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National glory

Leader: I did not want to use non-Iranian vaccines, because we should respect this national honor



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Kazemi: We want to make Iranians proud

BY MASOUD HOSSEIN
Iran basketball power forward Arsalan Kazemi is excited to be back in the National Team and is going to make the Iranian fans proud in the 2020 Olympic Games.

After two years, Kazemi was invited to the Iran basketball team for the final window of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers. Now, he is a member of Iranian team in Japan for three friendly matches against Japan prior to the 2020 Olympic Games.

Kazemi is well aware that Iran have been drawn in a tough group in the Olympics but is determined to do his best in the Games to make the Iranian fans happy.

In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Kazemi spoke about the national team and his future.

First, would you please to tell us about friendly matches against Japan? Regarding that Iran have to play world's powerhouses the U.S. and France, can friendly matches against an Asian team be helpful for Iran?

We are going to participate at the Olympics and Asian championship right after that. So, the more we play the team get better because the friendly games will get you ready for the competition. So, it would definitely help us as a team to get better.

You were invited to the National Team once again after about two years. How do you feel about playing in your team after a long time?

I am very excited to be back in the National Team. I will do my best to make our fans proud in the upcoming competitions.

The Iran's golden generation will likely experience the 2020 Olympic Games for the last time. Can the veterans help Iran's basketball to new era?

I mean these guys gave their hearts and souls to the National Team and help us to get to where we are right now. So, for sure, they can help the team and specially the younger players moving forward if they decide to go to that rout.

What's your prediction about the 2020 Olympic Games as you know Iran have been drawn in a difficult group.

Our group is really tough and all I can say at this moment is we are going to do our best against the U.S. and France. Iran are a strong team as well.

The last question; will you continue your basketball in Iran or abroad after the Olympic Games?

I will explore my options after the Olympic Games and make the best decision for myself.

Trans-Iranian Railway, Cultural Landscape of Uramanat set for UNESCO world heritage bid

TEHRAN – Trans-Iranian Railway, and the Cultural Landscape of Uramanat will be Iran's preferred nominations for UNESCO World Heritage site status.

The properties have previously been assessed by visiting panels of experts from the UN body and will formally be evaluated during the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, which will be held in China's Fuzhou from July 16 to 31.

The north-south railway reaches a length of 1400 km, and the cultural landscape, which is shared between the provinces of Kordestan and Kermanshah, holds 700 villages, 106,000 hectares of land, and 303,000 hectares of surrounding properties.

Last September, Hesham Mahdi, the representative of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), announced that the case for the inscription

tion of the Uramanat cultural landscape on the prestigious list had been well prepared and he was "impressed" by the status of the rural landscape. He made the remarks on the sidelines of a visit to the western province of Kermanshah. "I am proud of being chosen to assess the case and traveling to Iran as I could visit the local people in the region," he said.

Stretched on the slopes of Sarvabad county, the rural area embraces dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness. As the cultural landscape covers 300 villages and in terms of architecture and landscape, it is one of the most beautiful and presentable heritages in the world.

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UN denounces Israeli plan to build new settlements as illegal, calling for immediate halt

The United Nations has accused Israel of 'flagrantly' violating international law by expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem al-Quds. The UN reiterated that expanding settlement is an illegal measure under international law and demanded the regime's new cabinet to halt any expansion immediately. Addressing a UN Security Council briefing, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN Mideast Special Envoy, Tor Wennesland, presented a 12-page report on the implementation of a 2016 Council resolution that declared settlements have "no legal validity".

Wennesland said that he was "deeply troubled" by Israel's approval of 540 settler units at the Har Homa settlement in occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds as well as the establishment of settlement outposts.

He added, "I again underscore, in no un-

certain terms, that Israeli settlements constitute a flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and international law...they are a major obstacle to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

Both Guterres and Wennesland also called on Israeli authorities to end the demolition of Palestinian homes and other property as well as the displacement of Palestinians. During the final weeks of then U.S. President Barack Obama in 2016, the UN Security Council passed a resolution, which the U.S. abstained on. Guterres and Wennesland made clear that more than four years after the resolution's adoption, Israel has ignored the resolution. Despite the acknowledgment of Israel's violations of international law, the UN has stopped short of imposing sanctions or any other punitive measures on Tel Aviv.

Biden-Putin summit: A meeting or setting red lines

BY ABIR BASSAM

No one could be holding its breath expecting important outcomes from the summit between the two presidents: Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin.

Since the meeting was declared, the American politicians have been trying to minimize its effect in changing the relationship between the two countries.

The initiated invitation by Biden to

the summit was forwarded in April. It was also assigned the date on the 16th of June, after the G7 summit. A date that President Putin's accepted with an open mind without reluctance, which shows a lot of goodwill in order to stop the rivalry between the two nuclear armed powers in the world. However, Biden's choice of timing was loaded with messages that he made sure to be sent.

The summit was arranged after Biden's European tour. It revolved around the relationship between the United States and its European "allies". He started by visiting the European Union headquarters; then he went to the NATO headquarters in Brussels; afterwards, Biden went to the G7 summit in Britain, the Group of Seven major industrial countries.

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It's easier for U.S. to work with monarchies than democracies: professor

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN - It is easier for the U.S. to work with monarchies than democratic countries because in a monarchical system there is no dramatic change or shift of power, a leading Indian academic says.

"If you wish to keep client states for your own development and security, it is easy and reliable to support monarchies than democracies," Ashok Swain tells the Tehran Times.

"You only need to deal with one person and his coterie in a monarchy and that leadership set continues almost forever," says Swain, professor of peace and conflict research at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University.

U.S. strategic ties with Arab monarchies and tyrannical regimes have cast questions about American commitment to democratic values all around the world.

Supporting West Asian monarchies, successive American administrations have taken destructive measures against democratic countries and movements.

That is a contradiction that how a country that proclaims itself a stronghold of democracy is pushing to undermine democratic values around the globe.

Apparently, that is a matter of long-term interests where the U.S. cannot count on democratic countries to meet its demands.

"But, in a democracy, you are forced to deal with a number of political actors, institutions, and pressure groups in the country. You have to be prepared to adjust to a change of regime in every election cycle," Swain underlines.

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Journalists killed in accident laid to rest

TEHRAN – Reyhaneh Yassini and Mahshad Karimi, two female journalists from IRNA and ISNA news agencies respectively, who had been killed in a car accident on Wednesday were laid to rest on Friday.

A 25-member group of journalists, including Reyhaneh and Mahshad, paid a visit to Lake Urmia in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province. On the way back, their bus crashed and 21 other journalists were injured.



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Weaponizing sanctions is immoral, says Iranian diplomat

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — An Iranian diplomat told a session of the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday that Tehran is against using sanctions as a weapon against countries, including Syria, saying such moves are “immoral and unlawful”.

“We condemn weaponizing food and medicine through sanctions,” Zahra Ershadi, Iran’s Ambassador and deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, told the New York-based council.



Following is the text of her remarks.

For well over 10 years, the Syrian people have been suffering seriously from the conflict, and in recent years, the economy has been further deteriorated mostly due to unilateral sanctions, negatively impacting also the humanitarian aid delivery to the people in need.

As a country subjected to unjust unilateral sanctions for decades, we condemn weaponizing food and medicine through sanctions, as they are irresponsible, immoral and unlawful and in the context of Syria, only prolong the sufferings of people, delay the return of refugees and displaced persons and hamper reconstruction efforts.

Therefore, complete removal of unilateral sanctions must be a substantive element of any discussion on the humanitarian aspect of the Syrian conflict.

While under the current circumstances, the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Syria is essential, this however must be based on the principles of full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Syria, which has been reaffirmed by the Council in all its resolutions.

We also recall other guiding principles of humanitarian assistance as reaffirmed in numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, according to which the “humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country.”

Likewise, according to such principles, “the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory.”

Taking into account such guiding principles, we share the views that the cross-border aid delivery mechanism has been an exceptional temporary measure imposed by certain circumstances, which no longer exist, and accordingly, now the aid to the people in need must be delivered in cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government and from within the Syrian territories. This can, inter alia, ensure that aids are not diverted to terrorist groups.

The full cooperation of the Syrian Government with the United Nations and numerous humanitarian organizations active in cross-line aid delivery in Syria proves that this is a reliable method and in line with international law.

We once again call for depoliticization of the humanitarian file of Syria in the Council. The international community must focus on those humanitarian measures in Syria that can actually and quickly alleviate the sufferings of the people in need, provide the conditions for the soonest return of refugees and displaced persons and contribute to the long-term stability of this country.

Reiterating our commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Syrian crisis and the restoration of the unity and territorial integrity of Syria, we call for an end to the occupation of parts of its territory, withdrawal of all uninvited foreign forces from that country, cessation of support for any separatist tendencies or illegitimate self-rule initiatives, and prevention of the violation of Syrian sovereignty particularly by acts of aggression of the Israeli regime, which Iran condemns strongly.

We will continue our efforts in assisting the people and Government of Syria to overcome the enormous challenges they face.

Excellences, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On 25th June we, the Slovenian people, celebrate our national holiday “The Statehood Day”, which commemorates 25 June 1991, when Slovenia officially gained its independence.

This year, the most important date in Slovenian contemporary history marks the 30th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Slovenia.

It would be my great honour to celebrate the Slovenia’s 30th Statehood Day here in Tehran together with you, all respected colleagues and friends. I deeply regret that limitations due to the epidemiological situation do not allow us to mark the 30 years of independent and sovereign Republic of Slovenia in an official setting.

In order to mitigate the health risk larger gatherings may hold, I have made a decision not to host the reception and other events on this special occasion. It was a difficult decision to make and I believe that you will join our virtual celebration.

Celebrating the 30 years of Slovenia’s independence coincides with our second Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to be held from July to December 2021. I am pleased to announce that Slovenia’s main priorities during the Presidency will be the Union’s resilience to crises, the debate on the EU strategic autonomy, and the recovery of the European economy based on the digital and green transition. Attention will also be paid to the rule of law and the European way of life as well as to the credibility and security of the EU, promoting stability in its neighbourhood and its interests and values in the world.

In our role of the local EU Presidency in Iran we will act based on European values, achievements and efforts, recognising that in these turbulent times wisdom, cooperation and dialogue on local, regional and international issues as well as patience and confidence in diplomacy are needed more than ever. Allow me to emphasize once again that Slovenia fully supports the JCPOA and sincerely believe that the international community will safeguard the JCPOA commitments in all its aspects as well as contribute to easing tensions in the region.

On behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues at the Embassy, I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones all the best. Stay safe and healthy! I thank you for your support, goodwill and friendship.

Sincerely yours,
Kristina Radej

Iran warns Canada over ‘politicizing’ plane crash

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Tehran has warned the Canadian government against political exploitation of the accidental downing of a Ukrainian passenger plane, saying Canada has no judicial qualification to issue unilateral or arbitrary reports on issues within the jurisdiction of another country.

“Every aviation novice knows that the views of Canada as a consultant to Ukraine have been received and taken into account, and therefore, Canada is judicially unqualified to make unilateral and arbitrary reports or comments on air accident reports within the jurisdiction of another country,” Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohsen Baharvand said on Friday.

Making a reference to Canada’s latest report on the incident, Baharvand said even the Canadians have admitted that the downing of the plane by Iran’s military was not intentional.

Canada admitted in a report published on Wednesday that it had found “no evidence” after eight months of investigation that the incident was “premeditated”.

