



IRGC chief: Time to export coronavirus vaccine to U.S. Page 2



Mousavi defends Vladimir Alekno's tactics in 2021 VNL Page 3



Domestic manufacturers supply 80% of equipment used in Goreh-Jask pipeline Page 4



Today marks martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Beheshti and 72 members of the Islamic Republic Party in a terrorist bombing in 1981.

Iran lays out rules for cooperation with IAEA

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IRGC starts clinical trial of "Noora" coronavirus vaccine

Health Minister Saeed Namaki (L) and IRGC Commander-in-Chief Hossein Salami are applauding scientists who endeavored to develop Noora vaccine.

Iran's Q1 petchem output up 7% yr/yr

Petrochemical production has risen seven percent in Iran during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official in the National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

Jalal Mir-Hashemi, the NPC's director for the production control, put the three-month petrochemical output at 16.3 million tons, and highlighted that the petrochemical plants operated with a good capacity during this period, Shana reported.

With the measures taken and the sustainable supply of feed in the current year, the production of various products in petrochemical complexes has increased and while meeting the needs of domestic markets, the export programs have also been realized, Mir-Hashemi noted.

Emphasizing that Iran's petrochemical industry is one of the most important pillars of the country's development and the driving force of the economy, he said: "The main approach of the National Petrochemical Company is to complete the production chain, Continued on page 4

Iran won't give data recordings to IAEA: parliament speaker

Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has announced that Iran's three-month deal with the UN nuclear watchdog has expired and thus Iran won't give its data recordings to the UN body.

Qalibaf made the remarks in response to a question from a lawmaker on the latest developments regarding the deal between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which expired recently.

The lawmaker, Alireza Salimi, said if Iran's top security body has made any decision regarding the deal. He said, "In the Strategic Action Act, we gave the International Atomic Energy Agency three months, which was extended for another month, but it has expired since about three days, and now we have to defend the parliament's legislation," Salimi said. Continued on page 3

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) started the first phase of the clinical trial of its domestically-made "Noora" coronavirus vaccine on Sunday, IRIB reported.

Produced by Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, the vaccine was unveiled in the presence of IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Hossein Salami and Health Minister Saeed Namaki.

The recombinant vaccine entered the stage of human trial after 16 months

of research work by Iranian scientists.

The first dose of Noora vaccine was injected to the chief of Baqiyatallah Hospital Hossein Samadinia.

"It is noteworthy that a few university in the world have been able to develop a vaccine against the virus, and it is a great honor for the Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences to be able to achieve this success," Samadinia said on the sidelines of the unveiling ceremony. Continued on page 7

U.S. liberal democracy turning into totalitarian regime reminiscent of the Soviet Union: ex-Senate candidate

BY ALI A. JENABZADEH
former U.S. Senate candidate says U.S. liberal democracy is converting to a totalitarian system like the former Soviet Union.

"I saw a Russia Today story of June 24th quoting Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, as saying that the United States held up as a 'model of liberal democracy' is rapidly turning into a totalitarian regime reminiscent of the former Soviet Union," Mark Dankof tells the Tehran Times.

"I absolutely agree with this as the development of a domestic police state and the 'irremovability of oligarchic elites'," Dankof notes.

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 the resistance movement were seized by the United States. The move cast a great shadow over claims of freedom of speech propagated by Washington.

Observers believe the U.S. loss of control over other narratives forced it into taking such a measure against the Iranian media in order to solve its immediate problems.

"These elites want a world government they control in its entirety, with global surveillance, military coercion, economic blackmail, control of fiat currency, control of media, and subversion of nation-states and cultures the weapons used to achieve it," Dankof remarks.

This is the text of the interview:
What is the U.S. goal of taking down Iranian news sites as well as Yemeni and Iraqi ones?

It is clear that the United States government has taken the action against Press TV and these other outlets because three things have resulted from their broadcasting operations deemed intolerable by American policy makers and their allies in mainstream media and the social media conglomerates:

1. The exposure of the degree of control of Zionist neo-conservatives and the Israeli lobby over every branch of the American government and media;

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Here are destinations near Tehran to escape summer heat

Summer has arrived in the northern hemisphere. It is great news for the sun-lovers flocking to beach resorts. But what about those who want to beat the heat? If cool weather and even cooler destinations are more to your taste, here are places around the Iranian capital where scorching heat will be nothing more than an afterthought!

On the northeast side of Tehran, you can find plenty of cool townships and villages such as Fasham, Ahar, Meygoun, Oushan, Damavand, Cheshmeh A'la, and Garmabdareh to name a few. These destinations, in addition to the fresh air, fruit gardens, and lush gardens, are mostly equipped with proper recreational facilities and abundant local restaurants.

On the east, Shahandasht waterfall may be the top of your agenda. The 50-meter cascade is situated off the Haraz road, which connects Tehran to the Caspian Sea in the north. Adjacent

to the falls stands a Sassanid-era (224 CE to 651) stronghold, named Qaleh Malek-Bahman, which worth paying a visit.

Tanghe Vashi, a popular mountainous resort that is known for having a pleasant, cool stream can be your other choice in the east direction. Tanghe Vashi is where many opt for walking for minutes to cool off. Situated some 15 kilometers west of Firouzkuh, Tanghe Vashi also bears a 19th-century bas-relief commissioned by Fath Ali Shah Qajar (r. 1797 – 1834) to commemorate hit hunts during summer excursions.

Apart from the east, you can choose to stay in Kan and Sulaqan, which are riverside rural districts westward. Another cool spot may be colorful valleys across the popular Chalus road that embraces hectic rows of restaurants and coffee shops.

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Chauvin got a 'slap on the wrist' because white supremacy in North America never went away

Derek Chauvin was sentenced to 22 1/2 years in prison, but will likely serve just 15. The other seven and a half years, he will be eligible to be released (under supervision). Is that all? Executing African Americans in broad public daylight by placing your knees on their neck for more than nine minutes until the last words they utter are calls of love towards their mothers and children and those all too famous words 'I can't breathe'. Prosecutors were seeking the maximum sentence of 40 years behind bars. 22 1/2 years means, in the words of Floyd's brother, 'you can kill a man in cold blood and get a slap on the wrist'.

Chauvin's case was a PR move to deflect attention away from the deeper struggles and challenges African Americans face every day. From harassment by the police to white Americans still waving confederate flags, to the countless murders by White Officers.

The discrimination issue starts at the top, those who have the power to end this but either can't or are unwilling to do so.

The wider problem is portions of black Americans have joined this discrimination campaign whether they know it or not. Brainwashed by the 'American Dream'; some black Americans forget they were brought to America as slaves and forced to build the country.

Case in point, black representatives in Congress who talk the talk but won't walk the walk. The day they wake up and accept the reality; then they will boycott congress.

Not run for it. The solution cannot be relied upon from Congress or the White House, Democrats and Republicans have come and gone and failed to tackle the issue. Not even protests will bring about change. Demonstrations raise awareness, yes, but not change.

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Yerevan to exhibit handicrafts from northeast Iran

Sets of Iranian handicrafts will be put on show at an 18th-century mosque in the capital city of Yerevan, Armenia in the near future.

"An exhibit of handicrafts made by artisans who are native of North Khorasan province will be held at the Blue Mosque of Yerevan," the provincial tourism chief said on Saturday.

"Moreover, we are planning to hold a

fam tour of North Khorasan destinations for Armenian travel tour operators and media personnel," Ali Mostofian added.

The official hailed the expansion of cultural relations with the neighboring country, saying "Widening joint cultural ties with Armenia will naturally lead to a boom in tourism and handicrafts sales."

"There are other proposals in the field of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts,

which Governor-General of North Khorasan is scheduled to discussed with Armenian officials in the form of some memoranda of understanding," he explained.

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

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Over \$141m of facilities paid to export companies in 2 months

The Iranian banking system has paid 5.951 trillion rials (about \$141.6 million) of facilities to export-oriented production units during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's data showed.

The mentioned facilities have been paid to 43 units, IRNA reported.

Based on the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's data, over 26 units have also been introduced to banks to receive 6.48 trillion rials (\$154.5 million) of facilities in the said two months.

Promoting exports in line with the support of domestic production has been one of the main strategies of the Ministry of Industry over the past two years.

In this regard, the trade policies of the ministry for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), which is named the year of "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles", have been mainly focused on the development of production, employment and development of non-oil exports and eventually entering new markets.

According to the Central Bank of Iran's (CBI) latest data, Iranian banking system has paid 2.74 quadrillion rials (over \$65.2 billion) of facilities to various domestic economic sectors in the first two months of the current calendar year, registering a 46.6-percent rise from the same period in the previous year.

Working capital loans paid to different economic sectors in the mentioned two months were above 2.018 quadrillion rials (about \$47.85 billion), accounting for 73.7 percent of the total provided facilities. Continued on page 4



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Paddy fields in Isfahan

A man is preparing rice seedlings for transplantation in a paddy field in Isfahan, central Iran. Planting rice seedlings starts every year in mid-May and lasts until mid-July in the province.

Some 77 percent of the country's rice is produced in the three northern provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan neighboring the Caspian Sea.

The study of origins of Coronavirus should follow science

Chang Hua, Chinese Ambassador in Iran

For more than a year, the COVID-19 epidemic has been raging around the world. The virus frequently mutates, and the situation is still complicated and severe. In order to scientifically deal with the virus and better prevent possible risks in the future, it is very important to find the origin and source of the virus.

On the issue of origin-tracing, China has been calling for international cooperation on the basis of respecting facts and science, and has always been a supporter for global scientific research on the source of the virus and its transmission routes. Soon after the COVID-19 outbreak, China reported the situation to the WHO and published the genome sequencing of the novel coronavirus at the first opportunity available. China put in place the strictest information release system in a professional and efficient manner to provide authoritative information in a timely manner, carried out epidemic-related technical exchanges and shared information with more than 180 countries and over 10 international and regional organizations. China co-sponsored the WHA resolution on COVID-19 and support WHO-led cooperation on zoonotic source research among member states. Despite the daunting task of domestic prevention and control, China twice invited WHO experts in for study of origins. From January 14 to February 10 this year, Chinese experts and international experts from WHO and ten countries formed a joint team and conducted joint research for 28 days in Wuhan. China did a lot of administrative, technical, logistic and supporting work for the joint study. China offered the joint mission every convenience, arranged a rich itinerary with many site visits, and presented item by item raw data of particular concern. These fully demonstrate China's openness, transparency and responsible attitude. Many experts on the joint mission spoke highly of China, saying that they had comprehensive and frank discussions with the Chinese side on data issues, were able to obtain key data throughout the process, could feel the trust and openness of the Chinese side, and were granted full access to every place they asked to see, everyone they wanted to meet. In March, the WHO released the origin-tracing study report of the China-WHO joint mission, drawing a clear conclusion that lab leak is extremely unlikely. Peter Daszak, member of the WHO international expert group and president of EcoHealth Alliance, said in a recent interview with an American media outlet, "There is no evidence that this was a virus created in a lab ... In fact, we've worked with the lab in Wuhan for 15 years now ... And we know that they do not have that virus in the lab".

Although Chinese and foreign experts and the WHO have given their authoritative and science-based views on the "lab leak" hypothesis, unfortunately, we have seen rhetoric and actions that stigmatize and label the virus. Politicians and media in US and some other countries are still vigorously hyping up the narrative that "the virus was leaked from the WIV" and pushing for investigations into it. Being the first country to report COVID-19 cases doesn't necessarily make China the origin of the novel coronavirus. In fact, a number of clues, reports and studies suggest that the outbreaks began in multiple locations around the world as early as the second half of 2019. Many medical experts also believe that judging from the overall situation of the epidemic, it is an obvious fact that COVID-19 has multiple origins and broke out in multiple places. Thus, study of origins is a global mission that should be conducted in multiple countries and localities, while using the study to shift the blame to specific countries only creates difficulties and barriers for national efforts to fight the virus and save lives.

