal plateau, a workshop, a bookshop and a café, and will begin its activities by holding workshops and meetings on art and literature on young adults.



A painting by Iranian surrealist painter Iran Darrudi.

Born in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad, Darrudi has studied at Ecole Supérieur des Beaux-Arts and the École du Louvre in Paris and the Royal Academy of Brussels. She also received education on television direction and production at the RCA Institute in New York City.

A few years ago, she returned to her homeland, and the Tehran Municipality promised her to establish a museum in the Yusefabad district to preserve the works she had brought with herself from Paris.

In addition, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization

(CHTHO) honored her with the first Eternal Tile, which was embedded on the wall of her house in Tehran in May 2017.

The tile bearing the name and titles of a celebrity is installed on the façade of his/her house. It also carries the year the artist began to live in the house.

Darrudi's first solo exhibition was held in Miami in 1958 at the invitation of the Florida State Art Center.

An exhibition featuring 207 of Darrudi's masterpieces opened at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in May 2008.

A selection of her works was shown at Tehran's Shirin Gallery in 2009.

## Iranian cultural delegation attends Baloch Culture Day in Quetta

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A delegation of Iranian d e s k cultural figures attended Baloch Culture Day that was celebrated across Balochistan in Pakistan last week with different shows and programs.

The Iranian delegation headed by the director of the Iranian Cultural Center, Hassan Vaeqi, attended the program in the Pakistani city of Quetta along with Pakistani cultural officials and artists.

Different celebrations and cultural events were organized in different districts, and musicians from Balochistan gave performances at the event.

The musicians helped introduce the culture of the region in their songs focusing on the handicrafts, traditions and hospitality of the people of the region.

The Pakistani officials expressed thanks to the Iranian



Pakistani musicians perform during the Baloch Culture Day in Quetta.

delegation, and emphasized Iranian and Pakistani cultural, historical and social commonalities, especially the two neighboring Baloch provinces, and asked the Iranian cultural office to organize festivals and cultural exhibits with the participation of Iranian musicians and artists.

For his part, Hassan Vaeqi expressed his congratulations for the day, and said that Iran is planning to organize a joint cultural festival with the participation of Iranian artists in collaboration with the cultural office of Quetta. The event will include an exhibition of Iranian handicrafts and film screening sessions.

"Iran and Pakistan have many joint commonalities while there are many Persian-speaking poets in Balochistan who compose poetry in Persian," he added.

## Iranian bookstores offer "The Golem" by Harry Collins, Trevor Pinch

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — "The d e s k Golem: What You Should Know about Science" by Harry Collins and Trevor Pinch has recently been published in Persian by SAMT, an Iranian publisher that provides books for university students.

The book has been translated into Persian by Morteza Hadi Jaber-Moqaddam.

Collins and Pinch liken science to the Golem, a creature from old mythology, powerful yet potentially dangerous, a gentle, helpful creature that may yet run amok at any moment.

Through a series of intriguing case studies the authors debunk the traditional view that science is the straightforward result of competent theorization, observation and experimentation.

The very well-received first edition generated much debate, reflected in a substantial new Afterword in this second edition, which seeks to place the book in what have become known as "the science wars".

Collins is a distinguished research professor of sociology and director of

the Center for the Study of Knowledge, Expertise, and Science at Cardiff University. A fellow of the British Academy, he is the author of "Gravity's Ghost and Big Dog", "Gravity's Kiss: The Detection of Gravitational Waves" and many other books.

Pinch is Goldwin Smith professor of science and technology studies at Cornell University and co-editor of "The Social Construction of Technological Systems", "New Directions in the Sociology" and "History of Technology".



Cover of the book "The Golem" by Harry Collins and Trevor Pinch.

## IRGC Muhammad Rasulullah Division releases documents on Iran-Iraq war operations

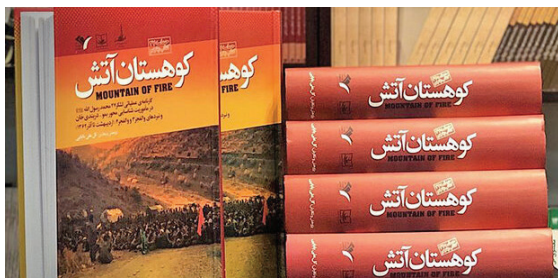
→ Varamini was an educated individual different from his companions. He was a coordinator in the process of capturing the American Embassy in Tehran.

After the formation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), there was a necessity to recruit experienced experts and forces, and Varamini entered IRGC and later participated in several operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

He was martyred during an operation on the Panjvein frontline in November 1983.

"In the Tumult of Silence" contains four seasons named "Unforgettable District", "Years of Tension", "Towards the University of Frontline" and "In the Tumult of Silence".

The book was selected for Arabic translation in a book fair held in Beirut in 2019.



Copies of the book "Mountain of Fire" compiled by Golali Babai.