“While the Forensic Team found no evidence that the downing of Flight PS752 was premeditated, this in no way absolves Iran of its responsibility for the death of 176 innocent people,” CBC News reported, citing an unclassified report on the circumstances and causes of the aircraft’s destruction.

The report came a month after a Canadian court ruled that the incident was deliberate and claimed it was an “act of terrorism.”

On January 8, 2020, the Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752, en route to Kiev while carrying mostly Iranians, crashed minutes after takeoff near the Iranian capital, killing all of the 176 passengers on board.

Despite admitting that the incident was not intentional, the Canadian government’s



report went on to put the blame on Iranian civil and military authorities for causing “a dangerous situation” that led to the downing of the plane.

However, the report failed to mention the United States’ assassination of Iran’s top anti-terror General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad on January 3, 2020, which in turn set in train a series of events that led to the downing of the plane.

Amid soaring tensions after the ill-advised Soleimani assassination, the Islamic Republic retaliated by firing missiles at an American base in Iraq on January 8, 2020.

Tehran has said the Ukrainian plane was downed accidentally by the operator of a surface-to-air-missile system soon after Iran’s retaliatory missile strikes, which put the country’s military on the highest state of defensive alert as well as preparedness for a full-fledged war with the U.S.

Baharvand said part of the report which criticized Iran’s final report on the incident

is “technically baseless” and therefore “unacceptable” because Iran had sent the draft for comment to other countries, whose responses were included in the final report.

“Everyone should know that experts from the United States, Britain, and France, with whom we may have political differences, have kept their opinions in a professional manner and have commented positively on and appreciated the professional conduct of our country’s accident investigation team,” he said.

He pointed out that the incident was neither the first nor will it be the last plane crash in the world.

The senior diplomat also maintained that the global civilian aviation industry would be harmed if such acts of politicization by the Canadian government becomes the norm in the world.

“Imagine that in any aviation incident, other countries ignore regulations and protocols of investigating the incident and take measures outside the available frameworks

to try to put unilateral political pressure on the country where the incident occurred,” Baharvand regretted.

“According to the Chicago Convention, if they had new information, they should have provided it to the Iranian investigation team instead of fomenting useless media and political commotion,” he added.

Iran has repeatedly denounced politicizing the case by certain countries, including Canada and Ukraine.

Back in March, Tehran published the final results of its investigation into the causes of the incident. In the report, Iran’s civil aviation agency again concluded that human error was behind the incident.

“Following a tactical relocation, the relevant ADU (air defense unit) failed to adjust the system direction due to human error, causing the operator to observe the target flying west from IKA (airport) as a target approaching Tehran from the southwest at a relatively low altitude,” Iran’s report said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Baharvand pointed to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s threat to take Iran to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, saying such remarks are “immature” and are based on pressures from Canadian politicians.

“They tried to exploit the incident to create a status for themselves in the eyes of the public, but of course, they couldn’t,” he said.

The diplomat said Iran has the evidence and is capable of defending itself in any court of justice.

“Of course, if Canada or any other country interacts with Iran within the framework of law and mutual respect, as is customary in diplomatic and international relations, they will receive Iran’s constructive response,” he added.

Iran may react even tougher if U.S. quits JCPOA again after revival, Russian envoy warns

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Russia’s permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations says Iran may react even tougher than before if the United States makes the mistake of leaving the 2015 nuclear agreement again after a revitalization of the agreement, Press TV reported.

The U.S. nixed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the common name for the 2015 nuclear deal, in May 2018 under former President Donald Trump’s administration. The U.S. slapped the harshest sanctions intended to strangle the Iranian economy.

“Many followers ask if there is a guarantee that US wouldn’t leave #JCPOA after its restoration,” Mikhail Ulyanov wrote in a tweet on Thursday.

Ulyanov added, “To my mind the best guarantee is extremely negative experience of the past. If #US repeats the previous mistake #Iran may decide to reciprocate even tougher. Nobody would like it.”

Reminded by a user that the plan to prevent such a move didn’t work the first time, Ulyanov gave an affirmative response, saying the international community is now aware of the “catastrophic results” of Washington’s so-called “maximum pressure” against Tehran, which persuaded Iran advance its nuclear program beyond what agreed in the JCPOA.

One year after the U.S. left the JCPOA Iran started to gradually remove bans on its nuclear activities. Late last year Iran started to enrich uranium to a purity of 20 percent, much higher than the 36.7 percent set by the JCPOA. In retaliation to a sabotage attack on the Natanz nuclear facility in April which Iran blamed on Israel, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) also upgraded its nuclear enrichment to 60 percent.

Top Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi has called on the Biden administration to ensure that withdrawal from the nuclear deal and the imposition of sanctions will not



happen again.

“It is natural that one of our serious issues in these negotiations has been and is to ensure that what the U.S. administration has done to JCPOA is not repeated, and in this regard, we need to come up with guarantees that assure us what the previous administration did, i.e. the re-imposition of sanctions and the withdrawal from the JCPOA, will not happen again. This is our natural desire and of course, it is not possible for us to return to the JCPOA without such a guarantee,” Araqchi said after the sixth round of talks.

Ulyanov further noted that the June session of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors showed that the international community, including the U.S., is extremely unhappy with the current situation.

“This is the best (not absolute, of course) guarantee against its repetition,” added Ulyanov, who heads Russia’s delegation in the ongoing Vienna talks aimed at reviving the JCPOA.

Ulyanov’s remarks come days after the sixth round of the talks concluded on June 20, as negotiators for Iran and the P4+1 group of countries — Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany — decided to return to their respective capitals for consultations to overcome the remaining differences.

Al Kadhimi says has excellent relationship with Raisi, says to visit Iran at right time

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Speaking in a televised interview on Thursday, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi said he “has very good” relations with Iran’s President-elect, Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, stating that he might travel at “the right time.”

“We have a long and historic neighborly relationship with Iran, and focusing on the commonalities and interests of the two countries is certainly in the interest of both Iran and Iraq,” he said.

Al Kadhimi noted that the Iraqi government’s policy is to establish good relations with everyone, and “our relations with Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi are very good.”

“Raisi traveled to Iraq some time ago and we had a very good meeting and discussed

our approaches to the future of Iran-Iraq relations,” he added.

The Iraqi prime minister stressed that he wants to maintain and expand these good relations with Raisi.

Al-Kadhimi said, “The president-elect of Iran invited us to travel to Tehran and this trip will take place at the right time.”

After the June 18 presidential election in Iran, the Iraqi prime minister telephoned Raisi to congratulate him for winning the presidential polls in Iran.

At the phone call the two sides assessed the relationship between Iraq and Iraq and discussed ways to develop it.

According to a tweet from the prime minister’s office, al-Kadhimi expressed his hopes for

closer cooperation on economic and security matters “in addition to the fight against terrorism, and in a way that boosts the security and stability of the two countries and the region”.

During the call the Iranian president-elect invited al-Kadhimi to visit Iran.

Iraqi President Barham Salih also extended his “sincere congratulations and blessings” on Raisi’s election.

“We in Iraq look forward to strengthening our solid relations with our neighbor Iran and its people,” Salih said in a statement.

In his Thursday remarks, the Iraqi prime minister said that some people want to destroy Iraq’s relations with other countries.

These relations are not personal, he said, adding rather they are in the interests of Iraq,



and that his country has an important role in the stability of the region.

Raisi says ‘collective security’ forms backbone of his foreign policy doctrine

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi has said “collective security” constitutes a key part of his incoming administration’s regional foreign policy doctrine.

Raisi made the remarks in a telephone conversation with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Thursday night.

Collective security can bring peace, stability and progress to regional states, Raisi said, adding collective security and

stability will be ensured once such an ideal is realized.

The Iranian president-elect also underlined the need for an end to foreign interference in affairs of regional states.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi called for promoting Tehran-Doha bilateral ties

The next Iranian administration will attach paramount significance to neighboring countries in its economic diplomacy, Raisi said, Press TV reported.

The president-elect described strong political and economic

ties between Iran and Qatar as a good model for regional trade.

For his part, the Qatari emir congratulated Raisi on winning the Iranian presidential election. He also lauded Doha-Tehran relations as distinct and excellent, and hoped for promotion of ties between the two countries.

Al Thani also praised Iran’s strong support during the rancorous Saudi-led embargo against his country in June 2017, especially the effective role played by Raisi as the chief of Iran’s Judiciary.

Press TV hits back at U.S. for seizing domain

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iran’s English-language news network Press TV has responded to the U.S move in seizing its website, describing the move as an indication that Washington has lost its “narrative-based dominance.”

In a statement late on Thursday, the Iranian broadcaster’s editorial board said, “The United States’ hostile measure against pro-resistance media outlets indicates that not only this country has been defeated by the resistance movement on the ground in the region, but it has also lost its narrative-based dominance and has no choice but to silence dissenting voices.”

In a coordinated campaign of seizure, the United States has blocked the domain of several Iranian official news websites as well as regional media outlets close to Iran. The move drew criticism from free speech defenders who called the U.S. move a muzzling of freedom of expression.

Late on Tuesday, the websites of a number of Iranian news media outlets, most notably the English-language Press TV and the Arabic-language Al Alam, as well as regional media outlets close to Iran, were blocked with a message showing that the websites were seized by the government of the United States.

The websites of Iran’s Arabic-language Al Kawthar television network, Yemen’s al-Masirah TV channel and Bahrain’s Lua-lua television network were also among the targeted outlets.

The U.S. Justice Department issued a statement confirming the seizure. It alleged that the targeted websites were used by the Iranian Islamic Radio and Television Union and Kata’ib Hizballah of Iraq.

“Today, pursuant to court orders, the United States seized 33 websites used by the Iranian Islamic Radio and Television Union (IRTVU) and three websites operated by Kata’ib Hizballah (KH), in violation of U.S. sanctions,” the American statement said.

Press TV’s statement noted that the U.S. loss of control over “the narrative of reality” forced it into taking risky measures against the Iranian media in order to solve its im-



mediate problems.

“The United States and the Western bloc, which once imposed an all-out siege on the public opinion not allowing opposing views to be heard, are now unable to control the narrative of the reality despite taking advantage of multiple media outlets. Therefore, they see no other resort, but to make risky decisions. Perhaps such risky decisions can solve some immediate problems faced by the United States, but they only make the most important problems that are facing this country’s hostile foreign policy more critical,” the statement said, adding, “The unveiled countenance of the United States was revealed when it committed the crime of assassinating Martyr Soleimani in the vain hope of putting an end to its military fiascos in the region. However, we all witnessed how the resistance emerged more powerful than before and inflict historical defeats on the aggressors.”

The statement also touched on the normalization deals some Arab states inked with Israel last year, saying these “sinister” deals were aimed to make relations between Israel and Muslim countries official.

“The sinister Abraham Accords were de-

signed to make the normalization of relations between Islamic countries and the Zionist regime official, but the recent ‘Operation al-Quds Sword’ and the uproar of resistance forces not only turned the ‘deal of the century’ into a dead deal, but also united Palestinian groups and their supporters more than ever in their support for the liberation of the Holy al-Quds, so that ‘From the River to the Sea’ would once again become the main issue of Palestine and efforts made to reach a compromise with Israel slip into oblivion,” Press TV said.

It added, “The worldwide support for the people of Palestine in American cities and many other Western countries clearly proves that such coercive measures and blocking of websites would be of no avail. The conscientious people around the world will never give in to such bullying and if the U.S. government continues on this path, it will have to muzzle the entire people of the world in order not to hear such dissenting voices.”