Scientific matters need scientific opinions, and professional questions require professional answers. Study of origins should be jointly conducted by scientists all over the world, featuring solidarity and cooperation instead of stoking confrontation and sowing division. The process should not be dictated by any country's will. To politicize this issue will only severely hinder global cooperation in study of origins, jeopardize anti-pandemic cooperation, and cost more lives. It would run counter to the international community's aspiration for solidarity against the virus.

Upholding the spirit of openness, transparency and science on the origin studies, China will continue to cooperate with WHO in this regard, and make due contribution to promoting global solidarity against the virus and saving more lives.

Araqchi: Enough negotiations have taken place and now is the time for decision-making

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Speaking with the ICANA website on Sunday, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator said there have been enough nuclear negotiations over some key issues and it is time for the negotiation parties to make decisions.



Abbas Araqchi said he discussed the latest developments surrounding the Vienna negotiations with the MPs sitting on the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, adding he cherishes this opportunity to use the MPs' insights.

Expressing pleasure over the meeting, he said, "There was a very good interaction today; of course, these interactions have already existed and we exchanged views with the representatives. Today, some representatives made good suggestions, some had questions that were answered. These meetings help to build national understanding and consensus."

So far six rounds of negotiations have been held between Iran the P4+1 group for reviving the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA. The U.S., which quit the JCPOA during Trump's presidency, is participating in the talks indirectly. The talks are being led by the European Union.

"We are almost reaching the final stages. There are a series of issues that have been sufficiently negotiated and it is time for the countries to decide," Araqchi explained.

Stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran has already made "tough decisions," he said that when the United States withdrew from the JCPOA and Iran decided to stay in the deal, it was Iran's big and difficult decision that has led to the preservation of the nuclear deal until this date.

"Now it is the turn of the negotiation parties, and according to the negotiations we had, they must decide and reach a conclusion on the revival of the nuclear deal in order to reach an agreement," he highlighted.

The chief nuclear negotiator underlined that it is time for all sides to make decisions. "The other parties must make their tough decisions."

IRGC chief: Time to export coronavirus vaccine to U.S.

General Salami says Iran will break formidable barriers through science and technology

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Islamic Revolution Guards Corp Commander Major General Hossein Salami said on Sunday that reaching high peaks cannot be done without bearing hardships.

General Salami made the remarks as the IRGC started the first phase of the clinical trial of its domestically-made "Noora" coronavirus vaccine.

Produced by Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Noora vaccine was unveiled at the presence of IRGC chief and Health Minister Saeed Namaki. The recombinant vaccine entered the stage of human trial after 16 months of research by Iranian scientists.

Salami said Iran is announcing to the world that it will never give up in the face of difficulties and "we know that we can finally remove all formidable barriers of sanctions through technical and scientific efforts."

The senior general went on to say "we are fighting for independence and we are in the midst of a great battle."

He said Iran is hellbent to achieve progress despite all pressures by the West.

"Powerful countries have decided to prevent our national independence and we have decided at any cost" to protect "the stature of our country and nation," Salami remarked.

Criticizing the West for imposing stifling sanctions on Iran, he said, "Those who speak of democracy and progress in world want our sick children to die in arms of their mothers. Their plan for our nation is poverty, backwardness, disease, and disintegration, which is why they don't allow us to transfer money for medicine and vaccines nor do they allow



us to interact with the world."

Even during the Coronavirus pandemic, the United States refused to loosen financial sanctions on Iran to import medicine and medical equipment. In March 2020 Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif said the U.S. economic war against Iran is "supplanted by medical terrorism".

Noora is the fifth vaccine that Iran is developing.

COVIRAN BAREKAT vaccine is being administered for injection. It received the license for public use on June 14. It was unveiled on December 29, 2020.

The second vaccine developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute

(Razi Cov Pars) started the clinical trial on February 27.

Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically developed vaccine named after martyr nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16. The first phase of the human trial for Fakhra vaccine is done successfully.

"Osvid-19", the fourth domestic vaccine produced by Osvah Pharmaceutical Company, is also undergoing human trials. It will be available in early September.

On May 24, the first coronavirus vaccine made by the private sector also succeeded to receive the code of ethics and entered the phase of clinical studies.

Former parliament speaker: Raisi-Qalibaf ties are deep

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — "I testify that there is a deep understanding between Raisi and Qalibaf," former parliament speaker Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel said on Sunday.

Haddad-Adel, the current chairman of the Coalition Council of the Revolution Forces, made the remarks at the presence of elected representatives of Tehran in the Assembly of Experts and Parliament in bi-elections and 21 members of the Tehran city council, who were elected in the June 18 elections held simultaneously with the presidential polls.

The former senior MP said that he intends to thank Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf "who explicitly stated months ago when the coalition was arguing for the presidency that he would not enter the election race if Raisi came to the field, and he did so.

"If it were not for this, the cooperation between the parliament and the government would not have been shaped, and now there is a deep and impenetrable agreement and honesty between the president-elect and Qalibaf, the heads of the government and the parliament, which I testify is not tactical at all," he stated.

Qalibaf withdrew candidacy in favor of Ebrahim Raisi in the final days in the 2017 presidential elections.

Haddad-Adel went on to say that all should remember the time, space, history and geography in which they are serving the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic.

"Imam Khomeini taught us that we should know that victory and success come from God, and thanking God for His blessings is our duty," the former parliament speaker told the gathering as some members of the Coalition Council of the Islamic Revolution Forces were also present.

Stating that the June 18 elections carried a variety of multi-layered realities that each of which must be analyzed in its place, Haddad Adel said the most important achievement of the election was the participation of the people in the elections who have been enduring economic hardship for eight years.

He said the Iranian people, who have been under the most crippling sanctions in history for more than 10 years, were "fed by foreign media outlets to distance themselves from the Islamic Republic" but the people did not heed them.

Haddad-Adel said that the sanctions were intended to make the people "rebel against the establishment, and this was the last resort of the global imperialism for this nation to give up on the Revolution."

He described the June 18 elections as a milestone inside and outside the country which had had a positive effect and changed the dynamics.

Stating that the elections will have a positive impact on the Vienna negotiations to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he said that the representatives of the new administration will be able to negotiate with an upper hand.



'We intend to serve people'

He went on to say that the faction that has gained power should focus on serving the people.

The goal of the officials should be to serve the Revolution and the values of the Revolution without any consideration or factionalism, he insisted.

"The only thing we do not think about in the coalition, and we have never set on the agenda, is to say what our share will be? Now that the desired government has won, we have no intention of saying that our comrades, group and party must be in the government, and we are looking to help Raisi, and of course one of the supports we can provide is to suggest him which forces should be used in which section of the administration.... our criterion is meritocracy, revolutionary attitude, service and devotion," he added.

MP says U.S. cannot impose conditions on Iran

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — The spokesperson for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament has criticized the U.S. secretary of state for his remarks, saying Antony Blinken's statements are intended to start a psychological war against Iran.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini stated that the United States cannot impose conditions on the Islamic Republic as the U.S. is the party that has left the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA.

"Blinken's remarks are issued in order to start a psychological war and get more concessions (from Iran)," Meshkini told Al

Masirah news network aired on Sunday.

In a press conference with his French counterpart in Paris on Friday, Blinken said the U.S. could eventually decide not to rejoin the agreement if negotiations in Vienna continue without progress.

"There will come a point, yes, where it will be very hard to return back to the standards set by the JCPOA," Blinken said.

Meshkini also said it is seeking a verifiable lifting of sanctions and this is a "red line", adding that the Americans are not trustworthy.

Iran and the remaining members to the JCPOA Joint Commission (Russia, China,



Germany, France and Britain) have started talks in Vienna since April to revive the 2015

nuclear deal. The U.S. is involved in the talks indirectly. Iran is seeking guarantees that the U.S. will not quit the nuclear deal as happened during the Donald Trump administration.

"The Americans are not trustworthy, and we have the right to ask for a guarantee that the agreement will not be violated again," the MP said.

Regarding the issue of Iran's monitoring agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Meshkini stated, "If the sanctions are not lifted, not only will we not give any files to the Agency but we will also turn off the cameras."

Rouhani: Annual export above \$40 billion despite U.S. pressure

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — The outgoing president of Iran said his administration has managed to thwart the serious harm that the U.S. has been seeking to do to the country's oil revenues.

According to Tasnim, in comments on Sunday, President Hassan Rouhani said his administration has fought against the intense pressure of the sanctions by carrying out the Resistance Economy strategy.

"Though great pressures and difficulties have been inflicted on people, we have been able to maintain the (value) of the country's (annual) exports above \$40 billion under the worst

conditions," he said at a meeting of the Administration's Economic Coordination Headquarters.

Rouhani also said his administration has managed to relatively thwart the U.S. harsh blow to Iran's currency income from the oil exports.

The achievements of the administration are especially valuable since they have occurred under the pressure of the toughest sanctions and the economic war, the president stated.

Iran has been under a series of illegal sanctions imposed by the U.S. since 2018, when ex-president Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran's maneuvering in the Atlantic has scared U.S., Israel, says army chief

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — The naval flotilla that the Iranian Navy has dispatched to the Atlantic Ocean has frightened the U.S. and the Zionist regime, Iranian Army Commander Major General Abdulrahim Mousavi said on Sunday.

According to the Tasnim news agency, In a meeting with military commanders and

cadets, Major General Mousavi said the Army has turned into the symbol of self-sufficiency in the ground, aerial, naval and air defense sectors under the auspices of the Defense Ministry, Tasnim reported.

The Army has made such advances that a fully homegrown flotilla of the Navy, serving as the symbol of self-reliance and self-sufficiency,

has broken the record of navigation on a mission to the Atlantic Ocean thousands of miles away from the country's territorial waters and in accordance with international law, he added.

The U.S. and the Zionist regime have been terrified by such a meaningful presence of the Iranian flotilla in the Atlantic, the commander said.

Last month, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman responded to media reports about two Iranian warships whose final destination may be Venezuela, stressing that Iran is entitled to freedom of navigation in international waters and cautioning that everybody should avoid miscalculations in dealing with the Islamic Republic.

Iran lays out rules for cooperation with IAEA

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TEHRAN – Iran has provided explanations on the continuation of its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog after it accused Iran of being unresponsive to demands by the UN body regarding a technical understanding that expired last week.

The understanding which was reached in February laid out temporary conditions for Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue monitoring activities in light of an Iran nuclear law obligating the Iranian government to restrict cooperation with the IAEA and ratchet up nuclear activities in case the West failed to ensure Iran's interests envisioned in the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Under the February deal, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the IAEA "agreed: 1. That Iran continues to implement fully and without limitation its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA as before. 2. To a temporary bilateral technical understanding, compatible with the Law, whereby the IAEA will continue with its necessary verification and monitoring activities for up to 3 months (as per technical annex). 3. To keep the technical understanding under regular review to ensure it continues to achieve its purposes," according to a joint statement issued by the IAEA and the AEOI during a visit by IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi to Iran.

This deal expired in May, but at that time, Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA were busy negotiating a possible Iranian and American return to the 2015 nuclear deal. Therefore, Iran and the IAEA decided to extend by one month the technical understanding. The Vienna negotiations did not result in a resumption of the JCPOA and the temporary understanding reached its expiry date. Here relations between Iran and the IAEA started souring, with Iran announcing the expiration of the February deal and the IAEA insisting on an extension.



On Friday, Grossi, in a report to the IAEA Board of Governors, announced that Iran has not responded to the IAEA questions concerning the technical understanding. "An immediate response from Iran is needed in this regard," the IAEA said in a statement summarizing a report by its chief Rafael Grossi to its 35-nation Board of Governors that was also seen by Reuters.

"The Director General stresses the vital importance of continuing the Agency's necessary verification and monitoring activities in Iran, including the uninterrupted collection and storage of data by its monitoring and surveillance equipment," the statement added.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said that IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi wrote a letter to Iranian officials on June 17, but Iran has not responded to this letter and has not determined whether it intends to maintain the current agreement or not.

Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi has responded to the IAEA statement by saying that Iran was under no obligation to respond to extend the un-

derstanding.