Press TV called the U.S.’s move a “perilous measure,” underlining that the seizure will not serve the U.S. interests. “Blocking of resistance media outlets is another perilous measure that the regime in Washington

erroneously thinks will meet its interests. This measure is another mistake that they have committed without noticing how grave the consequences of this decision would be for them. By taking this measure, the U.S. government has not only reduced to zero the security of investment by state-run and private entities in the worldwide web, but has made its weakness more visible. Therefore, from now on, it must await more powerful and more vociferous media activity,” it said.

The Iranian broadcaster’s statement also shed light on the U.S. disregard for its own claims in terms of advocating freedom of expression. “The free-thinking people of the world are witnessing that despite its claims to advocating freedom of expression and the free flow of information, the American regime, in total disregard for international regulations and expectations, does not shy away from any measure whenever it makes a rash decision; whether it is tearing up the nuclear deal with Iran or blocking of online domains of opposing media outlets. Such actions by the American regime are a blatant example of the rule of a rogue state that is exhausting the international community’s patience,” the statement noted, adding, “On the other hand, the encouraging support for the pro-resistance media outlets, especially Press TV, during the past few days clearly proves that a major portion of the world is no more ready to put up with the U.S. government’s behavior.”

Press TV vowed to continue its media activities in full force despite American restrictive measures. It also said that it will respond to the U.S. move by intensifying its work.

“Pursuant to this U.S. measure, Press TV network will be further motivated to strengthen its rightful media activities and will respond to this step taken by the U.S. government through intensifying its media work and diversifying its media tactics so as to convey its message to the highest number of people around the globe. From now on, our audience can follow Press TV via our Iranian domain, i.e. PressTV.ir,” the statement concluded.

Around 1,000 Indigenous child victims found in shocking revelation of racism in Canada in less than a month

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – In less than a month, Canada has unearthed yet another mass grave of Indigenous people who fell victim to the country’s racist policies in the not-so-distant past.

Bodies of 751 Indigenous children were discovered in unmarked graves at a former Indigenous residential school in southern Saskatchewan, less than four weeks after a mass grave was found at Canada’s largest Indigenous residential school.

Members of the Cowessess First Nation and Canada’s Federation of Sovereign Indigenous First Nations (FSIN) said that the graves were found at the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan province, according to press reports. The former school, which operated between 1899 to 1997, is located close to where the Cowessess now reside, some 140 kilometers (87 miles) east of the provincial capital Regina, DW reported, adding, The First Nation, who took control of the school’s cemetery in 1970, followed calls to investigate all former Indigenous residential schools for possible unmarked graves.

The uncovered graves are said to have been marked at first, but their markers were removed by the Roman Catholic Church, which operated the school, according to Chief Cadmusn Delmore of the Cowessess.

“The pope needs to apologize for what happened,” he said. “An apology is one stage in the way of a healing journey.”

The new discovery of the unmarked graves came after Canada was shocked last month by the discovery of the mass grave of the former Kamloops Residential School, which was also operated by the Catholic Church.

The remains of the Indigenous children, some as young as three, were found buried in a mass grave at the site of the former Kamloops Residential School located some 220 miles or 354 kilometers northeast of Vancouver. These remains were found with the help of ground-penetrating radar and local officials have not ruled out that more bodies may be found because some areas on the school grounds have not been searched yet.

The Kamloops Indian Residential School was created to forcibly assimilate Indigenous children of First Nations origin into Canadian culture.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into white Canadian society. They were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died, according to the Associated Press.

The latest discovery of the unmarked graves once again showed the dark side of Canada’s history which is tainted by



utter racism and discrimination against Indigenous people.

A First Nations leader called the recent unearthing of unmarked graves a “crime against humanity.”

“This was a crime against humanity, an assault on First Nations,” Federation of Sovereign Indigenous First Nations Chief Bobby Cameron said. “We will not stop until we find all the bodies.”

Last month when the Kamloops mass grave was discovered, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the discovery was not “an isolated incident,” in apparent anticipation that new graves could be found. A few weeks later, Trudeau’s anticipation turned into a reality, with local media reporting the unearthing of hundreds of unmarked graves.

Now, Cameron said he expects there will be similar discoveries made at other residential school sites.

Perry Bellegarde, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, described the discovery of the unmarked graves as “tragic,” saying it was not surprising. “The news that hundreds of unmarked graves have been found in Cowessess First Nation is absolutely tragic, but not surprising,” Bellegarde said on Twitter, adding, “I urge all Canadians to stand with First Nations in this extremely difficult and emotional time.”

Cameron also called the discovery of the graves a “genocide” that Canada is responsible for. Speaking in a virtual press conference on Thursday, he said, “We are seeing the results of the genocide that Canada committed — genocide on our treaty land.”

In a bid to assuage the fury and frustration of First Nations, Trudeau issued a statement acknowledging the widespread racism in his country. “I recognize these findings only deepen the pain that families, survivors, and all Indigenous peoples and communities are already feeling, and that they reaffirm a truth that they have long known,” he said, adding, “The

findings in Marieval and Kamloops are part of a larger tragedy. They are a shameful reminder of the systemic racism, discrimination, and injustice that Indigenous peoples have faced – and continue to face – in this country.”

While Canada is still grappling with the ugly face of its history, the Canadian government continues to lecture other countries, especially Iran, on human rights and accountability. A case in point is the Ukrainian plane crash the case of which is still open partly due to Canadian refusal to cooperate with Iran to deal with the issue without political motivation.

The Ukrainian airliner was shot down shortly after taking off from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini airport on January 8, killing all 167 passengers and nine crew members on board.

On January 11, the Armed Forces’ General Staff released a statement saying the plane was mistakenly downed near the airport.

The incident happened a few hours after Iran fired dozens of ballistic missiles at a U.S. airbase inside Iraq in retaliation for the assassination of top Iranian military commander, Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

However, the Canadian government has ordered an investigation into the plane crash while leveling accusations against Iran from time to time. The result of the investigation was recently published, underlining that there was no evidence that Iran intentionally shot down the Ukrainian jet.

The government of Canada’s report entitled “The Downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752: Factual Analysis” confirmed earlier Iranian assessment that there is no evidence that the downing of the plane was “premeditated.” Despite its admission about the lack of evidence about Iranian premeditation, the Canadian government’s report claimed that Iranian civil and military authorities are “fully responsible” for the crash of the Ukrainian plane.

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohsen Baharvand hit back at Canada’s contradictory report, warning it against politicizing the plane crash.

“As we can see, the Canadians have also confirmed that the firing on this plane was not premeditated,” Baharvand said.

He added, “The part of the report that criticizes the accident report of the investigation team of the Islamic Republic of Iran is technically baseless and therefore unacceptable. Iran sent the draft report to the countries before publication and within the legal deadline, and they also sent their comments on the report to Tehran.”

In early June, Baharvand said Iran agreed to pay \$150,000 in compensation for each victim of the crash. He pointed out that the Iranian government had agreed to pay \$150,000 for each victim, whether Iranian or foreigner, which some families have received as compensation.

the draft of the agreement. He said the remaining important issues required serious decisions in the capitals, especially in the negotiating countries.

While stating that sides are closer to an agreement than ever before, the deputy foreign minister expressed hope that an agreement could be reached in the next round of talks, although it could not be guaranteed.

S P O R T S

Daei congratulates Ronaldo after equaling his record

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Iranian legendary football player d e s k Ali Daei congratulated Cristiano Ronaldo after he equaled his goalscoring record.



Portugal forward Ronaldo converted two penalties in match against France on Thursday to reach 109 international goals.

He equaled Daei’s record of most international goals.

Ronaldo’s brace helped Portugal draw France 2-2 in their Group F finale in EURO 2020, clinching third place in the group.

“You have achieved what you deserve. You are a true symbol of handwork and professionalism, and were born to show the world you are the best,” Daei shared on his Instagram account.

Swimmer Afghari secures quota spot for Tokyo 2020

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Iranian swimmer Mehrshad Afghari secured Tokyo 2020 quota place for Iran.

He earned the quota place in the 100m Butterfly event at the Bulgarian Open Championships on Friday.

The Iranian swimmer finished in second place in the event with a time of 53.46 seconds.

Afghari also surpassed Mehdi Ansari’s mark by 0.31 seconds.

Iranian shooter Foroughi wins gold at ISSF World Cup

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Javad Foroughi of Iran claimed a gold medal in the men’s 10m air pistol at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Osijek, Croatia on Thursday.

Foroughi achieved a score of 243.0 points in the final to win the gold medal. Earlier, in the qualification he had shot 584/600.

Foroughi had won a gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in March.

Serbian shooter Damir Mikec seized the silver with the score of 241.7 points.

The bronze medal was secured by India’s Chaudhary Sa-
rabh on 220.0 points.

For many athletes this is the last test of strength before the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The event has brought more than 600 athletes from 61 countries together.

Iran know rivals at AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Iran learned their opponents at the AFC Women’s Asian Cup India 2022 in the draw for the Qualifiers held at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Thursday.

The Iranian team have been drawn along with Jordan and Bangladesh in Group G.

The 28 teams were drawn into four groups of four and four groups of three, with the winners of each group clinching their place in the AFC Women’s Asian Cup India 2022, scheduled to take place from January 20 to February 6.

Defending champions Japan, 2018 runners-up Australia and third-placed China PR as well as hosts India have already qualified for the Finals, which will see an expanded 12 teams competing for the continent’s premier women’s national team title.

AFC Women’s Asian Cup India 2022 Qualifiers
Group A: Chinese Taipei (H), Bahrain, Turkmenistan, Laos
Group B: Vietnam, Tajikistan (H), Maldives, Afghanistan
Group C: DPR Korea, Singapore, Iraq, Indonesia (H)
Group D: Myanmar (H), United Arab Emirates, Guam, Lebanon
Group E: Korea Republic, Uzbekistan (H), Mongolia
Group F: Philippines, Hong Kong, Nepal (H)
Group G: Jordan, Iran, Bangladesh (H)
Group H: Thailand, Palestine, Malaysia

FIFA ranking: Iran’s women football move down

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Iran’s women’s football team moved down seven places to 72nd at the latest FIFA ranking released on Friday.

The U.S. remain top of the table ahead of Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Iran lost to Belarus and Uzbekistan in early June in two friendly matches.

The next edition of the FIFA Women’s World Ranking will be published on 20 August 2021.

Iran basketball victorious over Japan in friendly

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** – Iran national basketball team defeated Japan 72-67 in their second friendly match on Friday.

Iran had lost to Japan 85-57 in the first match held in Miyagi, Japan on Wednesday.

The Persians will also face Japan in another warm-up match on Sunday.

The matches are being held as part of preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Iran have been drawn in Group A of the Olympics along with the world’s No. 1 the U.S. and France.

Senior Russian diplomat says Vienna talks will resume next week

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – A senior Russian diplomat leading his country’s delegation in the Iran nuclear deal talks in Vienna has said negotiations will resume next week as top diplomats are poised to return to the Austrian capital for the seventh round of talks.

“My instinct tells me that the Vienna Talks on restoration of JCPOA will resume

next week, i.e. no later than July 4 or - most probably - earlier. This is not for sure but highly likely. Let’s see,” Mikhail Ulyanov said on Twitter.

The Russian diplomat was responding to a Twitter user on when the Vienna talks will resume.