"Data recording was a political decision by Iran to facilitate, including, the political talks and to help its success and shouldn't be considered as obligation in relation with the Agency. Since Iran is continuing the implementation of its CSA, continuation or discontinuation of recording has nothing to do with Iran's safeguards obligations," he said on Twitter, adding, "Undoubtedly, any decision to be taken by Iran in this regard would only be based on its political considerations, and the Agency can not, and should not, consider it as a something it was entitled to."

Gharibabadi further elaborated on his remarks in a televised program on Saturday, saying Iran had been retaining data from the cameras "solely based on good will, and not as part of its obligations towards the agency."

The Islamic Republic took the decision to keep data only out of "political considerations" and in line with its commitment to international safeguards, he said. "Iran is not bound by any commitment to implement the agency's demand," the envoy

noted, according to Press TV.

In that sense, "the agency had no duty to report on the expired [understanding] agreement" to the Board of Governors, Gharibabadi said.

The Iranian diplomat said the Agency is not in a position to determine the measures needed to be taken by Iran in terms of dealing with the technical understanding. Instead, it only serves as an executive body. "In fact, here we see the Agency only as an executive, not as a responsible body that determines duties," Gharibabadi pointed out.

On Sunday, Iran once again underlined that the Iran-IAEA deal has expired. "I have already talked about the Agency, and now I say that after the three-month opportunity which came to an end, nothing has been extended and after that none of the items recorded inside will ever be given to the Agency and are in the possession of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said in response to a query from a lawmaker who demanded clarity on the fate of the February deal.

A spokesman for the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Relations Committee warned against turning off the cameras being operated inside Iranian nuclear facilities if sanctions on Iran are not lifted.

In remarks to Yemen's Al Masirah TV channel, the spokesman, Mahmoud Abbas Zadeh Meshkini, said, "If sanctions are not lifted, we will not only not give them data and images, but we will also turn off the cameras."

Iranian and the U.S. as well as European diplomats are preparing for a potentially decisive round of talks this week in Vienna that is expected to result in a deal to revive the JCPOA. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi, who led the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, said Sunday that Vienna talks have almost reached their end that the time has come for the negotiating parties to make decisions.

Iran won't give data recordings to IAEA: parliament speaker

→1 Addressing the parliament speaker, the lawmaker asked, "Has the Supreme National Security Council made a decision that we do not know about? Please make the necessary remarks in this regard."

Qalibaf responded by saying that the deal has expired, therefore, Iran will not provide the IAEA with the images it has been recording over the past few months.

"I have already talked about the Agency, and now I say that after the three-month opportunity which came to an end, nothing has been extended and after that none of the items recorded inside will ever be given to the Agency and are in the possession of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The law is being implemented accurately," Qalibaf stated.

Iran and the IAEA reached in February a temporary deal allowing the Agency to continue its monitoring of Iran's nuclear facilities for a period of three months. The deal was reached during a two-day visit by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi to Iran.

At that time the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) issued a joint statement announcing the deal.

"The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency recalled and reaffirmed the spirit of cooperation and enhanced mutual trust that led to the Joint Statement in Tehran on 26 August 2020, and the importance of continuing that cooperation and trust," the February statement said. "The AEOI informed the IAEA that in order to comply



with the act passed by the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran called 'Strategic Action to Cease Actions and Protect the Interest of Iranian Nation' Iran will stop the implementation of the voluntary measures as envisaged in the JCPOA, as of 23 February 2021."

The statement added, "In view of the above and in order for the Agency to continue its verification and monitoring activities, the AEOI and the IAEA agreed: 1. That Iran continues to implement fully and without limitation its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA as before. 2. To a temporary bilateral technical understanding, compatible with the Law,

whereby the IAEA will continue with its necessary verification and monitoring activities for up to 3 months (as per technical annex). 3. To keep the technical understanding under regular review to ensure it continues to achieve its purposes."

The February deal was reached after Iran started to implement a nuclear law obligating the Iranian government to restrict cooperation with the IAEA and increase nuclear activities if the West failed to meet the demands of Iran within a certain period. The deal was extended for three months until June 24. Recently Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the AEOI, sent a letter to the chief of the UN nuclear watchdog informing him that the February deal between Iran and the IAEA has expired but Iran decided to continue to store data related to monitoring activities.

The letter was announced after the Agency released a quarterly report on Iran in which it accused Iran of failing to explain traces of uranium found at several allegedly undeclared sites. The letter also came after IAEA Director-General Grossi announced on May 24 that he had agreed with Iran to extend by one month the February deal between Iran and the IAEA allowing the UN nuclear watchdog to continue necessary monitoring activities.

However, Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's permanent representative to the UN offices in Vienna, said that Salehi, in his letter, told Grossi that the monitoring deal has expired.

Iran says 'will not negotiate forever'

POLITICAL
d e s k

TEHRAN – In what appeared to be a response to remarks by U.S. diplomats threatening to halt negotiations in Vienna if Iran failed to give concessions, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said late on Saturday that "Iran will not negotiate forever."

Khatibzadeh said Iran remains committed to saving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal - which was ditched by the former U.S. administration in May 2018 and it has been the most active party in the Vienna nuclear talks aimed at salvaging the tattered deal.

"Out of a steadfast commitment to salvage a deal that the US tried to torpedo, Iran has been the most active party in Vienna, proposing most drafts. Still believe a deal is possible, if the US decides to abandon Trump's failed legacy. Iran will not negotiate forever," Khatibzadeh said on Twitter.

The spokesman's tweet seems to be a response to recent remarks by the top U.S. nuclear negotiator in Vienna and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken who both, in a thinly-veiled threat, warned of the Vienna talks possibly hitting a deadlock if Iran continued to insist on its positions.

"What they've asked for - in principle, they've said they want all of the sanctions that President Trump's administration reimposed or imposed since 2018 to be lifted. And that's a lot. And we've said we're prepared to remove those that we think we need to remove to be back in compliance with the JCPOA. But we're not going to lift all of the sanctions that the Trump administration imposed," U.S. envoy to the Vienna talks Rob Malley told NPR.

Malley appeared to go so far as to threaten to walk out of the Vienna talks if they ceased to make progress. "We wouldn't be going back to Vienna if we thought that it's not possible to reach a deal. I don't think that this window is going to be open forever. At some point, we'll have to conclude that this is not succeeding. But we're not there yet," he said.

In an echo of Malley's warning, Blinken also warned that the U.S. could eventually decide not to rejoin the agreement if negotiations in Vienna continue without progress.

"There will come a point, yes, where it will be very hard to return back to the standards set by the JCPOA," the chief U.S. diplomat said at a briefing in Paris after meeting with French Foreign Min-

ister Jean Yves Le Drian. He also called on Iran to make "difficult" decisions to advance talks that could revive the JCPOA.

Le Drian reiterated the same call. "It's been six weeks since the negotiations started again. Some progress was achieved, and we will now be entering the most difficult times. It will require some strong and courageous decisions on behalf of the new Iranian authorities, but now is the time," he said.

On Friday, Khatibzadeh reacted to Blinken's and Le Drian's remarks in which they had said they were waiting for Tehran to rejoin the JCPOA.

"Iran has never left the JCPOA, so there is no point saying it should return to the deal," said Khatibzadeh, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

"Rather, it is the United States that should make up its mind and return to the JCPOA by lifting its illegal sanctions and effectively fulfilling its commitments," said the spokesman.

"The Americans and Europeans know better than anyone else that Iran decided to remain in the JCPOA and keep it alive despite the fact that, and at a time when the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the agreement and imposed illegal and cruel sanctions on Iranian people and despite



the Europeans' inaction," he added.

"During the negotiations in Vienna, it was announced time and again that it is the U.S. that has disrupted the balance of the JCPOA and has practically impeded the implementation of the JCPOA through its full non-compliance," said Khatibzadeh.

"Moreover, it was stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to stop its remedial measures (i.e., the scaling down of its obligations under the JCPOA) and resume the implementation of its commitments under the JCPOA provided the U.S. fully implements the agreement, and that the other parties are fully aware of Iran's position," he noted.

"It is clear that if the U.S. makes up its mind, becomes ready to fully deliver on its commitments and stop using sanctions as a bargaining chip, it will be possible to reach a deal," the spokesman said.

SPORTS

Mousavi defends Vladimir Alekno's tactics in 2021 VNL

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN – Iran middle blocker Mohammad Mousavi defended Vladimir Alekno's tactics in the 2021 Volleyball Nations League.

Under leadership of the Russian coach, Iran finished in 12th place which didn't live up to expectations.

Now, Mousavi has defended the performance of Alekno, following disappointing results in Italy.

"The federation's policy was to prepare the team for the 2020 Olympic Games. We were unlucky at the start of the competition since Amir Ghafour suffered a shoulder injury.

"After losing to Australia, our team came under a huge pressure but there was no technical problem," Mousavi said in an interview with Varzesh3.com.

"Mr. Alekno had previously said he would consider VNL as a preparation tournament for the Olympics. He is a great coach and I really enjoy working with him. He has helped us improve our self-confidence," he added.

"Alekno has no mental limitation. In the match against Russia and Brazil, he treats like the normal games and this is what really caught my eye," Mousavi said.

Aghaei becomes the first woman to represent Iran at Olympics badminton

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN – Soraya Aghaei will be the first woman badminton player to represent Iran at the Olympic Games.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has informed the Iranian federation Finland's Airi Mikkela has withdrawn from the 2020 Olympic Games.

According to the BWF ranking, Egyptian player Hadia Hosny had to replace the Finn in the women's singles but she has opted to participate at the women's doubles.

So, Iran's Aghaei has been awarded a quota place to take part in the Games.

Aghaei is the first Iranian woman badminton player to compete in the Olympic Games.

Kaveh Mehrabi had already represented Iran in the men's badminton competition in the 2008 Olympic Games.

Aghaei is the 10th Iranian woman in the 2020 Olympic Games.

Armina Sadeghian, Najmeh Khedmati, Fatemeh Karamzadeh and Hanieh Rostamian in shooting, Sara Bahmanyar and Hamideh Abbasali in karate, Nazanin Molaei in rowing, Nahid Kiani in taekwondo and Farzaneh Fashi in athletic have previously secured their places at Tokyo 2020.

Friendly: Iran basketball suffer second defeat against Japan

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team suffered their second defeat against Japan in five days.

Iran lost to Japan 76-50 in their third friendly match on Sunday.

Mehran Shahintab's men lost to Japan 85-57 in Miyagi on Wednesday.

The Persians defeated Japan 72-67 in another warm-up match on Friday.

The matches were 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.

Iran's Hazfi Cup final will be held on Aug. 9

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN – The Iran's Hazfi Cup final date will be held on Aug. 9.

The quarterfinals round have been scheduled for July 15. The semifinals will be held on Aug. 4 and the final has been slated for Aug. 9.

The Iran's Hazfi Cup was founded in 1975 and Esteghlal are the most successful club with seven titles, followed by Persepolis who have won six titles.

Tractor are Hazfi Cup defending champions.

Daei says Ronaldo can improve goalscoring record

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN - Former Iranian striker Ali Daei says that Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo can improve his goalscoring record.

Daei held the record for the most goals scored in international football until Wednesday when Ronaldo scored two penalties against France and tied the Iranian for the record.

With Portugal's Ronaldo close to breaking the record, Daei said he had a "good feeling about it" and was "glad" his record could be broken "by a player who is a true champion on the field and an all-out gentleman off the playing field."

Ronaldo could surpass Daei's 109 goals scored for Iran this week in Portugal's upcoming match against Belgium on Sunday during the UEFA European Football Championship.

"I've been always proud of [Cristiano Ronaldo]. He is one of the world's third best football players and amongst those who will not be forgotten," Daei told Euronews.

"Ronaldo has proved during years that with perseverance, hard work and professionalism one can achieve many goals," he added.

Daei scored his 109 goals between 1993 and 2006 while Ronaldo's first international goal was in 2004 in a match against Greece during the European championship that year.

"He is also an example of a good human being outside the field, who has done many good things," Daei said of Ronaldo.

But he said that Ronaldo, who may soon become the highest goalscorer in men's international football, will leave a record that could eventually be broken by others.

"Mr. Ronaldo certainly leaves a record that many may break after 16-17 years, but I think [in terms of] Mr. Ronaldo's fitness and physical readiness, he can improve this record, and I have always wished him success," he said.