Nuclear negotiators from Iran and the remaining parties to the Iran nu-

clear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have returned to their capitals after concluding the sixth round of talks last week. Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi, who leads the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, said the negotiators made progress during the sixth round particularly in terms of preparing

Manufacturing of TV sets rises 25% in 2 months on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Manufacturing of TV sets in Iran during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- May 21) has risen 25 percent from that of the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported citing the data released by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

The ministry's data show that 149,600 TV sets have been manufactured during the two-month period of this year.

As reported, over 15 million sets of home appliances have been manufactured in the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which was 78 percent more than the output in its preceding year.



Rise in home appliances manufacturing and export has been also planned for the current year.

Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has stated that the production of home appliances in the country has increased by 36 percent following the exit of foreign brands.

"Following the imposition of U.S. sanctions and the withdrawal of South Korean companies from Iran, the production of Iranian home appliances increased by 36 percent," Niaraki said on the sidelines of a visit to a production unit.

According to Niaraki, the indigenization of the knowledge for the production of such products has also increased by 20 percent since the Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended on March 20, 2018).

"Currently, Iranian producers have indigenized the knowledge for manufacturing about 70 percent of the country's home appliance needs, and the figure has reached 90 percent for some products," he said.

Niaraki noted that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

Regarding the return of foreign brands like Samsung and LG to the country, Niaraki said: "Currently, the return of foreign companies is not on the agenda; domestic companies have found their place and are fully capable to produce and meet the needs of the country."

Stating that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry will definitely support domestic manufacturers and national brands, the official added: "Today we have the necessary manpower, knowledge, and infrastructure in the field, so there is no reason to look for foreign sources to meet the country's demands."

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19) this industry's production capacity increased by 10 percent compared to the preceding year.

TSE's main index gains 66,000 points in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 66,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.213 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

TEDPIX returned to the uptrend after a long period of fluctuation and continuation of the downward trend

During the past week, the indices of Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Esfahan Oil Refining Company, Kourosh Food Industry Company, and Zarmakaran Industrial Company were the most widely followed indices.



Over the past two years, a number of factors affecting Iranian economy have created a new status in the country's capital market, in a way that this market experienced such a growth in the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20) that was never seen in its history of more than 50 years.

The fall in oil prices and the reimposition of the U.S. unilateral sanctions on Iran's economy led the Iranian government to turn to the capital market for funding.

On one hand, the government tried to prevent liquidity from going to the markets such as gold and foreign currency, and on the other hand, considering the recent events in the Iranian economy, it also looks at this market with a view of financing, which resulted in the prosperity of this market.

The rising rate of inflation and also that of foreign currency exchange have been also mentioned as two major factors led to the flourishing of the capital market.

In addition to inflation, which has been one of the main drivers of capital market growth in the past two years, another market driver is changing the attitude of government officials towards the capital market and trying to transfer the shares of 18 large state-owned companies through exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Zanganeh inaugurates gas supply projects in 6 provinces

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, on Thursday, inaugurated numerous gas supply projects with a total investment of 63.31 trillion rials (about \$1.5 billion) in six provinces through video conference, Shana reported.

As reported, with the mentioned projects going operational, natural gas was supplied to 21 cities, 2,809 villages, and 4,664 industrial units in West Azarbaijan, Lorestan, Fars, South Khorasan, Kerman, and Khuzestan provinces.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) officials, as well as senior officials from the mentioned provinces.

The minister also inaugurated four units of gas pressure boosting facilities worth 65.86 trillion rials (about \$1.56 billion) in Khuzestan and Fars provinces.

According to the Iranian Oil Ministry, over 88 percent of the country's rural areas are supplied with natural gas through the national network, and more than 95



percent of the country's total population is enjoying natural gas through the na-

tional network.

Currently, over 32,000 villages across

Quarterly non-oil exports increase 69% yr/yr

→ 1 In total, the Islamic Republic traded 38.4 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$20.9 billion with its trade partners in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, up 25 percent and 50 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, Mir-Ashrafi said.

According to the official, the country's trade balance was \$476 million positive in the mentioned time span.

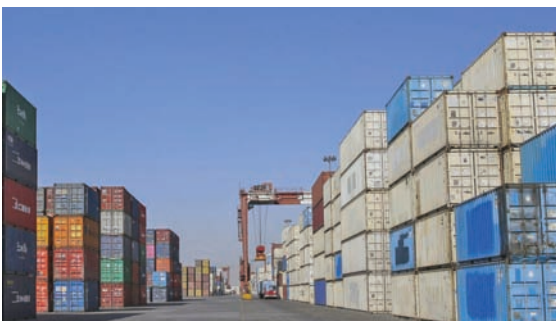
Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with \$3.1 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.3 billion, Turkey with \$595 million, and Afghanistan with \$570 million.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports

during these two months were the UAE with \$3.2 billion, China with \$2.2 billion, Turkey with \$1 billion, Germany with \$414 million, and Switzerland with \$384 million worth of imports.

The official also noted that over 2,742 million tons of goods were transited through Iran in the said period, registering a 121-percent rise compared to the same period in the previous year.

Iran traded 22.2 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$12.8 billion with its trade partners in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), up 6.6 percent and 38 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.



Iran ready to host ECO Clean Energy Center

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian has announced the Islamic Republic's readiness for hosting the Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) Center for Clean Energy, IRIB reported.

Speaking at the ECO's 4th ministerial meeting on Thursday, Ardakanian stated that the Iranian Energy Ministry has several programs for the development of energy exchange with the countries of the region on the agenda so that the country's geopolitical capacity can be maximally used in global energy markets.

He further suggested that ECO should establish a regional energy corridor to promote cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and use the capacities and potentials of the countries in the region.



Creating such a corridor can lead to the expansion of energy exchanges for a sustainable energy supply, and will also promote the development of various power plants, especially renewable ones, to supply the energy needs of the region,

Ardakanian said.

The official noted that the ECO region enjoys rich human and natural resources, energy reserves, capable private sectors, and privileged advantages of regional connectivity.

He said that sustainable energy supply and exchanging electricity can guarantee the security of countries and provide them with sustainable economic income.

"This can be made possible by connecting the electricity grids of neighboring countries, and this "cross-border connection of power grids" can not only pave the way for the transmission of electricity to neighboring countries, but also improve the reliability and resilience of the region's power grids," he stressed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ardakanian

underlined the significant potentials of the Iranian renewable market for foreign investors, and said: "Having great renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal, Iran is offering long-term contracts for guaranteed purchase of electricity at incentive rates, so the country's renewable energy market, with its high potentials, is a very attractive market for foreign investors."

The official put the country's installed renewable capacity at 877 megawatts (MW), saying that all of the country's renewable power plants have been constructed and established using the private sector investment.

"Over 160 companies are currently active in the field of renewable energies in the country," Ardakanian said.

Iran-Syria port and maritime co-op on the rise

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Port and maritime cooperation between Iran and Syria has been increasing in recent years, and the establishment of sisterhood between Iran's Imam Khomeini and Syria's Latakia ports is going to pave the way for further development of relations in this area, a member of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce said.

As reported by the portal of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), Shahla Amouri said the development of such collaborations requires increasing investments in the port infrastructure sector in order to facilitate the operations of shipping companies.

Regarding the need to develop maritime and port cooperation between Iran and the countries of the region, the official said: "There is good capacity in the country's ports, especially in the south of Iran, to cooperate and develop maritime transport with other countries in the region, however, the PMO needs to consider more incentives for investors."

Port and maritime cooperation between Iran and Syria



has been increasing in recent years, which creates more fundamental grounds in the development of relations, she stressed.

"The current situation [of trade between Iran and Syria] shows that Iran's cooperation with Syria in the field

NIDC digs 22 oil, gas wells in a quarter

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed digging operation of 20 oil and gas wells during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21– June 21), an official with the company said.

According to Masoud Afshar, the deputy head of NIDC for drilling operation, the drilled wells consisted of three development, two exploratory, and 17 workover ones.

The official stated that 18 of the mentioned wells were drilled in the operational zone of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), two wells were drilled in the fields under the supervision of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), and two in the operational zone of the drilling management department of the National

Iranian Oil company (NIOC).

Pointing out that since the beginning of this year, the drilling area of the wells has reached 16,797 meters, he said during the aforementioned period, the drilling of three wells was completed 14 days earlier than the scheduled time.

Afshar further said that 25 drilling rigs are being relocated in the operational positions.

NIDC owns 70 light, heavy and super-heavy drilling rigs, including 67 onshore drilling rigs and three offshore rigs.

NIDC managed to carry out 10,182 meters of horizontal and directional drilling in 43 oil and gas wells across the country during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), according to the Head of NIDC's Special Operations Department Ali Daqaeyqi.

Some 654 meters of core extraction

drilling was also conducted in the mentioned period which was a huge achievement for assessing the condition of the country's oil and gas reserves.

After the U.S. reimposition of sanctions against Iran, indigenizing the know-how for the manufacturing of the parts and equipment applied in different industrial sectors is one of the major strategies that the Islamic Republic has been strongly following up to reach self-reliance and nullify the sanctions.

Oil, gas, and petrochemical industries have outstanding performances in this due, with indigenizing the knowledge for manufacturing many parts and equipment that were previously imported.

Among different sectors of the mentioned industries, drilling could be mentioned as a prominent example in this regard.



National Iranian Drilling Company managed to indigenize the knowledge for manufacturing 6,000 drilling equipment in collaboration with domestic manufacturers and engineers in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

Biden-Putin summit: A meeting or setting red lines

➔ **1** Before heading to the B-P summit in Geneva, Biden tweeted: "On my first foreign trip, we're going to make it clear- the United States and the democracies of the world are standing together to tackle the challenges of our new age." Biden also explained clearly that his aim was to break the years of isolation caused by Trump.

Biden's declared goal of the tour is clear, but at this stage, the undeclared goal is the most important, especially after the objections made by important members of Congress, including Democrats, to Biden-Putin summit [B-P summit]. The tour sent messages of support from American allies. They were messages of defiance to Russia, saying that America is not alone and that it trusts its strong military alliance with allies. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the arrival of Biden to the White House gave a "new momentum" to the G7 work.

One of Biden's most important messages explained that the West is united against China, in particular towards the Chinese increasing progress in space and military programs, the construction of a "fourth" aircraft carrier, and China's "practices against human rights" in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Of course, sending threats did not work with China that sent back a clear message of refuting any kind of threats, and that the West needs to contain its disappointment as a new world order is being born.

Consequently, the G7 announced initiating a global plan that challenges the Chinese "One Belt, One Road" project under the title of "Comprehensive Strategy Network." The G7's new strategy aims to develop infrastructure in poor and developing countries. However, China has already signed investment contracts in several countries around the world, in particular with Russia and Iran.

The United States undoubtedly enjoys sending messages of sensed danger imposed on it by any alliance developed between China and Russia, or by the deep friendship between the two neighboring countries. However, the matter gets worse with the Iranian alliance with two of the world's largest countries.



The alliance was broadened to reach the field of commerce, industry, and military cooperation.

Consequently, the assumption that Biden was trying to penetrate the Russian and the Chinese alliance through the meeting with Putin, and accordingly cooperation with Iran, is meaningful. This can be read through the questions that the NBC anchor, Keir Simmons, addressed to Putin, a day before the summit. Keir raised America's fears of China, which is building its naval military power. In principle, NBC's anchor's attempts to impose the American fears of the rising Chinese power have failed. The same tactic was repeated in his questions about Russia's concerns about sharing the space program information with Iran, or whether Russia would involve Iran in this program or not.

Alas, the questions in the interview seemed to be an attempt to raise the Russian president's concerns about the Iranian threat. The anchor's attempt was to confront Putin before the meeting with issues like direct accusations of human rights violations and control of foreign agencies. However, President Putin explained the American hypocrisy in addressing such issues. Putin compared the "Foreign Agents Law" in Russia, which

was inspired by the same law in the United States. The law deals with Russian humanitarian organizations funded by foreign countries. He also referred to the law of foreign agents that deal with foreign news agencies operating in the United States. Nonetheless, when the anchor harassed Putin with repeated questions of the same previous sort and interruptions, Putin said: "You don't like my answers and you keep interrupting me, which is inappropriate! The law is in America and it operates strictly. Countries should not comment on other countries' policies. You do not like my answer and you do not want your audience to hear it. Is it freedom of expression or freedom of expression in your own way?!"

In another response, Putin compared the American political ideals with the ideals of the ultimate hero in the American movies, by which they were accordingly systematic. Simmons is supposed to be an American professional and distinguished media person; sarcastically, his performance was on a high level of idiocy and arrogance. The requirements of the interview were obvious. It was set to emulate the B-P summit and to transfer the American fears and requirements, especially those related to space armament,

nuclear armament, and cyberwar. Simmons's questions suggested that the danger of cyberwar endangers only American's security that the whole world needed to protect. The main goal of it, according to NBC's anchor, is "to sabotage the American way of life." In fact, this is a stand-alone justification, which is used as an American excuse in any war, invasion, or hostility to any other country in the world.

Of course, many issues had been raised before the summit, but many Russian red lines were drawn before it. These included the special relationship with China and Iran, the status in Libya and Syria, and the situation in Ukraine and Belarus. Topics Biden believes that it should follow the American will. Clearly, the main American concern revolves around the military cooperation with Iran and Syria. This is not related to Iran's military, industrial, and technical development, but rather related to the future of these technologies and its access to Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Palestinian resistance, and Houthis in Yemen. In other words, one of the hidden goals of the meeting is to ensure Israel's security.

What Biden wanted, through the joint summit, is to "build a stable relationship" that takes into account American interests. However, Russia also has its own interests. Before arriving for the meeting, Putin had set red lines. No one will know what exactly happened during the first two hours between the two men, and no one will unless leaks start to reveal the secrets in the last two and a half hours, when the two foreign ministers joined B&P summit later on.

It won't be long before we sense the results of the summit, which define new rules of the game in the world. During his press conference, Biden assured the journalists that Russia and the U.S. did not enter a new era of the Cold War, but in fact, the summit came to announce the beginning of a new one. Moreover, prior to the meeting, files and arrangements had already been agreed on, and wait to be officially announced.

It's easier for U.S. to work with monarchies than democracies: professor

➔ **1** "So, it is natural that the U.S. prefers Arab monarchies to continue backing instead of supporting democratization in the region," he notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

Is there any correlation between democracy and wars? The U.S. claims democracy while it has waged wars in West Asia.

The democratic peace theory argues that democratic countries have seldom fought against each other. Though there is a near-unanimous agreement that democracies do not fight each other, why they don't do it and why that so-called democratic peace exists has no easy explanation. Moreover, at the same time, it should not be confused those democracies are, in general, more peaceful than nondemocratic countries. In the last two centuries, no other country in the world has fought more wars than the 'democratic' U.S. At present, only in the Middle East (West Asia) region, the U.S. engaged in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. If we expand the definition of war, then the U.S. is involved in covert military operations in probably all the countries in the region.

What are the main factors of destabilization in West Asia, external meddling or domestic prob-

“Democracies can’t be exported, nor they consolidate overnight. The whole democratization process has to be homegrown, and considerable time is needed for the democracy to establish itself.”

lems in countries in West Asia and North Africa?

The domestic deficit of regime legitimacy and external meddling complement each other well in the Middle East (West Asia). Most of the regimes in the region need external support to continue to be in power. The vast natural resources and strategic importance make the region an attractive place for the foreign powers to exploit the regimes' weakness and create instability to maintain their supremacy.

Why does America support Arab monarchies in West Asia? Can American democracy be exported to these countries?

If you wish to keep client states for your own development and security, it is easy and reliable to support monarchies than democracies. You only need to deal with one person and his coterie in a monarchy and that leadership set continues almost forever. But, in a democracy, you are forced to deal with a number of political actors, institutions, and pressure groups in the country. You have to be prepared to adjust to a change of regime in every election cycle. So, it is natural that the U.S. prefers Arab monarchies to continue backing instead of supporting democratization in the region. Democracies can't be exported, nor they consolidate overnight. The whole democratization process has to be homegrown, and considerable time is needed for the democracy to establish itself.

America accuses its rivals including Russia and China of suppressing people. Do you think that only American democracy is the yardstick despite Russia and China's economic development?

There is a never-ending debate whether democracy or authoritarianism is good for the economic development of a country. In recent decades, the world has witnessed that while in some countries democracies have achieved robust economic growth in some other countries, authoritarian regimes have also done the same. In many other countries, both democracies and non-democracies have ruined their



economies too. So, if we have only one aim, and that is the country's macroeconomic development, then neither the American and Chinese models have the upper hand. However, the countries and people need much more than economic development only.

What is your prediction of new emerging powers in Asia, such as Turkey, Iran and India in addition to China and Russia, that can challenge American hegemony?

The so-called Asian century with having a grand coalition, has many contradictions. However, the growing partnership between China and Russia has already challenged the American hegemony in the world in a big way. If China and Russia can manage their own bilateral contentious issues and get agreement on their respective areas of influence for a considerable period of time, that can itself displace the U.S. from the top of the global power table. For the countries like Turkey, Iran, and India, the availability of two global power blocs provides opportunities to pick and choose bilateral cooperation depending upon their national interest.

Islamic Radio and Television Union lambasts U.S. double standard on free speech

The Islamic Radio and Television Union (IRTVU) has denounced the U.S. government for blocking the domains of some media outlets that are members of the union, saying such acts run counter to Washington's claim of upholding freedom of speech around the world.

"The actions of the United States, which claims to uphold liberties and the foundations of democracy, are a source of surprise and have exposed their false claims and double standard in dealing with different media outlets," the IRTVU said in a statement.

"The United States has always turned a blind eye to many of its allies' crimes," the union said, noting that the act of censorship coincided with the Israel regime's crimes against the Palestinian people.

The IRTVU also said it was proud of being in the front line of countering the terrorist policies of the U.S., adding

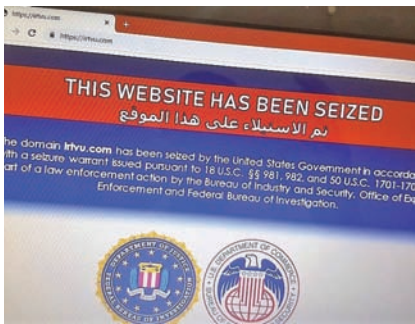
the U.S. measure demonstrated its frustration in responding words with words, arguments with arguments, and photos with photos.

"U.S. politicians are not tolerant toward the spread of the truth by websites and networks that expose their ugly face before the world and cut their hands off of the region," the statement read.

According to the IRTVU, the United States justifies its interventions in the world under the pretext of upholding freedom of thought and human rights.

The US Justice Department announced on Wednesday that it had seized 33 media websites used by the Iranian Islamic Radio and Television Union, as well as three of the Iraqi anti-terror Kata'ib Hezbollah group, which it said were hosted on U.S.-owned domains in violation of sanctions.

It came a day after a message appeared on the websites of a series of Iranian and



regional television networks that claimed their domains had been "seized by the United States Government," accompanied by the seals of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Commerce Department.

The notice, which also appeared on the website of the English-language TV news network Press TV, cited U.S. sanctions

laws as the reason for the seizure.

The websites of Iran's Arabic-language Al Alam television news network, Yemen's al-Masirah TV channel, and Bahrain's Lualua television network were also among the targeted outlets.

Over the past years, the United States has, for several times, taken similar measures against Iranian media outlets, especially Press TV, whose accounts on Twitter, Instagram, and Google-owned services have been targeted.

Following the Tuesday seizure, Press TV announced that its website will be available through its .ir domain.

In a statement on Thursday night, Press TV's editorial board argued that the reason behind its censorship is that the U.S. has lost its narrative-based dominance in the world, as a result of which it is now desperately resorting to attempts to silence dissenting voices.

Yemeni forces kill scores of Saudi mercenaries, troops in retaliatory attack

Yemeni forces have retaliated against Saudi Arabia in a large operation that involved armed drones. The cross-border attack targeted a military site in the southwest of the Kingdom. A Yemeni army spokesman says "The operation was carried out using ten Qasf-2K drones. It targeted the command center, training sections, and other parts of the barracks"

General Yahya Sare'e says the drones staged "accurate" attacks against their targets, killing and injuring as many as 60 Saudi-backed militants. He added that "A number of Saudi troops were also killed during the attack" Sare'e says footage of the retaliatory operation had been recorded and will be released soon.

The operation was conducted on Tuesday but has only been announced now. Meanwhile, the Yemeni armed spokesman says the King Khalid airbase in the Saudi city of Khamis Mushait has been hit with a Qasf-2K drone. Saudi Arabia and some regional allies, backed by the United States, launched a war on Yemen in March 2015. The almost daily bombardment has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, many of them women and children. Saudi Arabia has also imposed an all-out blockade on its southern neighbor that has resulted in what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Hundreds of indigenous bodies found in graves from Canada's 'cultural genocide'

A second chilling discovery has been found in Canada that contains the bodies of hundreds of indigenous people, many of them children, just weeks after a similar finding sent shockwaves across the country and the world. An indigenous group in the province of Saskatchewan says it has found unmarked graves of up to 751 people at a former Catholic boarding school. It provides further evidence that the children who were taken from their families, were not only tortured, sexually abused and prohibited from speaking their language at the schools, but also likely died there. Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has published a report that found the 'residential school system' amounted to cultural genocide, despite decades of public skepticism in a country that dismissed the narrative. Indigenous leaders say the findings are just the tip of the iceberg, a stark reminder of Canada's dark and painful history towards the natives. The Chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations says "The world is watching Canada as we unearth the findings of genocide. We had concentration camps here, we had them here in Canada, in Saskatchewan, they were called Indian residential schools".

Bobby Cameron also says "Canada will be known as a nation who tried to exterminate the First Nations. Now we have evidence, evidence of what the survivors of the Indian residential schools have been saying all along for decades, that they were treated without humanity. They were tortured. They were abused. And they had seen their classmates dying. This is just the beginning of the number of children who will be found."

Perhaps more troubling is that indigenous organizations are the ones leading the way in unearthing the graves and not the government itself. The residential school system, which operated between 1831 and 1996, forcibly removed about 150,000 indigenous children from their families and took them to Christian boarding schools, mostly Catholic, but also funded by the government.

Islamophobic attack on 2 Muslim sisters shocks Canadian community

Police are seeking a suspect who attacked two Muslim sisters in the western Canadian province of Alberta in what is being called a hate-motivated crime, local media reported Thursday.

According to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a man wearing a mask approached the women in St. Albert, shouting racial slurs and brandishing a knife. One sister was grabbed by her hijab and thrown to the ground, where she fell unconscious.

The second was also knocked to the ground and a knife was held at her throat while the suspect continued to yell racial slurs. He then ran away, police said. One of the sisters was taken to the hospital and both sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

A dog was brought in to track the suspect, but he escaped capture and is now being searched by the police.