Commodities worth \$420m traded at IME in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 1.03 million tons of commodities worth \$420 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), showing a 25-percent growth in the value and an eight-percent rise in the weight, as compared to the figures of the preceding week.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange played host to trading of 664,176 tons of commodities valued at more than \$233 million on its metals and minerals trading floor.

On this floor the exchange saw trades of 259,914 tons of steel, 760 tons of copper, 1,315 tons of aluminum, 27 tons of precious metals concentrate, 78,440 tons of zinc, 306,720 tons of cement, 10 kg of gold bar, 7,000 tons of sponge iron and 10,000 tons of iron ore.

Next trading floor was the IME's oil and petrochemical, which sold on its both domestic and export rings 364,262 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$187 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 87,500 tons of vacuum bottom, 134,304 tons of bitumen, 94,783 tons of polymeric products, 36,913 tons of chemicals, 8,000 tons of lube cut, 3,420 tons of base oil and slack wax, 110 tons of argon, 1,300 tons of sulfur and 405 tons of insulation.



Last but not least was the IME's side market with 2,133 tons of various types of commodities sold on it.

As previously reported, the value of trade at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose eight percent during the past Iranian calendar month (May 22-June 21).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, more than 3.623 million tons of commodities worth over \$1.88 billion was traded at the exchange in the past month, indicating also 22 percent growth in terms of weight as compared to its preceding month.

The IME sold on its metal and mineral trading floor 1.816 million tons of commodities worth almost \$1.076 billion.

Commodities traded on this floor included 979,170 tons of various types of steel, 550, 280 tons of cement, 26,060 tons of copper, 690 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 129 tons of precious metals concentrate, 31,245 tons of aluminum, 165,000 tons of iron ore, 33,705 tons of zinc, 400 tons of metallurgical coke, 60,000 tons of sponge iron, 250 tons of lead and 13 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the exchange played host to trading of 1.74 million tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at more than \$795 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 492,393 tons of various grades of bitumen, 319,550 tons of polymeric products, 159,480 tons of chemicals, 19,834 tons of oil, 540,400 tons of vacuum bottom, 42,630 tons of sulfur, 450 tons of argon, 550 tons of insulation and 157,000 tons of lube cut.

There were also 6,316 tons of commodities traded on the IME's side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Over \$141m of facilities paid to export companies in 2 months

→ 1 The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$6.3 billion in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 48 percent compared to the last year's same period, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).



Iran exported 16.9 million tons of non-oil commodities including gasoline, polyethylene, methanol, iron and steel ingots and steel products to foreign destinations in the mentioned two months, according to Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded 22.2 million tons of such goods worth \$12.8 billion with its trade partners in the period under review, up 6.6 percent and 38 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, Mir-Ashrafi said.

Iran's Q1 petchem output up 7% yr/yr

→ 1 diversify the products, provide feedstock for domestic industries and increase the added value of the products in this industry."

Mentioning the current year's motto which is "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles", Mir-Hashemi noted that the Iranian petrochemical industry is ready to achieve the goals of production growth in the current year.

"All conditions and infrastructure have been provided to achieve a leap in production in the Iranian petrochemical industry in the current year; with the measures taken this year, the idle production capacities of some existing complexes will also be revived," he said.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil



exports.

According to Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the country is currently producing nearly 70 million tons of petrochemical products annually and by the end of the industry's second development leap, the country's petrochemical production capacity is projected to reach 100 million tons per year.

The minister has pointed to the diversification of products, greater use of liquid feedstock, and land preparation, as some of the important factors to be taken into account for the future development of the petrochemical industry, and said: "In this industry, great work has been done in creating knowledge, indigenizing technologies, and cooperation with universities."

The production capacity of Iran's petrochemical industry is expected to be increased from 100 million tons to 133 million tons at the end of the third leap.

Transport ministry inks co-op MOU with govt. entities

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry on Saturday inked memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the vice presidency for science and technology and the New Towns Development Company for cooperation in establishing a new science and residential town.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami and heads of the mentioned entities, the portal of the ministry reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, Eslami pointed to the emergence of new opportunities for the activities of knowledge-based companies in science parks in recent years, and said: "over the past few years, the mechanism for the growth of knowledge-based companies has been provided in the country and the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development has also been involved in this process."

The official further noted that his ministry is determined to support knowledge-based companies in order to help them develop their activities.

The law for promoting and supporting knowledge-based companies was approved by the Majlis (Iranian parliament) in 2010, paving the way for a jumpstart in the march toward scientific progress.

Over the past couple of years, the concept of 'knowledge-based company' has changed to 'knowledge-based society', meaning that supporting knowledge-based companies will lead to many social and economic advantages for the public.

According to Mehdi Elyasi, the deputy vice president for science and technology, the number of knowledge-based companies has increased from around 50 in 2013 to more than 5,700 in the current year.

Currently, many knowledge-based companies are active in different fields, ranging from information and communication technology to health, agriculture, and energy with an estimated total sale of 1,200 billion rials (around \$28 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

Various knowledge-based companies have made ad-



vancements in different fields, however, the level of progress in the fields of health, ICT, agriculture, and energy has been more noticeable. Of course, other sectors such as the automotive industry have removed many bottlenecks so far. At present, 40 knowledge-based companies with large turnovers are listed on the stock market.

Domestic manufacturers supply 80% of equipment used in Goreh-Jask project

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — More than 80 percent of the equipment, machinery, and technical parts used in the strategic Goreh-Jask pipeline project have been supplied by domestic companies, the former Acting Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Hossein Modarres Khia-bani has said.

As Shana reported, the mentioned pipeline project is going to provide Iran with an alternative route for the country's crude oil exports that are currently carried out through the Strait of Hormuz. The pipeline will open a new gate for Iranian oil to the Indian Ocean by transferring it from Goreh in Bushehr Province to Jask on the shores of Oman Gulf.

"With the launch of this huge project,



the density of Iran's trade will be transferred from the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman, the country's trade plan will change geopolitically," Modarres Khiabani said.

Implementation of the Goreh-Jask pipeline is in line with the country's programs

for the integrated development of Makran shores in the southeast, which has been one of the major policies of the country considering the significance of the trade with the South Asian countries.

"We have been planning for years to use Makran coast and the Oman Sea as one of the country's trading hubs, and now with the launch of the Goreh-Jask project we will witness an economic boom in southeastern Iran and especially in the Jask region," Khia-bani said.

The pipeline project has currently reached nearly 80 percent of physical progress and is nearing completion based on the schedule.

According to the Managing Director of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) Touraj Dehqani,

Goreh-Jask pipeline consists of 1,000 kilometers (km) of 42-inch acid-compatible pipes, five pumping stations, two pigging stations, and a metering station at the end of the line.

"Offshore facilities also include wharves, support ports, and related loading facilities and pipelines. Also, electrical systems and storage facilities are under construction to be partly commissioned in the first phase," according to Dehqani.

The PEDEC head stated that the first phase of this project with a capacity to transfer over 300,000 barrels of crude oil per day will be ready for operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

The transfer capacity of the pipeline can be increased up to 30 million barrels per day in the second phase of the project, he said.

TEDPIX gains 4,747 points on Sunday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 4,747 points on Sunday.

Over 9.548 billion securities worth 72.916 trillion rials (about \$1.736 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index fell 208 points, and the second market's index gained 22,205 points.

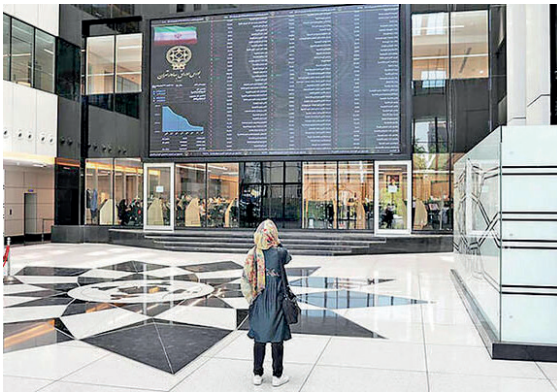
TEDPIX rose 66,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week.

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 Zarmakaron 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).

Nearly 215,000 tons of copper concentrate produced in 2 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran produced 214,854 tons of copper concentrate during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), which was three percent more than the figure for the same period of time in the past year.

Production of copper concentrate stood at 106,487 tons in the second month of this year, with no change form that of the same month of the previous year.

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

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

Meanwhile, in early April, the managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries

Company (NICIC) announced the discovery of one billion tons of new copper reserves in the country.

NICIC carried out 101,000 meters of deep drilling to identify new copper reserves across the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ardeshir Sa'd-Mohammadi said in a press conference.

Sa'd-Mohammadi put the value of the discovered reserves at 350 trillion rials (about \$8.3 billion).

According to the official, NICIC had also discovered 523 million tons of copper reserves across the country during the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019- March 2020).

Considering the new discoveries, NICIC's total copper reserves across the country have currently surpassed eight billion tons.

The official put the country's total copper

reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves, and hopefully the country will climb to sixth place in the current Iranian calendar year.

Sa'd-Mohammadi further mentioned the new record achieved in the country's copper cathode production and noted that over 280,000 tons of the mentioned product were produced in the country during the previous year which was 12 percent more than the preceding year.

Pointing to the NICIC's new projects for the current year, the official noted that three major copper-related projects will go operational in the current year which is going to add more than 400,000 tons to the country's copper concentrate output, boosting the company's annual incomes by \$800 million.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, NICIC



has defined more than €2.4 billion plus 300 trillion rials (about \$7.1 billion) worth of projects to be implemented over the next four years, which will increase the company's total copper concentrate capacity to 2.3 million tons.

He further noted that the country's copper exports increased in the previous year despite the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions.

U.S. irresponsible exit from Afghanistan will lead to civil war, researcher predicts

‘A stable Afghanistan is equally important for Iran and Pakistan’

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — A Pakistani researcher is confident U.S. “irresponsible withdrawal” from Afghanistan will pave the way for a civil war in the country which will adversely affect the region in its entirety.

Arhama Siddiqi tells the Tehran Times an extension of U.S. presence in Afghanistan would “lend some legitimacy to the Taliban” to continue fighting but “if irresponsible troop withdrawal takes place as is currently the case, without a doubt there will be a civil war which will have domino effects on the entire region and gradually global implications as well.”

On Wednesday, Taliban fighters were battling government troops inside the northern city of Kunduz after occupying the main border crossing with Tajikistan the previous day and reaching the outskirts of northern Afghanistan’s main hub, Mazar-e-Sharif.

Overall, the Taliban’s lightning offensive in northern Afghanistan resulted in the fall of dozens of districts over the past week, putting much of the countryside under insurgent control.

“The failure started when the Bush administration not only avoided talks with the Taliban but also outright rejected agreements that the Afghan government had itself belted with the Taliban in 2001 and 2004 which might have brought the war to a rest 15 years ago. Similarly, the Obama administration made the same mistake,” Siddiqi argues.

Following is the text of the interview: **How do you assess U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan?**

When President Biden announced that the U.S. would start downgrading troop presence from July 2021, the responsibility of ensuring peace in Afghanistan shifted in the Afghan populace, particularly on both the Taliban and the Afghan government to come to a workable and sustainable compromise. However, contrary to the previously optimistic estimates, there are fears now in the backdrop of the recent violence in northern Afghanistan and what can be termed as a completely irresponsible withdrawal on part of the U.S. administration that Kabul could collapse within six to twelve months of complete withdrawal of U.S. troops. Another major concern is that the ungoverned spaces left by U.S. troops supplemented by



the focus of Afghan factions towards infighting could be filled by militants such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Imran Khan has said Islamabad won’t allow the U.S. use Pakistan as a base for its Afghan operations. How do you read his statement?

I would like to make three points here. First, if you analyze Prime Minister Imran Khan’s statement in the years leading up to his election, you will notice that he has continuously criticized previous Pakistan governments to allow U.S. boots in Pakistani soil. His vehement opposition has left little room for Mr. Khan’s government to roll out a red carpet and submit to any U.S. requests. Second, hypothetically if Pakistan was to aid the U.S., it would most likely damage Islamabad’s ties with the Taliban which the former can ill afford to do so.