"Our Muslim neighbors, friends and family deserve to feel safe and welcome in their communities," said St. Albert Mayor Cathy Heron, according to remarks carried by Anadolu Agency (AA). "I'm heartbroken that many of them are not feeling safe right now."

The man was described as being about 50 years old, 6 feet tall and wearing dark jeans, a navy shirt and a red and white bandana. The Edmonton area has been the scene of several hate-motivated attacks this year, including one where a woman in her 50s was out for a walk when she was grabbed from behind and thrown onto the pavement, reported CTV News.

In March, a man was charged after uttering slurs against a teenager wearing a hijab. St. Albert is a city of about 65,000 situated just 12 kilometers (7.45 miles) from Edmonton. Ironically, St. Albert was named by the MoneySense digital magazine as the best place to live in Canada in 2014.

Resistance News

Hamas denounces moving Honduras Embassy to Jerusalem

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — Hamas Movement said that the **d e s k** opening of the Honduras embassy in Occupied Jerusalem is a violation of international law.

Hamas in a statement on Friday described the move as a "blatant aggression" on the rights of the Palestinian people.

It called on Honduras to reverse this step immediately and to abide by the international law and consensus that had previously rejected the transfer of the US embassy to Jerusalem.

The Movement also called for immediate action to support the Palestinians' just cause and support their inherent rights to freedom and independence.

On Thursday, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett inaugurated the headquarters of his country's embassy in Jerusalem. This is the third country to move its embassy after the embassies of the United States of America and Guatemala.

UN Security Council Resolution No. 478 of 1980 considers all Israeli actions in Occupied Jerusalem invalid while the United Nations General Assembly renewed in December 2017 a call on all countries to "refrain from establishing diplomatic missions" in Occupied Jerusalem.

Ancient arch bridge undergoes restoration in Lorestan

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Segments of Pol-e Kalhor, a ruined arch bridge in Lorestan province, western Iran, have undergone restoration, CHTN reported.

“1,800 million rials (some \$42,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the restoration project, which is underway according to international standards,” the provincial tourism chief, Seyyed Amin Qasemi, said on Thursday.



Kalhor bridge crosses the Kashkan river in Mamulan district. The monument was originally constructed during the Achaemenid era (c. 550–330 BC) and was extensively renovated during the time of Sassanids (224 CE–651) to connect the two then capitals of Ecbatana and Susa.

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

Inclusive restoration begins on Sassanid fortress in northwest Iran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A comprehensive restoration project has been commenced on Qaleh Kohnneh, a Sassanid-era (224 CE–651) fortress, and its premises situated in Meshkinshahr county of Ardebil province in northwest Iran.

“Qaleh Kohnneh is one of the most important historical structures of the province and its restoration, which started recently, has been one of our top priorities,” CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Friday.



The fortress bears a sole inscription inscribed in the Sassanid Pahlavi script, which shows the importance of this fort and its strategic location.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran, titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”, to its World Heritage list.

Natural properties in Zanjan made national heritage

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — A total of nine natural properties across Zanjan province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscriptions on Thursday in a letter to the governor-general of the northwestern province, CHTN reported.

Colorful mountains of Aladaghlar, a habitat of inverted tulips, and old plane, olive, and juniper trees were among the properties added to the prestigious list.



Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Mining tourism still untapped potential in Iran

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mining tourism as a relatively untapped potential could lead to economic prosperity and fuel boom in the Iran tourism scene by the means of creating new destinations and sustainable jobs for the locals.

Experts say mining tourism is a new category in the tourism industry, which involves tours of both abandoned and active mines.

Last year, Iran started to promote mining tourism by launching the first project in the Anguran lead and zinc mine, located 130 kilometers west of the northwestern city of Zanjan.

It seems, however, that Anguran has not yet been promoted effectively as the largest open-pit lead and zinc mine in West Asia, and its pristine nature.

The province of Zanjan is ranked sixth in the country by the number of mines, and it is very rich in high-grade mines of lead and zinc. The Anguran mine is one of the largest mines of its kind and one of the world's best zinc and lead deposits.

The mine has been in use for hundreds of years, but mining operations began underground in 1925. Since 2006, due to exploration and the discovery of high reserves within the mine, it has been operated as an



open-pit mine. It is one of the few mines in the world with high metal content.

The Anguran mine is one of the few active mines in the country, with 500 miners working in different sections, that has turned into a tourist destination.

Methods of exploration and extraction, underground tunnels, travertine mines, machines used for mining, and observing

the ways of extracting minerals and rocks, especially precious stones can be engaging for the tourists.

There are also some residential units for tours and individual travelers inside the complex.

Mining tourism is a type of adventure tourism that has gained many fans around the world. Because of the interest of tour-

Trans-Iranian Railway, Cultural Landscape of Uramanat set for UNESCO world heritage bid

→ 1 Local officials believe that inscription of the property on the prestigious list of the UN body could jumpstart tourism in the region and also look at it as a tool for better conservation of its natural landscapes and unique cultural scenes for the next generations, saying its unique rural texture, architecture, lifestyle, and agriculture is a prominent example of the integration of man into nature.

The introduction of modern industries and the true effects of modernism on Iran began with Fatahi Shah and Naserolddeen Shah's travels to Europe but was seriously expanded only during the rule of Reza Shah. The period of transfer from an agricultural to an industrial society in Iran happened because of: Amir Kabir's activities including the establishment of a poly-technique school called Darolfonun in Tehran, introduction of electricity and modern industries in a European style, appearance of modern methods and instruments, growth of technology, mass production of goods by big industries in new spaces, arrival of new modes of communication such as post and lastly a huge change in intercity relations because of railways. The

idea of railway construction in Iran initially emerged in the second half of the 19th century during the Qajar era as a result of the expansion of political and cultural relations between Iran and Europe.

The railway can be regarded as a turning point for comprehensive developments in Iran. These developments include a wide spectrum of various economical, commercial, social, cultural, and even political aspects in a sensitive and important period of contemporary world history. Under the Pahlavi regime, the process of moving towards modernism gained momentum and the railway became the main pedestal of development in Iran.

Consequently, the 1394 kilometers long trans-Iranian railway was built with a width of 1435mm and 90 working stations along its route. It starts at a point north of Torkaman port located southeast of the Caspian Sea. After going through Sari and Qaem-Shahr cities, the railway enters the mountainous region of Alborz through the high Firooz-koo Pass which is linked with Tehran and Varamin Plain by numerous bridges and tunnels. Further on after crossing the flatlands of Qom and Arak, the trans-Iranian railway penetrates Zagros



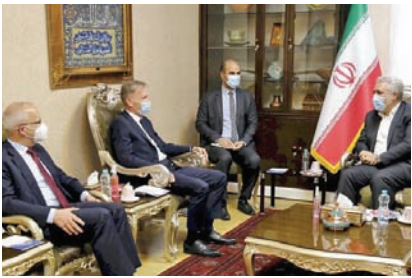
highlands in Lorestan Province and passing through a large number of tunnels and bridges reaches Andimeshk situated in the low Kuzestan Plain. Finally extending to the vicinity of Dezful, Ahwaz, and its grand bridge on Karoon, the trans-Iranian railway is divided into two branches ending separately at Khoram-Shahr and Imam-Khomeini ports on the Persian Gulf.

Iran ready to hold cultural events with Germany, tourism minister says

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan on Thursday said that his country is ready to hold further cultural events and exhibitions with Germany.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the German ambassador to Tehran Hans-Udo Muzel, ISNA reported.

Tehran's Sadabad and Niavaran palace complexes are excellent venues for such cultural events, which also enjoy support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mounesan explained. For his part, Muzel said that cul-



tures and people come closer together when joint cultural events are held.

Communication between experts from the two countries is welcomed,

especially in the field of cultural heritage, so they can learn from each other's experiences, the envoy added.

He also noted that Germany is eager to extend tourism relations between the two countries since it is not only one of Iran's traditional tourism markets, but it also has the highest number of tourists among European countries in Iran and has a long history of archaeological cooperation with the ancient country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mounesan expressed hope that the purchase of other batches of foreign corona vaccines and the production of domes-

tically-developed ones in the next two months would result in a boom in tourism.

The country's tourism industry is not far behind what was done by other countries during the outbreak of the coronavirus, the minister added.

Referring to establishing 400 hotels, increasing the number of eco-lodges to 2,200, restoring caravanserais and mansions to protect them and develop agritourism in the country over the past eight years, the minister mentioned that Iran's tourism sector has good diversity and the country's potential has been explored in that regard.

Qezelbashlar yard of Sheikh Safi ensemble renovated

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A landscaping project has been recently completed on the Qezelbashlar courtyard of the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble, which is situated in the ancient city of Ardebil, northwest Iran.

A budget of 100 billion rials (about \$2.3 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the project, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The project involved cleaning, flooring, and establishing an entrance gate to the courtyard and its associated premises, Nader Fallahi said on Friday.

Last September, the official announced that the buildings around the complex have been purchased by the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department and are being demolished to expand the ensemble.

He also noted that after the project is carried out com-



pletely, the surrounding area will be open to the public. Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble is

Private investors to revive, operate historical monuments in Kerman

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Four historical places and monuments across Kerman province have been temporarily ceded to the private sector to receive better conservation by repurposing them into profitable niches.

Vakil Caravanserai, Aminian House, Shotorgalu Mansion, and Ghaffari House have been handed over to the private sector under the supervision of the

Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places, IRNA reported on Thursday.

Of the mentioned monuments, Vakil Caravanserai is planned to be repropoed into a boutique hotel, and it is now the subject of a comprehensive restoration, the report said.

Upon an initiative scheme, the Fund provides an opportunity for private-

ly-owned businesses to run certain old structures to be maintained and repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places.

Iran is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.



Industries to be supplied with 160 nano products

SOCIETY TEHRAN – Some 160 nano products required by the industry will be domestically produced by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 2022), the director of the industry group of the Nanotechnology Development Council has announced.

"It is planned to enter nano-products into 200 industries by the next 4 years," Mehr quoted Ali Asghar Najimi as saying on Friday.

Stating that currently 750 approved nano products are sold in the market, he said that by the end of this year about 250 more products will be added to the commercialized nano products.

"We have given priority to five industries of energy (oil, gas, electricity), health (including medicine, medical equipment, cosmetics), agriculture and food, water and environment, construction," he further noted.

There are two main programs for the commercialization of nano products; The first one is the "Technology Supply" program, which supports start-ups and technologists to develop new products; and the second program is related to the demand, which is accompanied by helping to meet the needs of industries and challenges of the country by using nanotechnology.

Last year (March 2020- March 2021), some 60 projects in nanotechnology were successful, which saved about \$30 million in foreign currency, he highlighted.

Pointing out that so far about 80 large



industrial companies have used nano products, he added that by 2025, more than 200 large industrial companies will use nanotechnology to improve efficiency and productivity.

Nanotech increasing pace of development

Nanotechnology's trend of development is growing in Iran, as the number of nano-products and equipment developed in the previous [Iranian calendar] year (March 20) increased to 750, compared with 647 a year before.

Some 223 product manufacturing companies and 59 equipment manufacturing companies are active in the field of nanotechnology and by the end of last year, which developed a total of 750 products and equipment.

Of the 750 products and equipment registered in the nanotechnology product database, 535 were related to nano-products and 215 were related to nano-equipment, both of which have experienced a growing trend over the past few years, although nano-products have grown more significantly.

The field of "civil engineering and construction" with 20 percent had the largest share among nano products and equipment, followed by "medicine, health" and "industrial services and supplies" each with 13 percent.

Iran among five pioneers of nanotechnology

Iran has been introduced as the 4th leading country in the world in the field of nanotechnology, publishing 11,546 scientific articles in 2020.

The country held a 6 percent share of the world's total nanotechnology articles, according to StatNano's monthly evaluation accomplished in WoS databases.

Iran ranked 43rd among the 100 most vibrant clusters of science and technology (S&T) worldwide for the third consecutive year, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 report.

The country experienced a three-level improvement compared to 2019.

Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, has said that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Iranian nanotechnology companies have increased sales by 100 percent over the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$1.9 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), Sattari announced.

National glory

Leader: I did not want to use non-Iranian vaccines, because we should respect this national honor.

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei received the first dose of the homegrown coronavirus vaccine (COVIRAN BAREKAT) on Friday, showing trust to domestic production and national capability.

Previously, Ayatollah Khamenei had set two conditions for him being vaccinated: first, that he would not receive the vaccination out of turn; second, that he would only receive an Iranian vaccine. For this reason, when the first phase of the vaccination of Iranians aged 80 and above started, he did not receive the foreign vaccine and waited for the Iranian one.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the sixth country in the world and the first country in West Asia to gain the ability to produce the Coronavirus vaccine. Presently, there are several companies and centers researching and developing domestic vaccines. Due to the fact that two of the domestic vaccines have successfully passed the clinical, safety and efficacy trials, voluntarily receiving injections of them has started.

"I did not want to use non-Iranian vaccines, so I said I would wait for the Iranian vaccine," he said. "Because we should respect this national honor. As long as there is a possibility of prevention and treatment inside the country, why shouldn't we use it?"

"Of course, when needed, the use of foreign vaccines along with Iranian vaccines is not a problem, but we must respect the Iranian vaccine and thank all the young scientists who worked hard and actively in the production of this vaccine as well as other centers that are developing vaccines in the country," the Leader added.

He also called on the Iranian vaccine producers to publishing the scientific results of the vaccines in international papers so that the world will be informed of the great

achievements of the country.

With the outbreak of coronavirus, the competition began between countries for vaccine production; Iran was no exception making efforts to develop a vaccine against the virus and could eventually make it, being the first Islamic country and among the world's few vaccine manufacturers, the honor some advanced countries have not yet achieved.

Or even those few countries that started mass vaccination with their domestic vaccines, had come up with side effects and even mortality. While Iranian-made vaccines have so far reported no serious side effects, in addition to being highly effective against the virus, even against new mutants.

It was on June 21 that Health Minister Saeed Namaki announced that the Pastu Covac vaccine, coproduced by Cuba, has shown a 62 percent efficiency on new variants of coronavirus first emerged in South Africa and Brazil, 6 times more effective than the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Foreign vaccines banned into Iran

During his January 8 speech, Ayatollah Khamenei praised the Iranian-developed COVID-19 vaccine as "a source of pride," underlining that no one should deny the breakthrough.

He also prohibited importing American and British vaccines due to their unreliable testing.

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out that Iranian researchers have tested their vaccine on humans and they will develop an even better and more effective vaccine.

"Importing American and British vaccines into the country is forbidden. I have said this to officials and I am saying it publicly now. If the Americans had managed to produce a vaccine, this corona disaster would not have occurred in their own country.

If they know how to produce a vaccine and if their Pfizer company can produce a vaccine, why would they give it to

us? Well, they can use it for themselves so that they will not have so many deaths and so many victims. The same is true of England. Therefore, they are not trustworthy. I do not really trust them," the Leader stated.

Iranian-made vaccines enter the scene

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing Iranian-made coronavirus vaccine (COVIRAN BAREKAT), Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said on Wednesday.

"However, it is the Health Ministry that sets the policy for exporting vaccines," he added, Tasnim reported.

Results of the second human trial phase showed that the vaccine creates immunity by 93.5 percent, he noted.

"We are preparing documents related to the vaccine to be sent to the World Health Organization once the third clinical phase is completed."

Helping flourish medical tourism

Iran is one of the major destinations for health tourism in the region, and patients with 55 different nationalities, mostly from neighboring countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are seeking to use Iran's services and facilities in this field.

Iranian hospitals admitted nearly 70,000 foreign patients over the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 2018 – March 2019) and it made an economic contribution of around \$1.2 billion to the country, according to the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in the Iranian calendar year 1404.

The development of over five different vaccines in Iran could flourish medical tourism more than before and can bring the country billions of foreign currencies.

26 Iranian universities among world's best young institutions

→ 1 In 2019, 13 Iranian universities were included in this ranking among 351 universities, in 2020, the number of universities increased to 20.

Kordestan University of Medical Sciences, Kashan University, Shiraz University of Technology, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan University of Technology, Yasuj University, Mohaghegh Ardabili University, University of Kordestan, Shahid Madani University of Azerbaijan, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences are the first top universities among 26 Iranians.

Singapore's Nanyang Technological

University tops the list, followed by Paris Sciences et Lettres University and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Performance in 2021

Most recently, some 34 Iranian universities and institutions were listed among the top 1,000 in the world, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021.

Some thirty-six Iranian universities have been listed among more than 1,000 major universities worldwide, according to the Center for Science and Technology Studies Leiden Ranking for 2021.

The 2021 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings has listed 27 Iranian universities among the 1,115 most effective institutions worldwide.

Six Iranian universities have been placed among the world's top universities announced by the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021.

Times Higher Education also has published its annual ranking of the world's top universities for 2021, listing 47 Iranian universities, which shows an increase of 7 universities compared to the last year.

With 47 Iranian universities ranked among 1,527 top universities of 93 countries in the

world in 2021 rankings, Iran achieved a great improvement in the academic field.

Some 21 Islamic countries were also listed in the ranking. However, Iran holds the highest share with 47 universities.

With a scientific growth rate of 10.4 percent in 2019, Iran ranked second among the top 25 countries in the world, next to China with a growth rate of 12.9 percent, according to the Web of Science website.

According to statistics released by the International Web of Science Database, Iran's citation rank has always been on the rise over the last eight years, from 24 in 2012 to 16 in 2019.

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ع

Wildfire risk increases in Zagros foothills

Following heavy rainfall doused the country during the past months, vegetation has covered vast areas of Zagros forest in southwestern part of the country, which easily ignites when temperature level gets higher and wildfire risk increases.

Torrential rains over the past few months, has positive consequences like saturating the wetlands and reservoirs, however, led to some natural incidents like flooding which caused losses to the country, Mohammad Mansourpour, an official with the Iranian Space Agency said.

احتمال افزایش آتش سوزی در دامنه های زاگرس

بارش باران طی ماه های خیر باعث رویش علف های پرتراکم در قسمت های مختلف کشور شد که پس از افزایش دما علف ها خشک شده و احتمال آتش سوزی را در دامنه های زاگرس افزایش می دهند.

مصطفی منصورپور مدیرکل سنجش از دور سازمان فضایی ایران گفتگو با ایرنا اظهار داشت: بارش های بهاری امسال، علاوه بر فوایدی که داشت و باعث پر آب شدن تالاب ها و ذخایر آبی شد، متأسفانه مشکلاتی و خساراتی مانند سیل نیز به بار آورد.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 24

New cases	10,820
New deaths	115
Total cases	3,150,949
Total deaths	83,588
New hospitalized patients	1,397
Patients in critical condition	3,219
Total recovered patients	2,809,595
Diagnostic tests conducted	23,067,205
Doses of vaccine injected	5,543,750

'Back to the Village' to help reverse rural-urban migration

SOCIETY TEHRAN – The Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, will launch a plan to generate 15,000 jobs in villages, aiming to help reverse rural-to-urban migration trend.

Called "Back to the Village", the plan provides special facilities to the villagers who migrated to the cities and helps them make a living returning to their place of birth.

Many rural residents migrate to the cities due to unemployment and the hope of making a better future, Seyed Amir Hossein Madani, Managing Director of Barakat Foundation said.

With the implementation of this plan, 5,000 jobs are planned to be created this year, and if we succeed in creating 15,000 jobs, 60,000 people, with an average of 4 members per family, will return to the village from urban to rural areas, he added, ISNA reported on Friday.

The Barakat Foundation has various activities, but the main activity is in the field of job creation and production, he stated, adding, "Investment has been made in nearly 800 enterprises and production units, small and large, which has led to the creation of more than 200,000 jobs over the last 14 years."

According to Madani, this project has been implemented in 621 areas of the country and 297 cities, and 8,035 villages have been covered so far.

This year, a total of 135 trillion rials (nearly \$3.2 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) budget will be allocated for job creation with the participation of banks and people, he concluded.

Downward trend of migration from rural areas to cities

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

A total of 220 trillion rials (nearly \$5.6 billion) has been approved for the development of villages in the current year (March 2020-March 2021), Omid said.

Some 140 trillion rials (about \$3.3 billion) have so far been spent, he noted, adding, the unemployment rate in rural areas has reached 7.4 percent, which has decreased by over one percent compared to last year.

Forests and forestry in Iran

(Part 2)

Reacting to the maximum rainfall, which is concentrated in the medium forest belt, humidity-loving beech forests (*Fagus orientalis*) in combination with *Carpinus betulus* (Eng. hornbeam, Per. mamraz) dominate, but are intermingled with maple species (*Acer insignis*, *A. laetum*); elm trees (*Ulmus glabra*; (Per. narvan) and other broad-leaved species.

The upper forest belt, somewhat drier and colder, especially in winter, than the lower forest belts, is dominated by what were once large stands of oak trees (*Quercus macranthera*) in combination with woody flora components such as *Acer*, *Crataegus* (Per. ?alalak, rish-valak), *Prunus*, and *Juniperus* (Per. sarv) species.

Despite considerable exploitation in different forms, northern Persia and especially its Caspian slopes, are still the most densely forested areas of the country. While the Caspian lowlands have been turned almost completely into agricultural lands, the foothills of the Alborz, its slopes, and most of its northward-oriented valleys still have considerable forest cover which, however, is undergoing rapid change.

(2) In contrast to the humid forests of the Alborz and its Caspian foreland, the semi-humid/semi-arid forests which are the second most important forest formations, are located in western Persia. They stretch from the present Perso-Turkish border through Kurdistan and Lorestan into the province of Fars, and their semi-humid oak forests characterize large sections of the Zagros Mountain system (Zagrosian forests).

Though not smaller in their coverage than the humid forest belt of northern Persia, the semi-humid/semi-arid forests of western and southwestern Persia are characterized by much sparser tree stands and by a comparatively light tree cover with equally light undergrowth.

The number of *Quercus* is impressive (*Quercus Brantii*, Qu. libanii or Qu. Boissieri), but the trees are comparatively short and isolated, with grass and herbs as undergrowth, so that the predominant character is that of a forest-steppe. Besides oaks, other species such as elms, maples, wild almonds, walnuts and pistachios also contribute to the overall light forest cover.

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)

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■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
info@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

To render relief to the distressed and to help the oppressed make amends for great sins.

Imam Ali (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES



Multimedia

■ Artworks in various media by Behdad Najafi-Asadollahi, Hassan Noruznia, Farhang Atefi, Banafsheh Ahmadzadeh, Saeideh Arain, Negar Jahangiri Morrafah, and Parvin Hosseinzadeh and Hamid Jafari-Shakib will be showcased at Gol-e Narges Gallery in an exhibition entitled “Colors and Life”. Najafi-Asadollahi is the curator of the exhibition, which will be running from June 29 to July 2 at the gallery located at 130 Motehary St. near Sohrevardi St.