Third, if Pakistan accepts U.S. request, it would be a cause of concern for two of Pakistan’s neighbors – China and Iran. The ongoing U.S.-China rivalry is no secret as is the U.S. aversion to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC). Hence, China would not want the U.S. keeping tabs on CPEC’s development especially in close proximity to Gwadar. Similarly, Prime Minister Khan has been trying to reset ties with Iran and if he submits to U.S. proposals it would put a damper on that and also his statements regarding mediation/facilitation between Iran, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. will be contested. Moreover, it would disturb the neutral balancing act Pakistan maintains in the Middle East (West Asia) and would result in grave security consequences.

How can Iran and Pakistan cooperate to establish the peace in Afghanistan?

Both Iran and Pakistan share not only borders with Afghanistan but also a unique cultural connection and henceforth, have direct stakes in the Afghan peace process. Both Tehran and Islamabad also maintain a certain amount of influence over various Afghan factions. Both countries can also cooperate in countering threats such as those posed by Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Moreover, in order for the develop-

“Both Iran and Pakistan share not only borders with Afghanistan but also a unique cultural connection and henceforth, have direct stakes in the Afghan peace process.”

U.S. liberal democracy turning into totalitarian regime reminiscent of the Soviet Union: ex-Senate candidate

➔ 2. The exposure of the quagmire of never-ending American military operations in the Middle East (West Asia) that have been an abysmal failure and which are based on a complete pack of lies used to justify the unjustifiable in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Palestine, Gaza, Lebanon, and Ukraine;

3. The exposure of the existence of informed, articulate dissidents from these reprehensible policies at either end of the political spectrum in both the United States and Europe.

Press TV has been especially effective in bringing information and analysis to English speaking audiences and readers unavailable otherwise in American and Western media. The American empire finds this intolerable, either in the exposure of its lies regarding Iran, Palestine, Syria, Ukraine, Putin’s Russia, Venezuela and Colombia, and China, or the divisions developing in American society on the empire’s foreign policy, its management of the economy, and a burgeoning polarization of the public on cultural and social issues that can no longer be hidden.

I saw a Russia Today story of June 24th quoting Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service, as saying that the United States held up as a “model of liberal democracy” is rapidly turning into a totalitarian regime reminiscent of the former Soviet Union. I absolutely agree with this. Naryshkin spoke of media monopolies, the development of a domestic police state, and the “irremovability of oligarchic elites.” These elites want a world government they control in its entirety, with global surveillance, military coercion, economic blackmail, control of fiat currency, control of media, and subversion of nation-states and cultures the weapons used to achieve it.

Outlets like Press TV threaten this totalitarian agenda and mindset. This is the reason for the attempts to destroy its outreach.

I agree with what Dr. Ahmad Ali-Akbari told Ekaterina Blinova of Sputnik International on June 23rd when he called Washington’s calls for freedom of speech a “tissue of lies.”

Western powers always try to portray Iran and the resistance axis as anti-freedom. Now they have launched a propaganda campaign claiming that the Iranian president-elect is a hardliner. How can they justify this paradox while they are banning Iranian media?

They can’t plausibly justify the paradox. Actually, if I were an Iranian, I’d have voted for a “hardliner.” No other vote makes any sense whatsoever. Rouhani negotiated with the West in good faith on JCPOA/P5+1. The

result was the unilateral American withdrawal from the deal, the imposition of draconian economic sanctions on Iran for abiding by the terms of the agreement, the assassinations of Soleimani and Fakhrazadeh, and the public claiming of responsibility for these crimes by the 45th President of the United States and the Mossad, respectively. The current American Administration is just as owned by the Zionist monolith as the previous one. Is Iran simply going to sit by and allow its own destruction? Of course not.

Thankfully Putin stands by as a faithful friend and ally, as he has been with Syria. The recent disappearance of Biden and NATO from a direct confrontation with Russia in the Donbass while using Zelensky as a laughable surrogate tiger in the region underscores that Iranian backbone with Russian back-up in a crisis would demonstrate that in a showdown, Biden would join Zelensky in a standup Comedy Club routine in Kiev. The British HMS Defender flight from the Black Sea region near Crimea is another example of what happens when a bully gets its bluff called in someone else’s neighborhood. Hang tough in Tehran.

How do American-Zionist media shape the stereotypes in minds of the Western public?

The long-term strategy has always been to depict the United States and Israel as beacons of light in the midst of jihadist Islamic darkness and repression. This is becoming harder to sustain precisely because outlets like Press TV have daily exposed American and Israeli crimes in Gaza, Palestine, East Jerusalem, Iran, Syria, Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Venezuela, and Colombia among others. Even more significantly, the cost of these miserable efforts by the empire is bankrupting the United States economically and politically, and actually weakening an American military in terms of the latter’s overextension and wasteful spending on wars of occupation and counterinsurgency at the expense of modernization of weapons through research and procurement. As just one example, the Russian development and acquisition of hypersonic missiles has rendered the aircraft carrier-based power projection model of the United States Navy obsolete, at a small fraction of the cost. The balance of political and military forces is shifting against the United States and the West toward Russia and China to the benefit of Iran. This is why the Zio-American rhetorical hysteria toward all three is on the rapid increase. The anti-Press TV actions of the American government, along with Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the like, must be understood in this larger context.

ment of their economic and strategic interests, a stable Afghanistan is equally important for both sides. It should also not be forgotten that Iran is now formally part of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and any instability in Afghanistan will affect the implementation of the deal adversely. Here I must mention that the China-Iran deal holds immense benefits for Pakistan as well henceforth it too has a stake in maintaining its sanctity. The China-Iran deal gives further impetus for the CPEC to be extended into Afghanistan as well. Hence, both Iran and Pakistan can help to cooperate peace in Afghanistan through counter terrorism measures, maintain their development trajectories and continuing to facilitate the Afghan peace process by bringing all sides on the negotiating table.

Do you predict a civil war in Afghanistan?

There are two aspects to this. The first is that it goes without saying that an elongation of U.S. presence in Afghanistan would lend some legitimacy to the Taliban to continue fighting and would continue to prolong the status quo. Secondly, if irresponsible troop withdrawal takes place as is currently the case, without a doubt there will be a civil war which will have domino effects on the entire region and gradually global implications as well.

Why did America fail to contain Taliban in Afghanistan?

Given that it has been 20 years since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan and what President Biden has termed as ‘a forever war’ seems to have been more driven based on emotions and irrational behavior opposed to careful strategic planning.

I believe the failure started when the Bush administration not only avoided talks with the Taliban but also outright rejected agreements that the Afghan government had itself belted with the Taliban in 2001 and 2004 which might have brought the war to a rest 15 years ago. Similarly, the Obama administration made the same mistake.

The Taliban cannot be excluded from the peace process. They are very much a part of the landscape of Afghanistan if sustainable peace and development is to prevail. In Afghanistan they will have to be part of the government. This is what the U.S. has failed to recognize for years.



How do you evaluate Raisi’s victory in the Iranian presidential election? What are its implications for the West?

It is a positive development for Iran in that it shows the absolute failure of a Zionist-neo conservative foreign policy based on coercion and force, and what is possible when criminals are confronted with resolute resistance. What has been demonstrated by Assad in Syria, the Houthis in Yemen, and the Russian resolve against NATO threats and deployments, is being shown by Iran in this election of a so-called “hardliner” which is presumably defined as anyone who doesn’t lie down for an Israeli-American-Saudi-UK destruction of Iran as a sovereign nation-state.

Do you think the Biden administration is ready to negotiate with the new Iranian administration?

No, not in good faith. Anthony Blinken, Wendy Sherman, and Victoria Nuland are the Zionist-Jewish trio in charge of Biden’s foreign policy team. The mere fact that Blinken has been insisting on the attachment of conditions to American re-entry into JCPOA illustrates the point. It has not yet dawned on the United States government and its Zionist media moguls that the failure of Biden to keep his campaign promises on JCPOA guaranteed the subsequent Iranian election results. This result was Iran’s best choice. Sadly, the Soleimani and Fakhrazadeh murders illustrate how little has changed in the American-Iranian relationship since Operation Ajax in 1953. But 1953 is not 2021. The shifting of the balance of power I spoke of earlier in this conversation illustrates this truth. And there is absolutely nothing the American empire and Israel can do about it, as both continue to move toward disappearance from history in the progression of the 21st century.

Chauvin got a ‘slap on the wrist’ because white supremacy in north America never went away

➔ 1 Racism in America is inseparable from the settler colonialism capitalist system that America was founded on. So long as racism is tied to this capitalist system that exploits human beings for profit exists, racism is something black Americans will have to learn to deal with, for now. Private security agencies who protect this system are just a formalized extension of the deep state, they just appear in the guise of police forces and federal forces. The origins of the American police come from what used to be black slave controls.

Today, they are still killing and controlling black Americans. The Western capitalist system puts profit over people. It’s not a case of one or two bad apples, the bad apples are part of a wide-ranging discriminatory system. Take the Klu Klux Klan, founded in 1865 and waged a campaign of terrorism, violence and intimidation by white ‘settler’ Americans towards black communities.

The movement’s infamous trademark signature was lynching a black American overnight and leaving them hanging so the black community sees the body come sunrise.

In the 1920’s it’s membership exceeded four million people nationwide. If that wasn’t bad enough, today the racist, terrorist group is still active under this same American system.

Unfortunately, there are many other examples where the U.S. capitalist system allows issues such as racism to be accepted in society. Take Hollywood and the American film industry for example. The number of movies and Netflix dramas that brainwash and tap into the idea of white supremacy and depict black characters as beasts or violent people while white characters are brave cops and heroic people is also part of the problem.

The answer lies in a civil rights revolution that replaces or undermines this racist capitalist system; so long as there is inequality, oppression, racial wage gaps, poverty or a justice system that disproportionately targets people on the basis of their skin color, racially, politically and economically exploits and dominates them. There must be real change. This is not a system you can tweak here and there to reform it in your favor, the system has to be replaced with a fair one that represents all as one.

The African American community are in the right and when the majority accept that they are in the right and that the truth is on their side then a revolution will naturally occur. In essence, today black Americans are not fighting for their rights, they are fighting for the lives. No justice no peace. It’s not just the United States where the knees of the authorities are being placed on the necks of the indigenous.

Just head north towards Canada, where, just like America, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated! A day that commemorates the arrival of settlers followed by centuries of oppression and genocide.

For the natives of North America ‘Thanksgiving’ is a day of mourning and protest in a similar fashion to how the annual Nakba Day is a day of mourning and protest for the Palestinians. The indigenous people of a land that was stolen from them in 1948 by white settlers arriving from outside West Asia is referred to as Nakba day in occupied Palestine.

In Canada, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, has asked the Pope to come and apologize for the recent discovery of the remains of some 1000 indigenous people whose bodies were found near Catholic run boarding schools over the past month in two mass graves. This is the same Justin Trudeau who admitted he can’t recall how many times he wore blackface in his life. Not the exact role model, is he?

The origins of using ‘blackface’ at parties may need a little explaining. Until the mid-20th century, white actors used blackface when depicting black plantation slaves. Using it today means you are essentially dehumanizing black people and reinforcing the idea that they are inferior to white people. The images of Trudeau using blackface emerged during his re-election campaign and just before the election.

Perhaps that’s why he apologized a thousand times. But even a hundred thousand apologies from the Canadian government will not take away the pain from the native people of the land. They say it’s the tip of the iceberg; the remains of children forcibly separated from their parents and taken away to live in catholic run, government funded residential schools. There, they were tortured, sexual abused, died and buried in unmarked graves in a cultural genocide.

The Canadians did it far quicker than their American counterparts who went to war with the natives. In Canada they just wiped out a large portion of the younger generation. There have been calls for a joint investigation by the Canadian government and the Catholic Church to probe the matter. But how can you ask the two parties that are responsible for this genocide to investigate themselves?

The country must allow an independent international committee to lead a thorough investigation if Ottawa really wants to confront the true horror of its colonialism. An international organization is also needed to lead the way in finding the remains of the potentially hundreds of thousands of other children buried underground as the government is obviously unwilling to take on this haunting task. Why are the indigenous people of the land leading the way in searching for their loved ones? Canadian officials must face accountability here, otherwise this disturbing, chilling reality will haunt the country’s officials forever.

Resistance News

Haneyya arrives in Lebanon heading senior delegation

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — A senior-level delegation of Hamas Movement arrived in Beirut on Sunday led by its leader Ismail Haneyya on a few days visit to Lebanon.

This is the second visit for Haneyya to Lebanon during the years 2020-2021. He was received on arrival by Lebanese officials and several leaders of Lebanese parties.

Raafat Murra, one of Hamas leaders, told the PIC that this visit comes after the victory of the Palestinian people and the resistance in the Saif Al-Quds battle which confirmed the unity of the Palestinian people, and demonstrated the success of the resistance project and its ability to defend the national principles, sanctities and Jerusalem.

“The meetings of Haneyya and the Hamas delegation with Palestinian and Lebanese forces and the leadership of the resistance in Lebanon will emphasize the priority of the Palestinian cause, the unity of the Palestinians, and means of confronting the Israeli occupation and its schemes”, he added.

Murra pointed out that this visit is a part of the tour that the Movement’s leadership has taken to several countries and will continue to other countries.

Yerevan to exhibit handicrafts from northeast Iran

➔1 The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021). Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornaments with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.



Bojnord is the capital of the northeast province, which embraces the counties of Shirvan, Esfarayen, Maneh, Samalqan, Raz, Jargalan, Jajarm, Faruj, and Garmeh. Most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it is worth diverting south from the capital. Bojnurd, towards Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20km north.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari reinforcing tourism by riversides

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The tourism directorate of the southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province is making efforts to develop necessary travel infrastructure around its main riverbanks.

“Tourism infrastructure is being upgraded on the riversides of Zayandeh-Rood,” the provincial tourism chief said on Saturday. A budget of 20 billion rials (\$476,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, Mehrdad Javadi added.



The project aims to build an access road to the Saman tourism area, which overlooks the river, as well as to promote the region as a tourist destination, the official added. Zayandeh-Rood, meaning 'life-giving river', is the largest river in the central plateau of Iran. It flows from west to east and is the most well-known river of Iran after Karoon.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari lies in the southwestern part of the country. Its capital is Shahrekord. The province has various unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

Currently, about 40 tons of felt are yearly being made in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari through traditional and modern manners, which could be increased to 50 tons, according to official data. Experts believe that Shahr-e Kord has the potential to be a world city for felt products.

Historical hills, kiln and bathhouse in Lorestan added to national heritage list

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A total of nine archaeological hills and other historical sites across the western province of Lorestan have been inscribed on Iran's list for the national heritage.

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

A historical brick kiln, a public bathhouse, and a cement factory were also added to the prestigious list.



Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

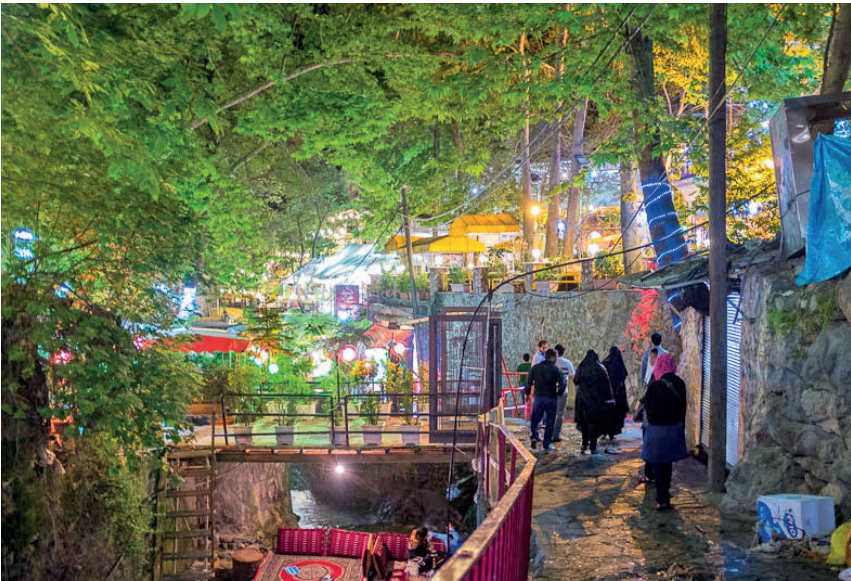
Here are destinations near Tehran to escape summer heat

➔1 The villages of Darband and Darakeh stand out when it comes to the north of Tehran. Those are amongst the most accessible cool destinations for relaxing and enjoying good Iranian cuisine, good weather even climbing easy mountain routes.

Tajrish Square is a gateway to the rocky Darband where people hike upward trails. A few kilometers uphill from the atmospheric square the road ends, becoming a path winding up a narrow rocky valley, with water cascading down the slopes. The trail heads up into the hills past a picturesque succession of teahouses, restaurants, and fruit-conservé stalls.

A visit to Darband can easily be combined with Sadabad Cultural-Historical Complex. You may exit the once royal complex via the top entrance and keep going up the hill and perhaps drink a cup of tea and puff on a qalyan (hobble-bobble) while submerged with a mountain-village feel.

Also, Darakeh is where you can enjoy the lovely nature, listen to the sound of the river, and rest for a while. It is teeming with



A view of Darband village in northern Terhran.

Work starts to restore and protect ancient mosque in Qazvin

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Jameh Mosque of Qazvin, which is one of the oldest congregational mosques in Iran, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 2.5 billion rials (about \$60,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, Ehsan Nourani announced on Sunday.

Strengthening the inner shell of the mosque, insulation, replacing worn-out bricks, and repairing plasterworks are parts of the restoration project, which is being carried out by the experienced restorers and cultural heritage experts, the official added.

Locally known as the Masjid-e-Jameh Atiq, the mosque is originally built on the site of a Sassanid fire temple, it was subsequently developed and expanded over several different periods. Its construction was first ordered in 807 CE (192 AH) by the Abbasid Caliph Harun Al-Rashid. Under the Seljuk leaders (1038-1194), two iwans were added to its north.

After a renovation in the eleventh century, the twelfth century saw the construction of the main prayer hall, a dome, a courtyard, and a religious school. Under the Safavids

(1501-1732), the southern and western iwans and arcades were added, and the Qajar period (1779-1924) witnessed a major renovation and expansion.

The mosque follows the four-iwan typology; each iwan is centered on a large courtyard with a central fountain. This courtyard is one of the largest mosque courts in Iran, measuring nearly four thousand square meters. Its two main prayer halls are located along the north and south sides of the court. Two narrow arcaded halls, five meters wide, run along the east and west.

The mosque is constructed of brick, which is clad with tiles and inscriptions in some areas. The main prayer hall is the most ornamented part of the mosque. Both its mihrab and minbar are made of stone, and the upper part of the walls is ornamented in different floral patterns and small polychrome tiles.

Half-dome roofing the south iwan also has a double-shell structure. The two northern minarets are clad with colorful tiles in floral patterns. The interior of the iwans is decorated with muqarnas; in the north iwan, these muqarnas are stuccoed, while those in the southern iwan are of exposed brick.



The historical monument was inscribed on the national heritage list in 1921.

In Islamic countries, the Jameh mosque (in Persian Masjid-e Jameh) is referred to as a large center of community worship and a site for Friday prayer services.

Qajar-era Tekkiyeh being restored to former splendor

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Didehvar Tekkiyeh, a Qajar-era (1794–1925) place for gathering of mourners, has undergone some rehabilitation works.

The project involves strengthening the walls and rooftop as well as repairing the wooden interior decorations of the building, which is situated in the city of Borujerd, western Lorestan province, according to a local tourism official.

The Tekkiyeh, which is located inside a historical garden, has been purchased by the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department and Borujerd Municipality. Hojatollah Yarmohammadi added on Sunday.

The historical monument and its surrounding garden are altogether listed on the National Heritage List.



With grief-stricken hearts, millions of the faithful across Iran along with their fellow Shia Muslims worldwide hold massive mourning ceremonies in the lunar

month of Muharram to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

During that month, apart from mosques, each neighborhood sets up its own establishment for the ceremonial processions of the month known as Tekyeh (or Tekkiyeh), which are venues for gathering of mourners known as 'heyat' (literally meaning group or delegation) who cherish the courage of Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 loyal companions who were all martyred in the battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Tekkiyeh (stemming from the word eteka, meaning backup or reliable) was historically a staying place for visiting

pilgrims and dervishes who relied on the goodness of the benefactors for daily sustenance.

Today Tekkiyehs, however, are specific locations for mourners who meet and participate in religious gatherings after which they head out on the streets in groups known as dasteh (literally meaning cluster) to parade dramatic mourning.

Tekkiyeh is also a place for performing tazieh, a passion play inspired by historical and religious narrations, and Sineh-Zani [beating the chest] ceremonies.

Tazieh, which recounts religious events, historical and mythical stories, and folk tales, was registered on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010.

Iranian handicrafts: Monjugh Duzi

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Monjugh Douzi is a kind of Iranian embroideries, which its know-how has been passed down from generation to generation from ancient times.

Mojughs are small beads that look like glass and are sewed to clothing and other textiles.

There are some historical documents and evidence that prove this art was quite popular during the Achaemenid and Sassanid eras. Back then tents, carpets, and garments were ornated by Monjughs, however, it was a custom specific to aristocrats.

According to specialists, Monjugh flourished once again in the late 20th century, during the Qajar era. Some of the valuable and elaborate Monjugh Duzi pieces of this era are kept in the Decorative Arts Museum of Iran and can be visited.

Gradually the material for making Monjugh changed from gemstones to glass and they turned into a craft practiced and used by ordinary people.

According to Visit Iran, Monjugh Duzi is the art of



sewing Mojugh beads to fabrics. The first step is to pass the beads through yarn by using a needle and then, sew them to the fabric based on the pattern. There are a lot of patterns and motifs that can be applied in Monjugh Duzi such as "Gol o Morgh" (flower and bird), "Gol o Buteh" (flower and bush), kinds of paisley, birds, animals, hunting grounds, geometric, trees, cypresses, arabesque,

"Toranji" and "Sar Toranji", "Sar Lachaki", "Shamsehee", "Bazubandi", "Band Rumi", "Shah Abbasi", knots, patterns from Kelims, holy names, etc.

Monjughs are most commonly sewed to thick silk, satin, and other shiny fabrics in different colors, and in styles such as "Khafi" or linear, "Tupor" where the motif is filled by Monjugh, "Bast Duzi", "Cobareh Duzi" and "Barjesteh Duzi" or embossed. Sometimes it is used along with other embroideries like "Gheythan Duzi" that is done by thick yarn, or with silk yarn, sequins, pearls, and filigree.

This delicate handicraft can be applied to ornate clothing, head wears, money bags, decorative tableaux, pencil holders, cases of stamps or brushes, bags, covers of boxes or utensils, belts, necklaces, anklets, coasters, and many more objects.

Monjugh Duzi has been practiced in the cities of Urmia and Tabriz for the longest time and is very popular today. Additionally, there are other artists and fans of Monjugh in cities such as Tehran, Isfahan, and south of Iran.

Atlas created to amass traditional clothing of Sistan-Baluchestan region

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – An atlas has been created to collect traditional clothing and attires of people who are native of the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province.

“Having completed a comprehensive study on the subject, the data have been entered into the software for the atlas of ethnography of the country,” Anthropology Research Institute Director Alireza Hassanzadeh said on Sunday.

From the dawn of history, people have dressed differently according to their geographical location, environment, way of life, wars, political beliefs, and economic conditions, Hassanzadeh said, ISNA re-

ported.

To preserve indigenous traditions and original clothing, it seems vital to revive indigenous clothing and its effectiveness today, he added.

Recording relevant data seems vital to reaching this goal, which the institute has previously done in different regions such as Kerman, Yazd, and Khorasan, he noted.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus

Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic and transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the

middle Asian countries to free waters. The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

Kind Attn.Embassies, Wonderful Building to Let
Zaferaniyeh Diplomatic Area, 5 floors 270sq each,
4 rooms, Spacious Saloon, Enough Parking,
entrance from 2 streets, Rent /month:11.000USD,
Negotiable Ms.Sonia:09035755145/09195341598

Iran among few countries with all vaccine production platforms

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Iranian Food and Drug Administration, has stated.

With the efforts of local experts, the 20-year path of vaccine development was completed in a few months, he highlighted.

In the field of vaccine production, great and unique steps were taken by the pharmaceutical industry, he noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The reason why some countries got vaccinated earlier than us is because of their experience on the development of SARS and MERS vaccines, otherwise, our speed would have been much faster than other countries, he explained.

Mass vaccination against COVID-19 started on Iranian citizens with the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine on February 9.

While Iran continues efforts to



mass-produce local candidates, several foreign vaccines have already been

imported and others are expected soon.

Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Cuba, Russia, and Australia, which may also be released by September.

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, has said.

Christoph Hamelmann, the former representative of the World Health Organization in Iran, said in March that Iran has one of the most successful platforms in the world for COVID-19 vaccine production.

“Considering the production line of the Pasteur vaccine, Iran is very advanced and successful in developing a vaccine while being able to help other countries, I am sure that Iran’s vaccine production platform is one of the most successful ones in the region,” he said.

IRGC starts clinical trial of “Noora” coronavirus vaccine

→ 1 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.

Homegrown vaccines

COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, received the license for public use on June 14.

The vaccine was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and started to be mass-produced on March 29.

The second Iranian-made vaccine

developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute (Razi Cov Pars) started the clinical trial on February 27.

Iran has also successfully completed the first phase of the human trial for Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine, named after martyred nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, that was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

“Osvid-19”, the fourth domestic vaccine produced by Osvah Pharmaceutical Company is also undergoing human trials, which will also be available in early September.

On May 24, the first coronavirus vaccine made by the private sector in Iran succeeded in receiving the code of ethics and entered the phase of clinical studies.

Forests and forestry in Iran

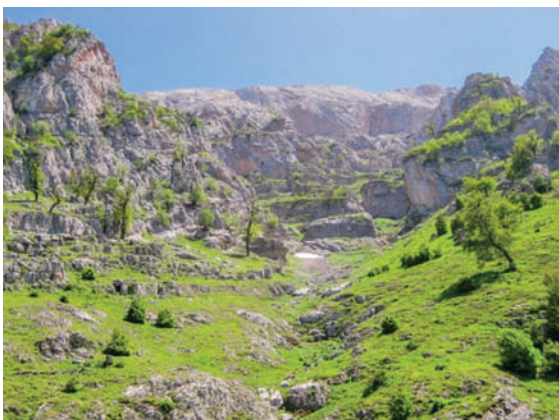
(Part 4)

(4) A very specific type of Persian “forest” consists of completely azonal stands of trees, bushes or woody shrubs. Usually covering small areas and always dependent on very specific local conditions, they appear, for example, around waterholes in very arid deserts. While it is hardly justified to label them as “forests” in the proper sense of the word, one type of these azonal “forests” is composed of isolated stands of saxaul (*Haloxylon* sp), occurring in areas where ground water can be tapped by their deep roots. Another type is riparian and wadi forests along the few perennial or periodical rivers and subterranean streams close to the surface. These ecologically favored locations exhibit a wide variety of different species (tamarisks, willows, poplars, wild fruit-trees, elm, plane) combinations being dependent on the availability of water, on climatic conditions and the variety of soil. A third type of azonal “forests” are more or less isolated distributions of tamarisks, saxaul, and halophytic ligneous bushes in extremely salty environments, for instance along the shores of salt lakes or at the edge of kavirs.

Small occurrences of mangrove forests (*Avicennia* officialis) are typical for the Straits of Hormuz and other smaller segments of the Persian Gulf coast.

Except for northern Persia and part of the Zagros, one can therefore hardly speak of “forests” in the Persian context. While undoubtedly from an ecological perspective tree-cover could be much more extended, human interference has since Neolithic times greatly diminished the distribution and composition of forests in Persia (Figure 1).

Deforestation and its causes. Present-day Persia has hardly any virgin forests left: deforestation as a result of the millennia-old human impact on the natural environment—population growth, appropriation of land for agriculture, exploitation of forests by nomads, and increasing demand for wood as construction material or as firewood (charcoal)—have destroyed or depleted the forest resources of the country. It is difficult to



reconstruct the original distribution and composition of the Persian forest ecosystems. It is equally difficult to identify primary and secondary causes of their destruction and to attribute these causes to specific periods of history. As already indicated, the present poor state of forestry in Persia cannot be attributed to a single cause.

Bobek (1951, 1958) and Xavier de Planhol are, to date, the only scholars who have tried to reconstruct the history of deforestation in Persia, de Planhol's article of 1969 being the first attempt at a comprehensive analysis. According to him (p. 625) and partly based on Bobek, the situation around 1960/1965 can be summarized as follows: approximately 95 percent of the *Juniperus* forests in the arid Alborz sections and in Khorasan had been destroyed, as well as almost 100 percent of the pistachio-almond forests of central Persia. Only the Caspian forest region retained part of its original status. According to Bobek's estimates around 1950-55, 25 percent of the Caspian lowland proper were still covered by heavily degraded humid forests, while the foothills and slopes of the Alborz and its valleys were 25 percent comparatively intact,

25 percent strongly degraded and the remaining half of the original forest completely destroyed (quoted from de Planhol, p. 625). While there is no doubt that from an ecological point of view even potentially intact ecosystems are damaged as a result of the degradation of their adjacent areas, it is clear that nowadays there are hardly any virgin forest areas left in Persia. Even those sections of the Caspian forest belt that still seem to be abundant in vegetation cover have experienced selective exploitation through forestry, forest pasture, and various forms of individual tree cutting for charcoal, building material, and similar uses.

The history of deforestation requires a differentiated approach in regard to space (Caspian versus Zagrosian forest) and time. The deforestation of the Zagrosian forests and that of other arid sections of Central Persia are as old as human settlement there, although with differing intensity in different periods. De Planhol (pp. 626-32) argues that during Greek-Hellenistic times ancient records speak of densely forested areas not only in the Zagros and its forelands, but even in the more arid parts of present-day Fars. In central Persia, on the other hand, deforestation seems to have been more advanced (de Planhol, p. 627). Evidence of both Roman intervention and Sasanian adaptation of Roman lifestyles and engineering techniques tend to support de Planhol's conclusion (p. 629), according to which deforestation had progressed greatly between the Achaemenid period and the Middle Ages. On the other hand, the medieval period, with the “nomadization” of large parts of the population due to the impact of the Mongol conquests and destruction of cities and rural settlements, coincided with an “equilibre forestier” in which nomads used the forests solely for their own needs and that of their flocks. This ensured a kind of sustainable preservation of the degraded forests to the extent that, until the early 20th century, further deterioration of the semi-humid/semi-arid Zagrosian forests was halted.

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 26

New cases	9,758
New deaths	134
Total cases	3,167,741
Total deaths	83,845
New hospitalized patients	1,093
Patients in critical condition	3,190
Total recovered patients	2,835,633
Diagnostic tests conducted	23,308,926
Doses of vaccine injected	5,709,020

Earthquake shakes Iran over 800 times in a month

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – A total of 847 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar month Khordad (May 21-June 21), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Fourteen earthquakes of more than 4 on the Richter scale have been recorded in the country by the National Seismological Center, the largest of which occurred on June 6, with a magnitude of 5.2 near Salehabad in western Ilam province.

Statistically, 774 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, and 59 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, also, 13 quakes with magnitudes 4-5 have occurred.



Also, an earthquake with magnitudes 5-6 shook the country.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes of the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslide, fire following an earthquake, etc.

Scientists discover new species of giant rhino ‘taller than giraffe’

In north-western China, scientists have discovered fossil evidence of a new species of giant rhinoceros, “taller than a giraffe” that lived 26.5 million years ago, making it one of the largest mammals to have ever roamed the planet.

According to the study, published in the journal *Communications Biology*, the rhino *Paraceratherium linxiaense* weighed 21 tonnes – the equivalent of four large African elephants – and could reach close to 7m to graze treetop leaves.

The scientists, including those from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, say the findings offer important clues about the distribution of this long extinct mammal across the Asian continent, shedding more light on the evolutionary lineage of modern-day rhinos.

In the research, the scientists analysed completely preserved skull and jawbone fossils recovered from the Linxia Basin in Gansu Province, China, among deposits pertaining to the Late Oligocene period 34 to 23 million years ago.

They also found associated fossilised body parts of the rhino, including the atlas bone that connects the skull to the spine, as well as three vertebrae from another individual in the site at the northeastern border of the Tibetan Plateau.

Based on the analysis, the researchers found that the fossil remains belonged to an entirely new species different from other known giant rhinos.

Deeper assessment of the atlas bone and the axis bone, the second vertebra going down from the top of the spine, revealed clues that the rhino possessed a long and flexible neck, the Independent reported.

The scientists also found evidence from genetic analysis of the samples that *Paraceratherium linxiaense* was related to another giant rhino species from western Pakistan, indicating that the genus was widespread across Asia, including in the Indian subcontinent.

During this prehistoric time period, the researchers believe the giant rhino could “disperse freely” from the Mongolian Plateau to South Asia along the eastern coast of the Tethys Ocean – a prehistoric sea that has now become incorporated into mountain ranges that stretch from northern Turkey through northern Iran, Afghanistan, Tibet and Indochina due to tectonic plate movement.

“The Tibetan region likely hosted some areas with low elevation, possibly under 2,000m during Oligocene, and the lineage of giant rhinos could have dispersed freely along the eastern coast of the Tethys Ocean and perhaps through some lowlands of this region,” the scientists wrote in the study.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → E

Bikes to hold 3.5% share in Tehran transportation

Bikes will carry out 3.5 percent of the capital's total transportation, as the national document on bike transport development has proposed, deputy mayor for traffic and transport affairs at Tehran Municipality has stated.

A five-year plan to develop biking in the capital has been proposed aiming to promote biking, develop bike lanes and curb air pollution. Currently, the document is under review by the traffic council to be approved, ISNA quoted Mohsen Pourseyyed Aqaei as saying on Saturday.

As per the document, some 120 kilometers of the roads will be accessible for the bicycle riders each year, he added.

The reason behind the failure of bicycle schemes in past recent years was that the technology was overlooked in the schemes so that the cyclists had to return to the bike renting stations and give back the bikes, while today, using the new technologies, bicycle use has been facilitated for the citizen, he explained.

انجام ۳.۵ درصد از سفرهای تهران با دوچرخه

معاون حمل و نقل ترافیک شهرداری تهران از تدوین سند دوچرخه پایتخت خبر داد، براساس این سند، می بایست ۳.۵ درصد از سفرهای تهران با دوچرخه انجام شود.

محسن پورسیدآقای در گفت وگو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه سند توسعه دوچرخه در دستور کار قرار دارد گفت: در حال حاضر این سند سند ۵ساله در شورای ترافیک پایتخت در حال بررسی است که در صورت تصویب دوچرخه سواری ترویج و توسعه می یابد.

وی با بیان اینکه سالانه ۱۲۰کیلومتر به مسیر دوچرخه اضافه می شود، در پاسخ به سوالی در مورد سرنوشت دوچرخه های قبلی شهرداری گفت:دلیل شکست طرح های دوچرخه در گذشته این بود که به تکنولوژی های روز دنیا توجه نشده بود بگونه ای که راکبان باید به مبداء سفر برگشته و دوچرخه را تحویل می دادند اما امروز با اتکاء به تکنولوژیهای جدید، استفاده از دوچرخه برای شهروندان تسهیل شده است.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best form of devotion to the service of Allah is not to make a show of it.

Imam Ali (AS)

History of art in Iran during Safavid to Qajar Periods:

Part 6

Although the court style survived these unfortunate years, it was sustained in undiminished power by only one patron, Tahmasp's nephew Ebrahim Mirza, who, between 1556 and 1565 assembled an atelier of painters and calligraphers that was as impressive as what had existed under Tahmasp.

The 28 unsigned paintings of the Freer Gallery Haft Owrang already mentioned in connection with Shah Mahmud reflect an ethos somewhat removed from the controlled elegance of the 1539-43 Kakhmseh: figures are more attenuated, color combinations more daring, sensuality more overt, and humor even ribald. Its painters almost certainly included Mirza Ali, the son of Soltan Mohammad; Mozaffar Ali, the grandnephew of Behzad and the son of the early Safavid painter Haydar Ali; and Sheikh Mohammad, the son of the calligrapher Kamal Sabzevari.

Among the calligraphers similar familial relationships are found: Malek Daylami was the son of the famous calligrapher Shahrā-Mir Qazvini; Rostam Ali was also Behzad's nephew and worked for Ebrahim's father, Bahram; and Mohebb Ali was Rostam Ali's son. Family ties and connections were obviously of central importance in landing important commissions in Safavid Iran.

After Ebrahim Mirza was recalled to Qazvin in 1565, his painters apparently found employ with provincial aristocrats and with princes and nobles at the royal court. Some even went to work for commercial ateliers.

Thus in the 1570s painters probably trained in Ebrahim's atelier perpetuated a provincial version of his style which has been aptly dubbed the Khorasan school.

Shah Tahmasp died in 1576 and was briefly succeeded by his son Esmail II, a distinguished warrior who had been confined to prison for the last twenty years by his jealous father.

Esmail's eighteen-month reign had a damaging effect on the immediate future of Iranian art: he executed his brilliant cousin Ebrahim as well as nearly all the other princes of royal blood, thereby removing many of Iran's potential patrons.

Despite his own rapacity, he undertook the creation of an impressive Shahnameh intended to rival that of his father. While a number of excellent masters were gathered together in Qazvin for this purpose, their talents did not match those of Tahmasp's artists.

Now widely dispersed, the Shahnameh of Esmail II was never completed. All of its masters were third- or fourth-generation Safavid artists, and few of them were the scions of earlier painters or calligraphers. The two leading masters were Siavosh and Sadeqi, painters trained by Mozaffar Ali.

The turbulence of Esmail II's reign did not end with his death. The political chaos of Iran demanded a strong and more imaginative ruler than his elder brother, Mohammad Khodabandeh (1577-87). Nearly blind, the new shah was fit neither as monarch nor patron. While the country drifted into civil war, economic stagnation, and political disintegration, there was no apparent patronage of any of the arts or architecture, and masters such as Sadeqi (whose valuable personal record, Majma al-Khawass, allows the reconstruction of his career) wandered through Iran in search of stable patronage.

Some officials and lesser aristocrats emerged as minor patrons during this period, in which drawings flourished, perhaps because they were cheaper than manuscripts or paintings, but many members of the artistic and intellectual elite immigrated to India, including the calligrapher, Mir Hosayn Sahwi, who penned the quatrain accompanying Sadeqi's drawing.

Middle Safavid period (1587-1629)

This dismal condition ended with the accession of Shah Abbas, one of the most energetic patrons in Iranian history. Whereas Tahmasp's primary interest had been in the art of the precious book, Abbas's patronage extended into many areas—architecture, precious books, single pages of painting and calligraphy, ceramics, textiles, carpets, and metals.

His fostering of the arts was also of a different kind from that of his grandfather, and it must be understood in the context of his political activities. His passion for architecture was part of a larger fascination with urban planning, which mirrored his own ambitious economic and social policies.

Authority, whether political or religious, was increasingly centralized in Isfahan, while trade with Europe and the Far East was increased; the existence of provincial centers of patronage ceased, and the role of non-royal patrons centered in Isfahan, where aristocrats, officials, professionals, and merchants lived.

The importation of objects from Europe, India, and China made Iran's arts more cosmopolitan than they had been for centuries. The new shah was a man of definite tastes. He held the paintings and drawings of Sadeqi and Reza in high esteem and prized the calligraphies of Ali Reza and Mir Emad.

The careers of these four individuals reveal some of the complexities and politics of the royal workshops. About 1587 Sadeqi, already a well-established master, was appointed director of the royal library; the much younger painter Reza had recently joined the staff.

From their association came a Shahnameh, now in a fragmentary state in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, which was commissioned by the shah near the beginning of his reign and finished by about 1595.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Stories teaching Iranian children personal, social rights based on UN convention

CULTURE
d e s k

TEHRAN — A book series composed of two Persian stories teaching children their personal and social rights based on information from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has been published.

Tahereh Shahmohammadi has created the educational stories "My Personal Rights" and "My Social Rights" based on ideas produced by Mohammad-Mehdi Seyyednasseri, publisher Zekr announced on Sunday.

In this collection, a boy named Amin with his little sister, Samin, ask their parents questions and the answers provide helpful information for the readers aged between five and eight.

Children and other people of different social strata needed to learn about their social and personal rights in order to be treated in a way observing human rights,

the publisher said.

The series entitled "Children and Human Rights: Stories of Samin and Amin" has been illustrated by Sanaz Karimi-Tari.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international human rights treaty, which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children.

The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation.

The UN General Assembly adopted the convention and opened it for signature on November 20, 1989, the 30th anniversary of its Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

It came into force on September 2, 1990, after it was ratified by the required number of nations. As of June 26, 2021, 196



Actor-director Mohsen Hosseini and his troupe perform "West-East Divan" at the Charsu Hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex on February 4, 2016. (Iran Theater)

A R T
d e s k

TEHRAN — Iranian actor and director Mohsen Hosseini are working on a performance that criticizes the elimination of Persian gardens from urban spaces.

Over the past two decades, numerous Persian gardens on the edges of cities and urban spaces have dried up and been replaced by new housing developments.

Director Mohsen Hosseini working on performance lamenting elimination of Persian gardens

He plans to stage the performance provisionally named "Fall of the Persian Garden" at Tehran's Rishesh Gallery during autumn. "For a long time I have been concerned about the issue of the Persian garden; those gardens which were located to the north of Tehran and other cities, and have gradually dried up and been replaced by crowded streets and residential towers," Hosseini told the Persian service of MNA on Sunday.

The performance will be staged based on poems by French poet Charles Baudelaire and Persian poet Sohrab Sepehri. Bridging between the Eastern and Western cultures is the trademark of Hosseini's performances.

He directed "Forugh of Sarah Pina" at the Nazerzadeh Kermani Hall of the Iranshahr Theater Complex during September 2017 to remember Persian poet Forugh Farrokhzad, English playwright Sarah Kane and German choreographer Pina Bausch.

"This play is in praise of love and art, and also is based on works by Forugh Farrokhzad, Sarah Kane and Pina Bausch," Hosseini had said.

Artists from Iran, Turkey, Nigeria, Mexico to join together at "Polychromatic" in London

A R T
d e s k

TEHRAN — Five artists from Iran, Turkey, Nigeria and Mexico will showcase their latest works in an exhibition entitled "Polychromatic" at the Daniel Raphael Gallery in London next week.

Curated by Tima Jam, the month-long exhibition opens on July 1 exhibiting works by Salman Khoshru and Milad Musavi from Iran, Mustafa Horasan from Turkey, Olamide Ogunade Olisco from Nigeria and Horacio Quiroz from Mexico.

In an Instagram post, the gallery said, "Each artist explores notions of identity and the self through their own inventive use of color."

"The concept of identity and perception of the self is perhaps now

more pertinent than ever.

"Throughout art history, color has been used in artworks to help create a sense of identity, by conveying intangible concepts such as emotions, dreams and mental states."

"Drawing on the theoretical framework of surrealism and seminal psychoanalytic studies, this exhibition aims to engage viewers with the subconscious perceptions of the self through artworks that utilize color to reveal emotion and expressivity."

In his collection of deformed portraits, Khoshru has featured very emotional expressions, while Musavi mixes some media such as cinema and animation to showcase the subject of identity in his artworks.

Horasan's artworks provide a deep insight

into the issues concerning capitalism, social media and global economic inequality.

The artworks by Ogunade Olisco and Quiroz also represent the concept of indemnity in Africa and Latin America.

All the artists have organized many exhibitions in their homelands and prestigious art centers across the world.

Founded in 2016 by Daniel Levy, the Daniel Raphael Gallery is dedicated to emerging contemporary art.

By its exhibitions, the gallery intends to be interactive, thought-provoking and original.

The gallery has said that it aims to act as a platform for an international range of emerging and mid-career artists to establish themselves in the art world.



A portrait by Iranian artist Salman Khoshru.

Noam Chomsky's "Requiem for the American Dream" appears in Persian

into Persian by Mohammad Nasiri.

Published by Seven Stories Press in 2017, the book lays out Chomsky's analysis of neoliberalism. It focuses on the concentration of wealth and power in the United States over the past forty years, analyzing the phenomenon known as income inequality.

Chomsky skewers the fundamental tenets of neoliberalism and casts a clear, cold, patient eye on the economic facts of life.

What are the ten principles of concentration of wealth and power at work in America today? They're simple enough: reduce democracy, shape ideology, redesign the economy, shift the burden onto the poor and middle classes, attack the solidarity of the people, let special interests run the regulators, engineer election results, use fear and the power of the state to keep the rabble in line, manufacture consent, marginalize the population.

In "Requiem for the American Dream", Chomsky devotes

a chapter to each of these ten principles, and adds readings from some of the core texts that have influenced his thinking to bolster his argument.

To create "Requiem for the American Dream", Chomsky and his editors, the filmmakers Peter Hutchison, Kelly Nyks and Jared P. Scott, spent countless hours together over the course of five years, from 2011 to 2016.

After the release of the film version, Chomsky and the editors returned to the many hours of tape and transcript and created a document that included three times as much text as was used in the film.

The book that has resulted is nonetheless arguably the most succinct and tightly woven of Chomsky's long career, a beautiful vessel, including old-fashioned ligatures in the typeface, in which to carry Chomsky's bold and uncompromising vision, his perspective on the economic reality and its impact on our political and moral well-being as a nation.

"Our History Is Still Being Written" at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE
d e s k

TEHRAN — Talaye Porsoo Publications has recently released a Persian translation of "Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution".

The book written by Armando Choy, Martin Koppel, Gustavo Chui and Moises Sio Wong has been translated into Persian by Nasser Yekta.

The book is a chapter in the chronicle of the Cuban Revolution, as told by those on the front lines of that ongoing epic.

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moises Sio Wong, three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry, threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation.

They became combatants in the clandestine struggle and 1956-58 revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened the door to the socialist revolution in the Americas.

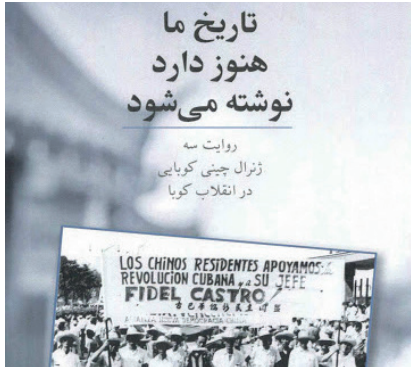
Each became a general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. Here they talk about the historic place of Chinese immigration to Cuba, as well as more than five decades of revolutionary action and internationalism, from Cuba to Angola, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Through their stories the social and political forces that gave birth to the Cuban nation and still shape our epoch unfold.

We see how millions of ordinary men and women like them changed the course of history,

becoming different human beings in the process.

"These books are the kinds of books historians are always hoping for, but that very rarely see the light of day. Their value for average readers and for scholars cannot be overstressed, for several reasons, the most important being the historical process of reconnecting Cuba and Africa at a time when such reconnecting continues to be fiercely discouraged by the powers-that-be... In a subdued, almost humble, way, these books can be seen as collective praise for what Cuba has been able to do, not just for specific African countries, but for the majority of humanity resisting the unrelenting assaults of the capitalist system," Jacques Depelchin wrote in African Studies Review on "Our History Is Still Being Written".



Front cover of the Persian translation of "Our History Is Still Being Written".