Photo

■ A collection of photos by Elaheh Atashnejad is currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery. The exhibit entitled “Alternative” will continue until July 6 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



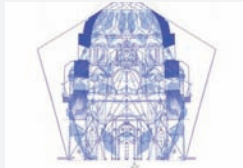
■ Bahar Aslani is displaying her latest collection of photos in an exhibition at Atbin Gallery. The exhibit named “Chaos” will run until July 6 at the gallery that can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.



■ Silk Road Gallery is displaying photos by Morteza Niknahad in an exhibition titled “Big Fish”. The exhibit will run until July 22 at the gallery located at 103 Lavasani St. in the Kamranieh neighborhood.

Drawing

■ A collection of drawings by Ghazaleh Erfani is on display in an exhibition at Tarrahan Azad Gallery. The exhibit will run until July 6 at the gallery located at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St. Architecture design



■ Shaqayeq Mohajeri is hanging her latest drawings in an exhibition named “Naqsh-e Ajab” at Ei Gallery. The exhibit will run until July 16 at the gallery that can be found at 1 Hamid Dead End, off Lesani Alley, Jebheh St., off Mahdih St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

Painting

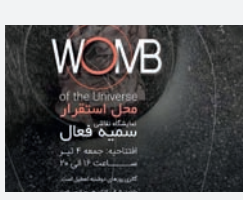
■ Paintings by Kimia Mehtari are currently on view in an exhibition at Ayrik Gallery. The exhibition will run until June 30 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.



■ Negar Gallery is currently playing host to a joint exhibition of paintings by Monir Zand, Sadaf Kebari, Negin Lonamiz and Mahin Monfared. The exhibition entitled “Missing Face” will be running until July 6 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.



■ Somayyeh Sobhani is displaying her latest paintings in an exhibition at Atashzad Gallery. The exhibition will continue until June 30 at the gallery, which is located at 3 North Abbaspur (Tavanir) St. near Vanak Sq.



■ Somayyeh Faal is hanging her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery. The exhibit named “Womb of the Universe” runs until July 7 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.



■ Shirin Gallery is showcasing paintings by Yasaman Niazi in an exhibition entitled “Revision”. The exhibit will run until July 7 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

“Khayyam Fountain” goes for Sharjah Art Foundation showcase

A R T TEHRAN – “Khayyam Fountain”, one of the last masterworks created by Iranian artist Monir Shahrudi Farmanfarmaian (1924-2019), has been showcased at the Sharjah Art Foundation in the United Arab Emirates.

The glass sculpture was commissioned by Belgium’s Bruges Triennial 2018, which loaned it to the foundation for a long-term exhibition at Hamriyah Studios where Farmanfarmaian’s final retrospective was presented in 2019, the foundation has announced.

“Khayyam Fountain” has been inspired by the Iranian polymath Omar Khayyam, known for his work on cubic equations, his influence on the development of the Persian calendar as well as his poetry, widely translated into English as the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.

For this homage, Farmanfarmaian interleaves multi-sided shapes such as triangles, pentagons and hexagons to form a tower that rotates precipitously above a hollow base, creating varied refractions of light at different times of the day.

The form of the fountain evokes the metaphor of water as a constant fount of life.

Over nearly six decades, Farmanfarmaian fashioned luminous abstract sculptures and drawings out of



“Khayyam Fountain” by Monir Shahrudi Farmanfarmaian is on view at the Hamriyah Studios of the Sharjah Art Foundation.

glass, mosaic, paper and fabric.

Fusing her interests in geometry, Sufism and Islamic architecture, the artist’s primary experiments were with a pattern, color and repetition. The result is a kaleidoscopic body of abstract works that brings together her interest in minimalism

and the craftsmanship of sixteenth-century glass and mosaic sculpting in Iran.

Farmanfarmaian studied painting at the University of Tehran and then moved to Paris to learn about avant-garde arts.

Meeting painter and poet Manuchehr Yekta, who then married Farmanfarmaian,

was the turning point in her life. She traveled to New York City to study fashion design at the Parsons School of Design and Cornell University.

She worked as a fashion designer for several magazines, including Glamour, and a number of shops during the 1950s when she met Andy Warhol, a leading pop art figure, who presented her a silkscreen from his Marilyn Monroe series.

Farmanfarmaian split with Yekta and married Abolbasha Farmanfarmaian, a law student at Columbia University. She selected his surname as her own pseudonym.

After her second marriage, she made numerous trips to her homeland where she became familiar with a number of traditional Iranian arts, including teahouse painting. In addition, she attended several major art events in Iran with her abstract paintings, one of which was also showcased at the Venice Biennale.

In the early 1960s, she attained her special style in mirror mosaics and geometric drawings, which were regarded at the world’s major auction houses such as Christie’s, Sotheby’s and Bonhams.

The Negarestan Garden Museum of the University of Tehran opened a new section in December 2017 to put 51 artworks by Farmanfarmaian on display in a permanent exhibition.

Danish biennial Socle du Monde displaying works by Mahsa Karimizadeh



A sculpture by Mahsa Karimizadeh.

A R T TEHRAN – Works by Iranian sculptor Mahsa Karimizadeh are on view at the Socle du Monde Biennale now underway in the Danish city of Herning.

A statement published by the organizers calls Karimizadeh “a very talented and highly acclaimed artist.” “She has created a large range of remarkable works

of art that include hard sculptures, soft sculptures, and paintings rich in captivating detail.

“She holds a fine art degree from the University of Tehran, where she studied sculpture, but even prior to enrolling she was already a skilled artist, drawing particular inspiration from Expressionism.”

While Karimizadeh works with an extremely diverse range of media and materials, she retains a distinctive style and aesthetic that always makes her works recognizably hers.

Karimizadeh’s style is simple and often involves the use of dots, simple shapes and simple lines. Her works may seem unfinished, yet at the same time give the impression of having been crafted to absolute perfection, creating a very interesting interplay of disparate traits.

She has presented her artworks in numerous exhibitions and won residencies in studios around Europe. She is a recurring figure at the Socle du Monde Biennale. Her

distinctive works also graced the 2017 biennale.

Works by 57 other artists will be on display at the biennial 2021, which will run until October 31.

Socle du Monde was established in 2002 and is as such the oldest Danish biennale of contemporary art. The title is an homage to Piero Manzoni’s seminal sculpture by the same name, “Socle du Monde” – a central work in HEART’s collection.

The Socle du Monde Biennale 2021 reflects upon a world in flux: architectural operations, legendary artifacts, awe-inspiring installations and thought-provoking images and audio.

The biennale celebrates Piero Manzoni by not just turning its gaze back in time, but forward to the future as well to present some of the most illustrious artists through time. Incidentally, a wide array of artworks will be exhibited which have yet to be displayed anywhere in Scandinavia.

Vera Brosgol’s “Be Prepared” published in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Vera Brosgol’s “Be Prepared” has been released by Elmi Farhangi Publications.

Negar Abbaspur has rendered the book, which was published by First Second Books in 2018, into Persian.

It is a gripping and hilarious middle-grade summer camp memoir from the author of “Any’s Ghost”.

All Vera wants to do is fit in, but that’s not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps.

Vera’s single mother can’t afford that sort

of luxury, but there’s one summer camp in her price range, Russian summer camp.

Vera is sure she’s found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the “cool girl” drama, endless Russian history lessons and outhouses straight out of nightmares!

Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier, Cece Bell and Victoria Jamieson, Brosgol’s “Be Prepared” is a funny and relatable middle-grade graphic novel about navigating your own culture, struggling to belong and the value of true friendship.

Brosgol was born in Moscow, Russia in 1984 and moved to the United States when

she was five.

She received a diploma in classical animation from Sheridan College in Canada, and currently works at Laika Inc. in Portland, Oregon drawing storyboards for feature animations.

She has done illustration work for clients such as Nickelodeon, Sony Computer Entertainment, Laika Entertainment and Simon & Schuster. Her first graphic novel, “Any’s Ghost”, was published in 2011 by First Second Books.

Also known as the Verabee, Brosgol is an Eisner Award and Harvey Award winning. She has also collaborated with Shaenon Garrity on L’il Mell and Sergio for Grlamatic and



Front cover of the Persian translation of Vera Brosgol’s “Be Prepared”.

drawn several guest comics for John Allison’s “Scary Go Round”.

Iranian publisher unfolds Jeffrey Lieberman’s untold story of psychiatry

CULTURE TEHRAN – Tehran-based publisher No has released a Persian translation of American psychiatrist Jeffrey Alan Lieberman’s 2015 book “Shrinks: The Untold Story of Psychiatry”.

He specializes in schizophrenia and related psychoses and their associated neuroscience and drugs.

The book has been rendered into Persian by Mandana Farhadian, a translator many psychology books, including Oliver Sacks’ “The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat” and Mariano Sigman’s “The Secret Life of the Mind”.

Lieberman reveals in his extraordinary and eye-opening book, the path to legitimacy for “the black sheep of medicine” has been anything but smooth.

In “Shrinks”, he traces the field from its birth as a mystic pseudo-science through its adolescence as a cult of “shrinks” to its late blooming maturity beginning after World War II as a science-driven profession that saves lives.

With fascinating case studies and portraits of the luminaries of the field, from Sigmund Freud to Eric Kandel, “Shrinks” is a gripping and illuminating read, and an urgent call-to-arms to dispel the stigma of mental illnesses by treating them as diseases rather than unfortunate states of mind.

“A lucid popular history... At once skeptical and triumphalist. It shows just how far psychiatry has come,” Julia M. Klein of Boston Globe has commented on the book.

History of art in Iran during Safavid to Qajar Periods:

Part 4

Apparently he succeeded, for paintings dateable to about 1526-27 show the emergence of a synthesis of Behzadian reason and Turkmen energy and fantasy. In 1544 Doost Mohammad referred to Shah Tahmasp’s great Shahnameh and singled out Soltan Mohammad’s rendering of the “Court of Gayumart” for special praise: it was regarded as the zenith of Safavid painting, and “the hearts of the boldest of painters were grieved and they hung their heads in shame before it.”

The process of producing a precious

book was complex. The patron first chose a skilled master, usually a calligrapher though sometimes a painter, as the director of the project.

Perhaps in consultation with the patron, the director would determine the size and quality of the desired manuscript and would then select the team of masters to produce it—paper-makers, calligraphers, painters, illuminators, and binders.

Scenes to be illustrated had to be selected in advance so that the scribe could leave appropriate areas blank. A manuscript as large as the Shah Tahmasp Shahnameh

probably utilized the skills of several calligraphers; at least fifteen painters made major contributions to the book.

If this great Shahnameh occupied the attention of many masters for many years, it did not monopolize their time. Other, smaller manuscripts were also produced, three of them for Tahmasp’s brother Sam Mirza a Khamseh of Nezami in 1525, which contains brilliant, signed works by Sheikhzadeh, a close follower of Behzad, and Soltan Mohammad.

The culmination of the shah’s patronage is the 1539-43 Khamseh of Nezami (London,

British Museum). Entirely written by one of the greatest of Safavid calligraphers, Shah Mahmud Neyshaburi, known as Zarin-qalam (Golden pen) because of the splendor of his script, it was also illuminated and provided with fourteen contemporary miniatures by the leading court painters—Soltan Mohammad, his son Mirza Ali, Aqa Mirak, Mir Sayyed Ali (the son of Mir Mosawwer), and Moaffar Ali. In its sustained elegance this manuscript must be considered the most perfect of Safavid precious books.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued