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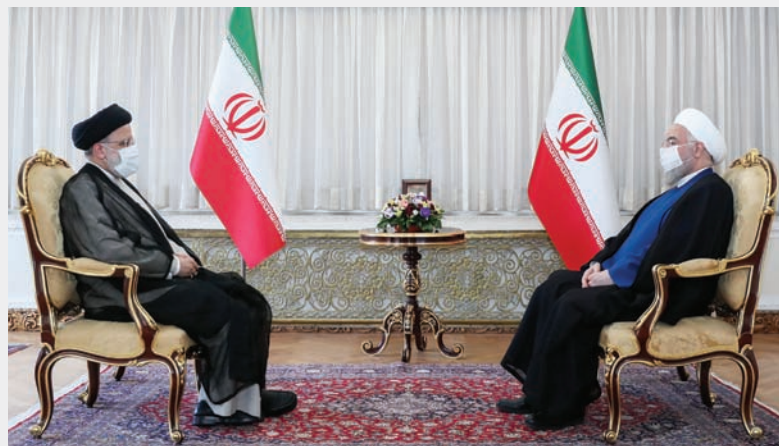
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Iranian port activities noticeably ongoing despite limitations

BY MAHNAZ ABDI
The condition created by the coronavirus outbreak has had some devastating effect on different aspects of global trade.

In Iran, the condition has been even worse, as the country has been tackling the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy.

But despite all limitations and barriers, the country has managed to act successfully in running its economy and trade.

Iran's port activities, which play some major part in the country's trade, have been noticeable in this due.

The latest reports released in terms of the loading and unloading operation in the ports of the country are an indication of such successful trend.

As reported, 775,611 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) have been loaded and unloaded at Shahid Rajaei port, Iran's largest and best-equipped container port, in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

Enjoying the most modern container terminals and port equipment, Shahid Rajaei in Iran's southern Hormozgan province accounts for 85 percent of the total loading and unloading at the Iranian ports.

Another report indicates that 660,000 tons of commodities have been loaded and unloaded at the eastern ports of Hormozgan province during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21), which was 27 percent higher than the figure for the first quarter of the previous year.

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Idea of exporting democracy is undemocratic: Oxford professor

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI
TEHRAN - A professor of history at the University of Oxford says that the idea of exporting democracy as a technique or technology is undemocratic.

"The American idea of democracy as an export item is not only undemocratic but a product of neoliberalism," Faisal Devji tells the Tehran Times.

Devji also says, "Democracy here has been reconceptualized as a technique replicable like any other and meant to produce freedom without the initial involvement of the many who are meant to be represented by it."

In the past two decades two devastating wars were launched under the pretext of democratizing the region: the U.S.-led wars on Afghanistan and Iraq. However,

the result was catastrophic. Just in Iraq researchers-mainly epidemiologists from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and medical personnel-estimated 98,000 "excess deaths" due to the war on Iraq.

Following is the text of the interview:

Is there any clear definition of democracy or do we have different types of democracy? Is there any standard?

The most ancient definition of democracy, as the rule of the many or demos in Greek, is also the most recent. Despite an unimaginable change in circumstances, our political categories still derive from a long-dead civilization. They include monarchy and aristocracy as legitimate forms of rule alongside democracy, with tyranny being their illegitimate opposite.

These categories were inherited by Muslims as much as Christian political thought in medieval times and cannot be considered Western. But they were also supplemented by others deriving from the monotheistic tradition beginning with Judaism, including a focus on the prophetic founding of political communities by means of unalterable law. Modern constitutions are heirs to such theological ways of thinking.

Of course, the rule of the many can itself be conceptualized in many ways, and from ancient times societies have chosen to do so by two major principles. Either by securing the power of the many against the institutions meant to operate in their name, or by safeguarding the latter against a multitude deluded by destructive passions.

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Protests in front of the French embassy

TEHRAN — A number of the family members of the 7th of Tir victims gathered in front of the French embassy in Tehran on Wednesday to protest lack of judicial action against the assassins of the 7th of Tir (June 28) attack. In the terrorist attack, conducted by MKO operatives, chief justice Mohammad Hossein Beheshti and 72 other leading figures were martyred. In the Persian language the attack is known as "Hafta Tir bombing". It happened in 1981.

President-elect meets rival candidates

TEHRAN — The six rival presidential contenders, namely Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, Mohsen Mehr-Alizadeh, Alireza Zakani, Naser Hemmati, Saeed Jalili and Mohsen Rezaei, met on Wednesday morning with President-elect Ebrahim Raisi.

The visit took place upon and an invitation by Raisi. The president-elect called the meeting "very good".

At the meeting, Raisi said now that

the election competition is over and the era of "friendship, cooperation and empathy" has begun all groups should join hands toward resolving the problems.

"We had a very good meeting with the presidential candidates, and we hope that such empathetic attitudes will lead to resolving the problems and undoing the knots in people's lives," Raisi said, according to Press TV.

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Tehran, Yerevan call for removal of trade barriers

TEHRAN — Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum and Armenian Deputy Economy Minister Varos Simonyan met on Tuesday in Tehran to discuss ways of removing the barriers in the way of trade between the two countries.

As reported, the officials underlined the significant growth in the level of trade between the two countries and stressed

the need for planning to further develop cooperation within the framework of the preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and achieve the desired level of bilateral trade.

Speaking in the meeting, Zadboum referred to the two countries' deep cultural, historical, and political relations and stated:

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Second Iranian coronavirus vaccine gets emergency use license

TEHRAN - The Pastu Covac vaccine, developed by the Pasteur Institute of Iran, has received an emergency use license, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said on Wednesday.

In the third clinical trial phase, the vaccine has been injected into 44,000 volunteers in Cuba and 25,000 volunteers in Iran, he added.

Previously, Namaki had said the Pastu

Covac vaccine has shown a 62 percent efficiency on new variants of coronavirus first emerged in South Africa and Brazil, 6 times more effective than the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The British AstraZeneca vaccine is 11 percent effective against new mutants of coronavirus identified in South Africa and Brazil, he added.

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Why is U.S. attacking Iraqi-Syrian border on regular basis?

In Syria's eastern province of Dayr-Zawr, Al Bukamal city sits next to the Iraqi border and the town of al-Qaim sits opposite the city of Al Bukamal on the Iraqi side of the border. (That's the basic geography out of the way). For many years, Iraq and Syria have been trying to control this desert border area to prevent Daesh terrorists from traveling between the two countries.

At the height of the terror group's territorial control, the region between Al Bukamal and al Qaim was in the hands of Daesh. This allowed the Takfiri groups to transfer terrorists, logistical supplies and money between the two countries. Liberating the region was a grueling, challenging task. Thanks to Iran's late war hero, Martyr Lieu-

tenant General Qassem Soleimani, his team of military advisors and thanks to the deputy chief of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis, the Iraqi PMU launched a military operation in late 2016 along the Iraqi-Syrian border. They started in west of Tal-Afar in Northern Nineveh province and marched down to al-Qaim, wiping out terrorists along the way and making the ultimate sacrifice themselves as Daesh killed many PMU members. It's important to highlight that this was not an easy task. The U.S. military, which has troops stationed along the Syrian side of the border, were warily or worryingly (depends on who you listen to) overlooking what was unfolding before their eyes.

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Volleyball coach Mehregan optimistic about Iran at Tokyo

BY FARROKH HESABI

TEHRAN - The 2021 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) was a disastrous competition for Iran, where Vladimir Alekno's team were ranked 12th in the tournament. The position has worried many, including experts and fans.

That's a big loss for a team whose desire and ideal goal is to reach the top four in the 2020 Olympic Games.

Javad Mehregan, Iranian volleyball expert and current head coach of Kuwaiti side Al Arabi SC, believes that instead of worrying about the national team's results in the VNL, we should be alert and careful about the Olympics' results.

Accepting all the national team's weaknesses, Mehregan said to Tehran Times: "We should not ignore the team's weak points, nor should we exaggerate them."

"It's the time to solve the problems and shortcomings of the national team with a recovery plan. I think the mentality of the players determines the ideal goal of a team. Our team have learned lessons from the VNL, and now we must use them for the Olympics. If everything goes well, I am optimistic about the team's results in Tokyo 2020," Mehregan said.

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7 beautiful mosques for your must-visit list in Iran

TEHRAN — Picturesque domes, minarets, vibrant colors, intricate tilework, and welcoming atmosphere are inseparable elements of mosques in every corner of Iran.

The architectural heritage of the Islamic world is astoundingly rich for almost all sightseers. Here is a list of seven beautiful mosques in the Islamic Republic.

Nasir al-Molk Mosque, Shiraz

For many potential travelers, Nasir al-Molk is probably the first image coming to their minds when we talk about gorgeous mosques.

One of the most photographed mosques

in southern Iran, it embraces arrays of delicate mirror work and stucco work, which are interwoven with arabesque designs and tilework. It is filled with carved pillars and lavishly created polychrome faience, and the prayer hall appears gorgeous when it is lit up through the vast stained-glass windows.

In case one is willing to get shots it is usually recommended to come as early as possible in the morning to picture the prayer hall when it is lit up through the colorful glass frames.

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A roundup: America continues to lurch from bad to worse...

By Martin Love

America has become a malignant power without consequence given the ignorance and malfeasance of those in political power.

One would think that eventually the self-serving political "elite" in Washington would get their just desserts for deeds that go against rationality, morality and common sense, and which now undermines the viability of the U.S. as a respected influence. Many people across the globe simply wait impatiently for the expected consequences of further U.S. decline, which have by some miracle been mostly held at bay for decades, especially in this century.

Joe Biden so far has offered no positive relief. Already, twice in his short term he has unleashed the military on illegal bombing runs in the Middle East (West Asia) – most recently an attack on Iraqi militias' stores and personnel along the Syria-Iraq border region, the very militias which aim to obviate the resurrection of ISIS in Arab heartlands. These militias, who paraded in Baghdad this month, are claimed to be proxies for Iran, which they are not except that Iraq and Iran are allies for the most part. The U.S. claims it wants to destroy the likelihood of any future random attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq, but obviously the best way to do that is simply to withdraw the U.S. military from the region. This is just one of many moves that make no sense. The other biggest offense remains the U.S. posture of support towards Apartheid Israel.

Netanyahu, who was not popular with former President Obama, is not popular with Biden, who refused to call him for over three months after he became President last winter. Now, there's Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett, and who knows how long they can survive with such a motley coalition government? Lapid anyway is trying to mend relations with Biden and the Democrats, many of whom have already begun to challenge Israeli Apartheid and change the narrative about Israel as being some kind of enlightened democratic polity in the Mideast (West Asia). Many liberal American Jews agree with the shift in the narrative, which is superb. Prominent Jewish commentators and writers like Peter Beinart have become outspoken in their hostility to Zionism and Apartheid.

Bennett as PM may not yet have done anything particularly dramatic, but he has continued to bomb Gaza (after the 11-day "war" with Hamas) occasionally and seems to have done nothing to call off the "settler" dogs who are ramping up ethnic cleansing in vital Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the West Bank, while the IDF protects this rabble of thugs, many of whom happen to be Americans.

Meanwhile, Nizar Banat, who has opposed the Palestinian Authority and Mahmoud Abbas for deep corruption and even complicity with the Zionists, was beaten to death by Fatah thugs leaving the Palestinians more divided than ever in the West Bank. Abbas has accomplished nothing for decades but make himself and his cronies relatively rich. He is nothing but a quisling. (This writer, living in the West Bank for several months in 2006, got a good look at PA "police" who are doing nothing for the Palestinian cause of liberation from occupation.)

But the most glaring example of Biden's retrograde action is his June attack on press freedoms and access to over 30 news outlets, like Iran's Press TV, in the Middle East that happen to be a part of the so-called "resistance axis" that has long been challenging U.S. imperialism, colonialism, occupations and murder. The U.S. clearly does not have an honest "free press" in the mainstream media with some modest reportage exceptions, and does not want Americans to have access to alternative points of view from other media outlets which in any case can't be entirely obliterated. Biden also ought to set free Julian Assange from charges that this month have been exposed as false and were in fact discounted by at least one primary perp who has changed his story. But Biden has no mind of his own, apparently, and his administration fears the truth.

It is also deeply ironic that Florida governor Ron DeSantis, an aggressive longtime Trump supporter who has been aiming to become president, has just announced that Israel is sending a team to Miami to assist with the clearance of the collapsed Miami apartment building and the recovery of some 150 more bodies rotting somewhere in the rubble. Unreal! The very country that has wiped out homes and big apartment building in Gaza once again this spring and continues threats to "flatten" Gaza! DeSantis is actually more dangerous than Trump, because he is maybe wiler than Trump who is fading fast and likely to be indicted soon for various crimes, including the crime of ever becoming "President".

Meanwhile, Iran warns it is not forever going to negotiate the resurrection of the JCPOA, which makes sense. This revival has been stalled for too long, probably because the U.S. wants to add additional restrictions on Iran's capacity to defend itself and Iran has correctly refused. It's a wonder Iran has not already withdrawn from the JCPOA under the elected President Raisi who has been called a "hardliner". The U.S. must own up to its foolishness. It was precisely because of its withdrawal from the accord in 2018 that "reformists" were largely demoted and excluded as candidates for the Iranian presidency. Did the U.S. fail to realize that after Trump canned the U.S. participation in the nuclear accord Iran would circle the wagons? How moronic is this oversight by Washington? Very. Thoughtful minds wonder why Iran can't successfully carry on building its alliances with over half the world's peoples in Asia and not literally be bothered by U.S. sanctions.

So, in sum for now, there is regression from assured peace in West Asia even as Iran has reached out to neighboring Arab countries to establish better relations.

President-elect writes to Leader, asking permission to quit Judiciary

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In a letter addressed to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei released on Wednesday, President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi sought permission to quit as the head of the Judiciary and concentrate on forming his government. Raisi is set to be sworn in as president on August 5.

The president-elect also thanked the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for his kind words over the past two years.

Tehran says ready to aid UN to confront cyberattacks

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's ambassador to the UN on Tuesday warned against an alarming trend of systematic accusations by certain states against others by launching cyberattacks, calling for action to restrain states from resorting to threat or use of force within or through the cyberspace environment.

In an address to a UN Security Council meeting on maintaining international peace and security in cyberspace, Majid Takht-Ravanchi emphasized that states must adopt a cooperative rather than confrontational approach in discharging their responsibilities for maintaining a secure, safe and trustable cyberspace, Tasnim reported.

The text of his speech reads as follows: Cyberspace provides golden opportunities for mankind to constantly develop and promote all aspects of its life. Such an outstanding enabler must therefore not only be promoted throughout the world particularly in developing countries but also be protected against all threats.

Cyberspace can also be used to commit acts of aggression, breaches of the peace, "the threat or use of force", "to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state", to violate the sovereignty of States or to coerce other States. These must also be effectively prevented.

As a guiding principle, the existing "applicable" principles and norms of international law, of course without misinterpretation or arbitrary interpretation, must govern the rights, duties and conducts of States with regard to cyberspace.

Yet, when there is no consensus about the applicability of international law, or even there is lack of international norms related to cyberspace, the international community must work towards developing required norms.

To that end, and given that the General Assembly is mandated by the Charter for the "progressive development of international law and its codification", the Assembly must continue its ongoing efforts to develop and codify international principles and norms required for cyberspace, including in the form of an international legally binding instrument. Parallel to such efforts, States must make every effort to promote the widest possible use of cyberspace for their development and in so doing, act responsibly and in accordance with applicable international law, particularly the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

The primary responsibility for maintain-



ing a secure, safe and trustable cyberspace rests with individual States. Therefore, given the current complex situation of cyberspace governance, the prominent role and serious involvement of States in cyberspace environment governance at global level, particularly in policy and decision-making, must be promoted and ensured.

At the same time, the envisaged cyberspace governance must be developed in a manner that does not adversely affect the rights of States in making their choices of development, governance and legislation with respect to cyberspace environment.

The right of States to have "free access to information and to develop fully, without interference, their system of information and mass media and to use their information media in order to promote their political, social, economic and cultural interests and aspirations" as well as "the right and duty of States to combat, within their constitutional prerogatives, the dissemination of false or distorted news", which has also been reaffirmed by General Assembly in the 1981 "Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States", must be fully observed.

In discharging their responsibilities for maintaining a secure, safe and trustable cyberspace, States must adopt a cooperative rather than confrontational approach.

As the General Assembly, in the 1965 "Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty" has reaffirmed, "No State has the right to intervene directly or indirectly for any reason whatever in the internal or

external affairs of any other State". All States must therefore prevent and refrain from such acts, inter alia, against political, economic and cultural elements or cyber-related critical infrastructure of States, including through cyber-related ways and means.

Moreover, the Assembly, through the 1981 "Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States" has reaffirmed the duty of a State "to ensure that its territory is not used in any manner which would violate the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity or disrupt the political, economic and social stability of another State"; "to refrain from any action or attempt in whatever form or under whatever pretext to destabilize or to undermine the stability of another State or of any of its institutions", as well as "to abstain from any defamatory campaign, vilification or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the internal affairs of other States". These rules must also be observed by States with respect to cyberspace.

According to one of the principles reaffirmed by the General Assembly in the 1970 "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations", States must not use any "type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from its advantages of any kind." Accordingly, States shall not use cyberspace-related advances as tools for economic, political or any other type of coercive measures, including by limiting or blocking

measures against other States.

Likewise, States must refrain from the threat or use of force within or through the cyberspace environment. They must also refrain from, and prevent, abusing cyberspace-related supply chains developed under their control and jurisdiction, to create or assist development of vulnerability in products, services and maintenance compromising sovereignty and data protection of other States.

States must also exercise due control over cyberspace-related companies and platforms under their jurisdiction, and take appropriate measures to make them accountable for their behavior in the ITC environment, including for violating national sovereignty, security and public order of other States. At any rate, States are responsible for their internationally wrongful acts within or through cyberspace.

Furthermore, all cyberspace-related international disputes must be settled exclusively by peaceful means and based on "the sovereign equality of States and in accordance with the principle of free choice of means" as stated in the 1970 "Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes".

It is worth recalling in this context that, during the recent years, we have been witnessing an alarming trend of systematic accusations by certain States against other States of launching cyberattacks or similar activities in cyberspace. Given the existing challenges associated with attribution in the cyberspace environment as well as the absence of a set of internationally developed and agreed standards on genuine, reliable and adequate proof for substantiating the attribution, such accusations must be considered merely politically motivated.

All in all, cyberspace and its related means, technics and technologies must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, and to that end, States must act cooperatively, responsibly and in full accordance with applicable international law.

Finally, we share the views that consideration of cyberspace-related issues must be continued in the General Assembly. For its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the victims of cyberattacks, through the Stuxnet malicious computer worm -- believed to be built jointly by the United States and the Israeli regime to cause damage to the Iranian peaceful nuclear installations -- stands ready to contribute to Assembly's efforts in developing principles and norms required for cyberspace."

President-elect meets rival candidates

→ **1** Raisi said his former rivals expressed their views and proposals on the priorities that they assumed his administration should follow up on during the one month left until his swearing-in ceremony.

The presiding board of the parliament has announced that the swearing-in ceremony will take place on August 5.

In the final days leading to the June 18 presidential election, Jalili and Zakani dropped out of the race in favor of Raisi. Mehr-Alizadeh also withdrew candidacy without openly backing Hemmati whose views were close to each other.

Raisi defeated the remaining three candidates, securing a landslide victory. He won over 62 percent of the votes.

Raiesi said different solutions were explored for resolving



the country's problems, some of which had already been raised in the election debates.

"All the friends are concerned about the country, the Revolution, resolving problems, and undoing the knots in people's lives, which is very important," he pointed out.

Writing on his Twitter account after the meeting, Hemmati, an economist who headed the central bank for about two years, said he suggested short-term plans to provide foreign currency for basic commodities, controlling liquidity, and finding ways for budget deficit in the current Iranian year (March 2021-March 2022).

Hemmati also said in the meeting there was no talk of insults and it was an opportunity for him to again express his views based on economic science.

IRGC official: U.S facing ultimate desperation in Yemen war

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The deputy commander of the Iranian Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC) said on Wednesday afternoon that although the United States has fully backed the Saudi coalition in the war on Yemen, it has reached the ultimate desperation point.

"The victory of the Resistance Front with the guidance of martyr Major General Qassem Soleimani showed that the God's promise for the victory of the believers over the oppressors is true, and none of these victories has been achieved by relying on material abilities,"

General Ali Fadavi said.

General Fadavi added apparently Saudi Arabia and its Wahhabi allies are the masterminds of the war on Yemen but the United States is backing them militarily to a large extent, and despite all these military preparations, they have become desperate in the battle of Yemen.

He also pointed to the decades-long U.S. animosity against the Islamic Republic, saying the Americans have been directly involved in war against Iran and its people since 1986.

"Since then, they have had many direct

battles with our forces, resulting in successive and scandalous defeats of our arrogant Zionist enemies," the commander pointed out.

The top military official added if material equipment were the criterion for action, Iran would certainly have suffered many failures by now.

"But today, we all clearly saw that God has determined our victory, and we have done our duty to the best of our abilities, as well as achieving brilliant results and great victory," he highlighted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Fadavi reminded



that the IRGC will serve the people and the underprivileged until the last moments of their lives, and this is a basic principle among IRGC personnel.

Iranian Navy launches exercise in Caspian Sea

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Navy launched an exercise in the Caspian Sea on Wednesday.

The naval exercise, code-named "Sustainable Security 1400", covers an area of round 77,000 square kilometers in the Iranian territorial waters.

The exercise includes a variety of Navy units and equip-

ment, including corvettes, aircraft and helicopters, naval drones, electronic warfare systems, and naval and naval commands.

The participants in the exercise practice various attack and defense tactics in order to protect the maritime borders in the north of Iran and to ensure the safety of the sea routes.

Iran's Air Force and Air Defense support naval units

by covering the airspace of the war zone.

In recent years, the Iranian Navy has conducted several military exercises in northern and southern waters.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly assured other nations, particularly its neighbors, that its military might does not pose a threat to any country, stressing that its defense doctrine is based on deterrence.

Rouhani: Biden will betray voters if he doesn't return to JCPOA

TEHRAN— Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reminded his American counterpart that any procrastination in implementing the 2015 nuclear deal will spell a betrayal of the US election pledges, since Biden had repeatedly hammered his predecessor for scrapping the JCPOA.

According to Tasnim news agency, speaking at a cabinet session on Wednes-

day, Rouhani said although U.S. President Joe Biden had in his election campaign frequently slammed Donald Trump for the mistake of pulling Washington out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and admitted that the sanctions on Iran are futile, the new U.S. administration has maintained Trump's policy of crimes and economic terrorism against Iran.

If Biden procrastinates, even to a small extent, in carrying out the JCPOA, he will betray the votes of American people, the Iranian president added.

Highlighting his administration's unwavering attempts to settle the problems under the economic war and the coronavirus-related troubles, Rouhani said the cabinet has made every effort over the past three years and a

half to have the JCPOA implemented and the sanctions lifted.

He also reiterated that Iran has never been after weapons of mass destruction and its nuclear activities are completely peaceful. "The accusations (of pursuing nukes) against Iran are baseless and unreasonable, and the JCPOA is a document testifying that Iran is not after nuclear weapons."

Post-election Iran vs. U.S.

Iran, U.S. presidential elections compared

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – In a remarkable sign of unity and harmony, all former election rivals met with the Iranian president-elect to express readiness to cooperate with the new government in advancing the interests of the country, a move that stood in stark contrast to what happened in the United States during its November election.

Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi set a new example for how a winner in the presidential election should treat his former election rivals in Iran. In a rare move in the usually poisonous Iranian politics, Ayatollah Raisi met with his former rivals in the June 18 presidential election, which gave him a landslide victory with more than 18 million votes despite the coronavirus pandemic which reduced voter turnout by 10% globally according to some studies.

“We had a very good meeting with the presidential candidates, and we hope that such empathetic attitudes will lead to resolving the problems and undoing the knots in people’s lives,” the Iranian president-elect said, after the Wednesday meeting, which was held at Raisi’s office. All former presidential candidates – Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, Mohsen Mehr-Alizadeh, Alireza Zakani, Naser Hemmati, Saeed Jalili and Mohsen Rezaei – attended the meeting.

Iran’s presidential race was held on June 18 and led to the victory of Raisi. Shortly before the start of the voting, Zakani and Ghazizadeh-Hashemi withdrew from the race in favor of Raisi while Mehr-Alizadeh announced his withdrawal in tacit support for Hemmati who represented the reformist and moderate political groups at the ballot box. Following the victory of Raisi, his rivals rushed to congratulate him on his success without casting any doubt on the election’s integrity, a move that was appreciated by Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in a recent public appearance.

Raisi himself appreciated the political behavior of his rivals, extending invitations to them for a joint meeting, which took place on Wednesday. During the meeting, the former presidential candidates discussed the situation in the country and ways to solve the existing problems with the president-elect. They once again congratulated Ayatollah Raisi on his election win.

At the end of the meeting, the president-elect described his two-hour meeting with the candidates of the 13th presidential election as a very good meeting and said, “[our] friends in this meeting expressed their views and opinions and priorities that they think the next government should pursue this month.”

He added, “At this meeting, various solutions that exist to solve the country’s problems, some of which were also discussed in the election debates, were discussed. Of course, all the friends are concerned about the country, the revolution, solving problems and untangling the knots in people’s lives, which is very important.”

Expressing hope for the continuation of



such meetings, the president-elect emphasized, “The election campaign is over and now is the period of friendship, empathy, and cooperation to solve the problems of the people, which is a public concern.”

In addition to the former candidates, current officials also cooperated full force with the president-elect and his transition team, which is now busy making arrangements to pave the way for the next administration. Outgoing President Hassan Rouhani was quick to meet Ayatollah Raisi after the election. He went to the president-elect’s office at the Judiciary to offer congratulations and a desire to bring about a smooth transition. Raisi reciprocated the president’s cooperative stance by paying a brief visit to the presidential palace to move forward with the transition.

Rouhani also instructed his officials to dully cooperate with Raisi’s transition team. To this end, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi, who is leading the Iranian negotiating team in the Vienna talks, was instructed by Rouhani to brief President-elect Raisi on the latest developments of the Vienna talks aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president’s chief of staff, said the JCPOA is an important issue and that’s why Rouhani instructed his diplomats to brief the incoming government.

Vaezi said, “As regards the JCPOA, which is an important issue, the president ordered Araqchi, along with the foreign minister, to meet with Mr. Raisi as soon as he arrives in Tehran, and to announce the progress and restrictions. The meeting lasted an hour and a half and everything was announced.”

Vaezi also said that the president has instructed all cabinet members to consult with Raisi’s transition team if they are making decisions that will affect the next government.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also underlined the need to cooperate with Raisi, saying all should work with the president-elect. Speaking at the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Zarif noted that

Raisi is now the president-elect, and everyone should support and work with him. The Iranian foreign minister also praised Raisi and described him as a rational president who will run the country well.

The smooth process has earned praise from Ayatollah Khamenei, who compared the successful Iranian election with that of the U.S. which was marred by allegations of voter fraud, a bitter war of words, and even scattered violent protests.

In a meeting with Judiciary officials on June 28, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution called the “epic” presence of the Iranian people in the presidential elections “a strong blow to the enemies.”

In referring to the presidential election, he described it as being epic in the true sense of the word.

Noting that the efforts of the enemies to deny the greatness of the elections were futile, he stated, “The analysts who worked on this election understand what happened. Where in the world is it common for all opposing propaganda machines – the active, influential ones – to do their utmost to intimidate people in order to discourage them from participating in the elections? American and English media, as well as the media of some reactionary, dishonorable countries, focused all their efforts on our elections. Their own agents along with some treacherous Iranian individuals who are living under the American flag or the English flag and who are fed by them, began their work many months ago over the radio, television, satellite channels and on the internet. There were not just one and two of them. There were hundreds and even thousands of them that tried to push the people away from the elections.”

While stating that the Guardian Council acted in accordance with religion and the law, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to attempts made by the opposing media to cause the people to be disappointed in the ballot box, “Well, despite such efforts, the people come and participate like this. Despite Corona— experts now estimate that at least 10% of those who did not participate refrained from voting because of

Corona—people still participated, lined up early in the morning and voted. This was a serious blow by the people to the enemies and to those trying to create a boycott of the elections.”

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the U.S. election as “election fiascos” and said, “Those same scoundrels are criticizing our elections. An American official commented on the Iranian elections. Despite their own fiasco, which is still before them, they have found their tongues after several months and speak against our elections. But with their situation and the fiasco they created, they shouldn’t say even a single word about our elections.”

At the end of his statements, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to the behavior of officials after the elections, describing it as a sign of calm and tranquility within the country. “The fact that the candidates who did not win congratulated the one who did win is a good sign. This is another divine blessing. Compare this with the Americans’ behavior after the elections when one of their candidates behaved very inappropriately toward the one who had won. You remember his statements and viewpoints. Look at their situation just a few months ago,” the Leader said, according to the khamenei.ir.

Ayatollah Khamenei was referring to the drama that erupted in the wake of the U.S. November presidential election, in which then-President Donald Trump warned of rigging the election months before it took place. And after the result was announced, Trump refused to concede defeat, casting doubts on the U.S. election integrity. Trump claimed Democrats “stole” the election by exploiting the vote-by-mail system, which allowed American people to avoid in-person due to coronavirus fears.

Trump’s “mobs” staged protests across the country to “retake” their country from “the Do-nothing Democrats.” The protests spiraled out of control in some cases which prompted U.S. army deployments to many cities and towns, including Washington DC to protect state buildings and facilities, a move that invoked scenes of civil war.

The pro-Trump protesters topped it off with storming Congress creating a rare political crisis as Trump refused to openly condemn his supporters. Trump also refused to participate in the inauguration ceremony of his successor, gloomily leaving the White House.

Many Trump supporters still believe that their favorite president was kicked out of the White House as a result of a rigged election in which even dead people did vote. CNN reporter Donie O’Sullivan spoke with several supporters of Trump ahead of his first post-presidential rally on Saturday, many of whom told him they fully expect the real estate mogul to be reinstated before the end of the summer and warned of potential political violence in America if he is not, according to the Hill.

“He didn’t lose, I know he didn’t lose,” one woman told O’Sullivan.

SPORTS

Volleyball coach Mehregan optimistic about Iran at Tokyo

➔ In his first days in charge of Iran’s national team, Alekno faced a huge challenge that led to criticism against his tactical approach and line-up selection.

Iran finished the 2021 VNL in 12th place after winning five out of 15 matches. Alekno’s side stood above Germany, Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Australia with 18 points.

“The Iranian players are very different from the Russians. Therefore, although Alekno is an experienced and knowledgeable coach, he needs to be advised in terms of Iranians’ behavioral, moral, and cultural characteristics and qualities.

“He should be aware of how Iranian players react in difficult situations. So, the Iran Volleyball Federation should be more in touch with Alekno and help him in this regard,” added the head coach of Al Arabi.

Mehregan believes that at least two friendly games are necessary for the national team before the team enter the Olympics: “Apart from the friendly games, Alekno should have some meetings with the players in person to know them better.”

Iran have been drawn along with giants Poland and Italy and hosts Japan as well as Canada and Venezuela in Pool A of the 2020 Olympic Games. The Persians start the tournament with the game against Poland on 24 July.

Iran, S. Arabia football dilemma remains unsolved

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Esteghlal football team must host Al Hilal in a neutral venue in the 2021 AFC Champions League Round of 16, however the Iranian team are reluctant to meet the Saudi Arabian team in a neutral venue.

Esteghlal traveled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in April for the centralized Group A matches for the first time since 2016 and at that time it seemed the two countries would be willing to restore the relationship.

However, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has asked Iran’s Esteghlal and Saudi Arabian Al Nassr, who will have to play Iran’s Tractor, to name a neutral venue until July 7.

Esteghlal insist Al Hilal should travel to Iran as they accepted to travel to the country for the group stage matches.

In 2016, the AFC ordered the countries’ clubs had to play in neutral grounds if there had not been a return to normal relations between two countries.

On Thursday, the Round 3 of the 2022 World Cup qualifications will be drawn in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Iran and Saudi Arabia could be drawn in a same group.

Now the question is: What does the AFC want to do?

Iran’s Nazemi to officiate at 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iranian woman referee Gelareh Nazemi will officiate at the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Lithuania.

The competition will be held from Sept. 12 to Oct. 3 in the European country, Iran Football Federation’s website reported.

Nazemi had already officiated the men’s competition. She has most recently whistled in the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifiers held in Sharjah, the UAE in May along with her compatriot Zari Fathi.

Gelareh Nazemi also officiated in the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Iranian male referee Ebrahim Mehrabi Afshar will also officiate in the FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Ali Daei lauds generous Cristiano Ronaldo

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iranian legendary forward Ali Daei praised Cristiano Ronaldo for what he has done on and off the pitch.

The Portuguese equaled Daei’s international goalscoring record last week. He scored twice from the penalty spot against France to take his tally to 109 goals. Daei posted a message on his Instagram account, praising Ronaldo as a great champion of football and caring humanist who inspires and impacts lives throughout the world.

Ronaldo also responded to Daei with an Instagram story of his own. “True champions remain champions forever. I’m very proud to read such kind words from a huge idol like you. Thank you Ali Daei,” Ronaldo wrote.

Daei praised the Portuguese on an Instagram live session on Wednesday.

“I didn’t expect him to send such a message and showed his greatness. He’s kind to me. Ronald is a generous man on and off the pitch for what he has done over the years,” Ronaldo said.

Daei said he had written his congratulatory message since he was sure the Portugal forward would reach 109 goals.

“I had been waiting for a long time for this. I am happy for him and think he is a real champion,” he said.

On Thursday, the Round 3 of the 2022 World Cup qualifications will be drawn in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the former Iran coach said they will have a tough task in the stage.

“In the Round 3, Iran will have to face the powerhouse teams like Australia, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. As an Iran’s football fan, I wish all the best for our national team,” Daei stated.

The 52-year-old had been linked with English Premier league side Everton last year. World-respected magazine Kicker said rumors are rife that Daei will land a role at Goodison Park.

“I just want to work as a head coach and cannot be an administrative person. I’ve not sat behind the desk in the last 25 years in my own sportswear company,” Daei said.

Sajjad Esteki joins Al Arabi of Kuwait handball team

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iranian handball player Sajjad Esteki penned a contract with Kuwaiti club Al Arabi.

He has most recently played in the French team Cesson Rennes MHB.

The 31-year-old left back has also played in German club TVB 1898 Stuttgart, Qatari club Al Gharafa and Romanian Dinamo București.

Esteki helped Iran national handball team win a silver medal at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou as well as a bronze medal at the 2014 Asian Men’s Handball Championship in Manama, Bahrain.

UN chief urges U.S. to lift all sanctions on Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the United States to remove all sanctions on Iran as agreed under a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in 2015.

In a report to the UN Security Council, Guterres also urged the United States to “extend the waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and fully renew waivers for nuclear non-proliferation projects,” according to a Reuters report.

The report came one day before a meeting of the 15-member UN body on Wednesday to discuss the secretary-general’s biannual report on the implementation of a 2015 resolution that enshrines the nuclear deal between Iran, the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China.

“I appeal to the United States to lift or waive its sanctions outlined in the plan,” said the UN chief.

He also underlined the need for the Iran deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as a way to ensure the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear deal. “I continue to believe that a full restoration of the Plan remains the best way to ensure that the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran remains exclusively peaceful,” Guterres noted.

“I am encouraged by the recent diplomatic engagements taking place in and around the Joint Commission since April 2021 on the landmark agreement,” he pointed out.

“In recent months, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has documented that the Islamic Republic of Iran has installed new and advanced centrifuges, including types IR-2m and IR-4, for uranium enrichment not foreseen in the Plan; has undertaken uranium enrichment up to 60 percent; and has begun research and development activities for the production of uranium metal for fuel for the Tehran research reactor,” the UN chief stated.

The UN chiefs report came amid painstaking negotiations between Iran and the world powers in Vienna to restore the JCPOA. Diplomats from Iran and the U.S. as well as Europe are preparing for a potentially decisive round of talks this week in Vienna that is expected to result in a consensus to revive the JCPOA. Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi, who leads the



Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, said on Sunday that the Vienna talks have almost reached their end and that the time has come for the negotiating parties to make decisions.

Speaking after a briefing session with lawmakers, Araqchi said, “So far, six rounds of talks have been held with the P4+1, and we are almost close to the final stages. There is a series of issues that have been sufficiently negotiated and it is time for the countries to decide.”

The top nuclear negotiator said Iran has already made tough decisions to remain in the JCPOA and now it’s Washington’s turn to face up to the moment of making tough decisions.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has already made tough decisions. When the United States withdrew from the JCPOA and Iran decided to stay in the JCPOA. It was Iran’s big and difficult decision that led to the preservation of the JCPOA so far. Now it is the turn of the opposing parties, and according to the negotiations we had, they must decide and reach a conclusion on the revival of the JCPOA in order to reach an agreement,” Araqchi told Iranian state media after briefing lawmakers sitting on the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on the Vienna talks on Sunday.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also noted that Iran did its part in terms of preserving the JCPOA and that it’s now up to the U.S. to make a decision to revive the nuclear deal.

Speaking at his weekly press conference, Khatibzadeh said, “If the JCPOA is alive today, it is because of

the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if today there exist such thing as the JCPOA, the implementation of which is being discussed, it is because of the decision that Iran made after the unilateral and illegal withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA and the inactions of the European parties.”

He added, “Iran and the Iranian people have played their part in protecting the JCPOA and made the tough decision they had to make that year. Today is the time when the other side should know that it is present in the negotiations in the position of the culprit, and it is the side that has made every effort to destroy the JCPOA.”

Everyone knows that if there is a reason for distrust of the United States, it is the hypocritical and bullying behavior of the United States. What is being discussed in Vienna is how to implement the JCPOA. We are not talking about its origin or its future. We are only talking about the implementation of the JCPOA and the return of the United States to the JCPOA.”

The United Nations Security Council meeting on Wednesday was aimed to represent the body’s 11th report on implementing UNSCR 2231 about the Iran nuclear deal, Iranian state news IRNA reported.

This is the first in-person meeting of the UNSC after the outbreak of coronavirus.

In 2015, the P5+1 group (the U.S., the UK, France, Russia, and China plus Germany) and Iran signed a deal on Tehran’s nuclear program. The deal was designed to terminate economic and financial sanctions on Iran in exchange for putting restrictions on the country’s nuclear program. But nearly three years after the implementation of the deal, the former U.S. administration of Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the deal, imposing far-reaching sanctions on Iran and putting the JCPOA in real danger as Iran, a year after the U.S. withdrawal, started to gradually reduce its nuclear commitments under the deal.

In recent months, Iran accelerated its nuclear activities such as enriching uranium up to 60% purity and installed new, advanced centrifuges the use of which were prohibited under the 2015 nuclear deal. With the coming of the Biden administration, Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA embarked on new negotiations on how to revive the deal.

Monthly non-oil trade rises 14%

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The value of Iran’s non-oil trade rose 14 percent in the third Iranian calendar month (May 22-June 21), from its previous month, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Rouhollah Latifi said that 16.136 million tons of commodities worth \$8.057 billion were traded in the third month, indicating also a 35-percent growth in terms of weight.

The official put the monthly non-oil export at 13.087 million tons valued at \$4.369 billion, and that of the imports at 3.049 million tons worth \$3.688 billion.



As announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran’s non-oil exports reached \$10.7 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), up 69 percent compared to the last year’s same period.

According to Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi, Iran exported 30 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned three months, registering a 38-percent rise compared to the figure for the last year’s Q1.

Meanwhile, some 8.4 million tons of goods valued at \$10.2 billion were also imported into the country in the said period to register a 34-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year’s same quarter.

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

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

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

The value of Iran’s non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

According to Mir-Ashrafi, Iran’s non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, while that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Komijani appointed as new CBI governor

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian cabinet appointed Akbar Komijani, the former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), as the bank’s new governor, Mahmoud Vaezi, the president’s chief of staff announced.

According to Vaezi, Komijani will replace CBI’s former governor Abdolnasser Hemmati in just more than two months remaining from the incumbent government’s second term in office.



President Hassan Rouhani had dismissed Hemmati due to his decision to launch a presidential election campaign for the June 18 votes.

According to the CBI laws and regulations, the bank cannot be run by an acting governor so the cabinet has agreed that Komijani would take over all responsibilities and powers of the CBI governor until mid-August when the current government is expected to leave office.

Komijani, a graduate of economics from the U.S. and a lecturer at the University of Tehran, has served as the CBI deputy governor for the past seven years. The banker has held other senior positions in the CBI, including deputy for economic affairs on two occasions from 1998 to 2007 and from 2013 to 2014.

Hemmati led the CBI through one of the most complicated financial periods for Iran since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Iranian port activities noticeably ongoing despite limitations

→ 1 Imam Khomeini Port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, has had also a good performance, as 73 vessels unloaded 3.622 million tons of basic goods at this port during the first quarter, rising three percent from the amount of basic commodities unloaded at this port in the same three-month period of the previous year.

The rising trend of loading and unloading operation has been also reported about the northern ports of the country.

The mentioned operation rose 28 percent at the ports of Mazandaran province, in the north of Iran, during the first quarter of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

Meanwhile, the quarterly export of goods from these ports has experienced a 57-percent growth year on year.

It is worth mentioning that Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country’s ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

First North-South freight transit enters Iran through Astara

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian customs official has said a first-ever transit cargo passing through the so-called International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) has entered Iran from Finland to be transferred to India, IRNA reported.

Karim Rasouli, who is the head of Astara customs office in northern Iran, said the consignment, which arrived in Astara on Tuesday, includes 563 tons of paper worth 535,000 euros, and its customs clearance procedures were carried out in the shortest time so that the goods could be transported to Rasht by trucks.

According to the official, the Astara railway has not been connected to Rasht railway yet, and now the goods are sent to Rasht by combined transportation using trucks.

After the completion of the north-south railway corridor, the goods will be transported by train, he added.

The paper shipment will be transhipped from Rasht to Bandar Abbas and will be loaded for India via Bandar Abbas railway,



Rasouli explained.

In early March 2017, Azerbaijan officially

launched a rail link with Iran by sending a train across the border to Iran’s northern

Tehran, Yerevan call for removal of trade barriers

→ 1 “The Trade Development Organization of Iran is ready to hold a meeting of the [two countries] joint industrial, mining and commercial working group in order to identify obstacles and problems facing bilateral trade and to take appropriate and effective decisions to address them.”

He further expressed satisfaction with the holding of Iran’s exclusive exhibition in Armenia earlier this month and noted that holding such events in the two countries and the exchange of trade delegations is necessary to better introduce export capabilities and to exchange information related to the needs of the two markets.

Zadboum also pointed to the removal of non-tariff barriers and reduction of logistics and transportation costs, along with the expansion of the scope of the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU, as important factors in increasing the level of trade relations between the two countries and called for addressing such subjects in the joint working groups.

Simonyan for his part welcomed the holding of a joint

working group on industry, mining, and trade as soon as possible, and announced his readiness to hold expert talks during the meetings of the joint working group between the two countries.

Stressing joint investment

The Armenian deputy minister also met with Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, in which the two sides stressed the need for boosting joint investment in various sectors.

In this meeting Shafeie noted that Iran and Armenia could become good trade partners among the EAEU members.

Mining, livestock and agriculture, textiles, clothing, construction, technical and engineering services, as well as transportation and transit were among the areas mentioned by the officials for mutual cooperation.

Back in January, Iran, and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Industry, Mining and



TPO Head Hamid Zadboum (Down-1st R) and Armenian Deputy Economy Minister Varos Simonyan (Up-center) meet in Tehran on Tuesday.

Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini and the Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan in Tehran.

TEDPIX climbs 8,400 points on Wednesday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 8,443 points to 1.256 million on Wednesday.

Over 7.187 billion securities worth 58.295 trillion rials (about \$1.387 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market’s index rose 4,568 points, and the second market’s index increased 22,590 points.

Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, the head of Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), has announced that the organization’s advisory council has proposed two new programs for supporting the stock market in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).



The details of the mentioned programs dubbed “capital market policy package to support production and eliminate obstacles” and “the plan to improve the position and performance of the capital market” were presented in a meeting between Dehqan Dehnavi and the members of the SEO Advisory Council.

SEO launches single-window systems for facilitating affairs

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has launched three single window systems for facilitating the processes and procedures related to the stock market activities, IRNA reported.

The unveiling ceremony of the mentioned systems, held on Tuesday, was attended by Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand and the SEO Head Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi.

According to Dehnavi, these systems are going to offer various services to the companies and people active in the market.

“Companies or financial institutions had to go through many processes which took a long time for their activities in the stock market; this issue was considered as one of the concerns of the traders and people active in this market,” the official said.

Dehnavi noted that launching these single window systems would accelerate and facilitate many affairs and hopefully services would be provided more quickly and



easily to the clients and companies.

Through the mentioned systems, the SEO, in collaboration with the Real Estate Registration Organization of Iran, the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA), official newspapers, and the Iran Post, will provide all

the necessary services in the shortest possible time, he explained.

According to the official, the single window services will be accessible at the SEO’s new building, and by launching these windows, services that need frequent commute will be provided more easily and in shorter times.

SEO had launched another single-window system, on June 30 2020 to accelerate the process of private companies’ acceptance to the stock market.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Iranian Association of Internal Audits (IAIA), Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), and Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on June 30, 2020, for launching the mentioned single-window system.

The mentioned system was aimed at creating a single portal for evaluating, assessing and monitoring the financial and technical situation of private sector companies for approving their entrance into the capital market.

Agricultural products processing capacity stands at 72m tons

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN**— As announced by the director-general of the foodstuff processing industries office of Iran’s Ministry of Agriculture, the country’s processing, storage and packaging capacity of agricultural products is 72 million tons.

Esfandiar Changizi said that the capacity was 32 million tons some eight years ago. Elaborating on the significant measures taken by the Agriculture Ministry over the past eight years (incumbency of the current government), the official said that over 1,500 agricultural products processing, storage, and packaging units have been renovated in the past eight years.

He said that the development of chains, especially in the dairy industry, cereals, meat, fruits and vegetables are among the priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture in the field of conversion and complementary industries in the agricultural sector.

According to Agriculture Minister Kazem Khavazi, the agriculture sector accounts for nearly eight percent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP).

In late April, President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday inaugurated several agricultural projects worth 81.47 trillion rials (about \$1.93 billion) through video conference in various provinces.

The mentioned projects which were put into operation in a variety of fields including water and soil, fisheries, livestock and poultry, are going to provide job opportunities for over 42,300 people.

Back in February, Rouhani had inaugurated 372 greenhouse projects as well as two livestock complexes worth 49 trillion rials (about \$1.16 billion) in the 47th series of inauguration ceremonies in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

The mentioned projects, inaugurated concurrently with the Fajr Ten-Day celebrations (from January 31 until February 10), created direct job opportunities for 11,850 people.

In the past forty years, since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has witnessed a remarkable improvement in various sectors and the agriculture industry has been one of the areas in which the country has undergone huge development.

Iran is situated in a dry plateau with limited water resources, so most of the country’s



development projects in the agriculture sector have been focused on decreasing and managing water consumption by introducing new irrigation methods.

Idea of exporting democracy is undemocratic: Oxford professor

➔ 1 Another way of putting this is to say that democracy must simultaneously represent the majority of citizens, while yet preventing them from constituting a social identity excluding minorities of all kinds. In modern times this has meant a struggle to repudiate given or unchanging social majorities for varying political ones based on issues rather than identities.

The democratic majority, in other words, must be made up of individuals rather than groups, which is why it is ascertained by the secret ballot so that voters can resist the influence of all external power and collective identity. While we tend to understand democracy in terms of collective voice and communication, then, equally important is individual silence and the freedom to choose without speaking. These are all difficult liberties to ensure, and different societies pick one or another way of doing so, depending on whether they see individual freedom or social order as being at greater risk. There can be no standard of democracy, only a democratic debate about what it should be at any time.

Do you think democracy is exportable? What were the results of the U.S. regime change policy in Iraq for example?

Democracy as an idea has travelled from one place to another throughout its history, so like any other idea, it cannot be seen as belonging to any particular people. But to remain democratic it would have to be adopted freely rather than imposed on society by force of arms. For to do so would turn democracy from a discussion and debate for the many into a technology of rule by the few. Only technologies, like goods, can be exported or imported. This does not mean that forms of government are ever instituted without force, and almost all the democracies existing today have come into being either through violent revolutions or as an indirect result of colonial rule. But they must be made by those who claim to represent the citizenry of a future state of which they are themselves, members.

The American idea of democracy as an export item is not only undemocratic but a product of neoliberalism. Democracy here has been reconceptualized as a technique replicable like any other and meant to produce freedom without the initial involvement of the many who are meant to be represented by it.



The idea is that once democratic institutions and procedures are put in place, citizens will come to identify with them if only because they have much to gain from the system. This has clearly not worked in Afghanistan, where the system has never been inclusive. And while such an imposed democracy has brought Iraq's Shia majority to power for the first time, it is as a social or sectarian rather than political identity. But the growth of political parties in Iraq and the political fragmentation of the Shia is a positive sign because it may end up democratizing the state from below.

Some Western observers claim that democracy is not applicable in the Arab world. Is religion at odds with democracy?

The West does not own democracy, which indeed has often been at risk there, and in some cases is so again today. Until the middle of the 20th century, all the important Western European countries possessed colonies and were so the major obstacles to democracy globally. Similarly, the United States tolerated racial and sexual discrimination by law, while at the same time preventing democratic movements abroad. Europe itself was threatened by fascism and Nazism at its very heart, showing that there was nothing inherently democratic about its geography or history.

Emerging from colonial rule, which clearly did little to promote democratic sentiments there, the Arab world has had to struggle to achieve economic as much as political autonomy from the West. In the days of the Cold War, some of its members could play one superpower off against the other and gain some autonomy in the process. But since the 1990s there has been one choice: bow to the dictates of the West or be sanctioned if not bombed and invaded by it. But with the gradual emergence of a multi-polar international order, this alternative may become a thing of the past.

Religion has never been an obstacle to democracy, and the first modern democracy, the United States, was founded in the name of religious freedom and remains one of the world's most religious societies. In the Muslim world, all the Islamist parties are republican rather than monarchical in character and all entertain some version of democratic rule. They do, of course, tend to suspect if not repudiate the idea of popular sovereignty, but this is because it is seen as a theological category that belongs to God. The Islamist debate focuses on the scope of the legislation and under what authority it can be extended.

Do you think that democracy and globalization support each other?

The end of the Cold War made possible

a new global arena for trade and communication which some American thinkers saw as heralding the final victory of liberalism and democracy. This did not happen in part because global governance, like foreign policy in general, has remained resolutely undemocratic. The foreign policies of empires and nation-states alike have conventionally been the sites of a monarchical form of sovereignty untrammelled by the need for democratic consultation. This way of doing politics has been translated into the global arena, in which governance experts and unelected officials proliferate. This is clearly a good thing where the institutions of international finance or health are concerned, but the problem is that they entertain little public oversight.

Even regional formations such as the European Union are defined by a famous 'democratic deficit,' governed as they are by a caste of bureaucrats with Members of the European Parliament responsible as well as subordinate to their national parties. But this is a structural problem since we have no model of pairing global governance with national sovereignty. Issues like climate change cannot be dealt with at the national level whose interests still take precedence over those of others. But more importantly, climate change, like the possibility of nuclear war, is an issue that concerns not nations but the whole of humanity. Indeed, the human race has achieved a kind of prospective reality precisely because it is now at risk from the actions of its own members. And yet, despite being named in innumerable UN documents, it has no political status or reality.

How might it be possible to conceive of democracy at a scale that encompasses humanity? If the EU cannot even guarantee a democratic culture between its constituent units, apart from treating its member states as if they were individual voters, what hope have we of doing so for the globe as a whole? It is technically possible to secure the opinion or vote of all adults the world over, even without absorbing them into some universal state, but how can we guarantee their freedom from national influence? The old problem of democracy, how to guarantee the individual's political choice, reappears in the globe's vastly more expanded context. Except for this time, it is the state itself rather than any social majority that poses the greatest obstacle to democracy.

Why is U.S. attacking Iraqi-Syrian border on regular basis?

➔ 1 At the same time, and again credit goes to the late Iranian Martyr, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, and a small team of advisors from Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, the Syrian Army was liberating town after town in Dayr-Zawr province where al Bukamal is situated.

To make the task easier, Damascus and Baghdad signed a security agreement so each nation's forces coordinated to the extent Iraqi forces would cross into Syrian territory (sometimes up to 2 kilometers) to eliminate Daesh terror cells and visa-versa. They fought and they fought and they fought Daesh until popular footage emerged showing Iraqi and Syrian soldiers embracing each other at the al Bukamal al Qaim border crossing. These victories and developments and military successes came at a cost. U.S. forces occupy chunks of eastern Syria, especially the oil fields in Dayr-Zawr province. Washington has military bases on both sides of the border.

The Ain al Assad base in Iraq's Western Anbar province and several others in Syria's Eastern Dayr al-Zawr are the most prominent region of which is most certainly al-Tanf in a broader territory known as the Badia desert. At one point during the war against Daesh, Russia accused the U.S. of providing cover for Daesh near al-Tanf instead of fighting the terrorists. In fact, every time PMU forces or Syrian government forces tried to target Daesh cells near al-Tanf, U.S. warplanes carried out deadly airstrikes against the Syrian forces. Similar attacks were conducted at the al Bukamal-al Qaim border crossing. One major attack at this border crossing led to a quick chain of events that resulted in the martyrdom of Iran's Lieutenant General, Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi PMU commander Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis. Both leading anti-terror figures that prevented terrorism from spreading around the world. A U.S. airstrike at the same border crossing in late December 2019 on PMU forces killed more than 50 of its members. A few days later, a funeral procession took place that went through Baghdad's green zone, some of the mourners demonstrated outside the so-called American embassy. The mourners planned to camp and rally outside the embassy for weeks.

According to then Prime Minister, Adel-Abdul Mehdi, it was Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis himself who ordered the mourners to return home. Despite Baghdad providing sufficient security for the embassy, the following day or two

on January 3rd, 2020, at the direct instructions of then U.S. President Trump, Washington assassinated General Soleimani, Iraqi commander al-Muhamdis and a number of their security personnel citing imminent security threats.

Following the assassination at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq's parliament passed a bill that called on the U.S. forces to leave the country. Some analysts say there was no need for such a bill, as the Iraqi constitution clearly stipulates that any foreign occupation is against the law. But America refuses to leave. There are several reasons for this; many of them go back to the al Bukamal-al Qaim border crossing.

The reality on the ground is that the Pentagon has never fought Daesh in this border area or anywhere else in Iraq and Syria. Daesh was not an army that you could erase with airstrikes. They hid in urban areas and desert hideouts.

The only way to terminate the group was using ground forces, sometimes to the extent of face-to-face fighting. What America did was carpet bomb cities like Mosul and Raqqa which now need decades of infrastructure work to bring back the internally displaced people.

The PMU liberated cities like Tikrit with ground troops and it was business as normal the next day. The fact of the matter is that America needs two things in Iraq and Syria: Instability and oil.

Instability in Iraq and Syria weakens the Islamic Republic's allies in the region. Syrian oil fields just happen to be in Dayr al-Zawr. By maintaining its military presence in the province, Washington is preventing the Syrian government, which has now liberated all the country's territory barring Idlib province, from using oil revenue to rebuild the country.

Likewise, the U.S. military occupation that protects thousands of military contractors at the so-called U.S. embassy ensures the continuation of disinformation campaigns that bring about infighting among Iraqis. PMU commanders regularly complain of individuals entering the embassy in the Iraqi capital or the U.S. consulate in southern Iraq and then spreading poisonous disinformation against the PMU and/or Iran. Baghdad must shut down (at least temporarily) social media platforms that are serving these interests.

There are no so-called Iranian-backed Shia militias in Iraq or Syria. In November 2016, The Iraqi parliament passed a legislation that incorporated the PMU as part of Iraq's armed forces. In other words, they receive their paychecks from



Baghdad, their pensions from Baghdad and their orders from the Iraqi Commander in Chief, who at present is the interim Prime Minister, Mustafa al-Khadhimi. The other fact Western mainstream media ignore is that the PMU has more Christian and Sunni soldiers than the regular army.

Many ask, so why doesn't the Pentagon want Iraq to prosper?

Iraq has oil and a lot of it. Washington thought it would take its share of the pie but that didn't exactly materialize the way the Pentagon had planned. A strong Iraqi economy and a strong Syrian economy alongside a strong Iran is a powerful alliance that America's Persian Gulf monarchies paid a lot of money to prevent.

This is despite the fact that all three countries, especially Iran, have offered many olive branches, most recently the Hormuz Peace Initiative.

But peace in West Asia would destroy the profits of the U.S. military industrial complex.

Iraqi and Syrian officials accuse Daesh of being a U.S.-Israeli proxy. Washington needs Daesh as a pretext to maintain its occupation of both countries. And so, all roads lead to the al Bukamal-al Qaim border crossing, where America is playing a huge destabilizing role for the region (and the world) with its airstrikes.

Powerful heat wave in U.S. Northwest hits infrastructure

The rare and powerful heat wave shattering records across the U.S. Northwest is taking a bruising toll on the region's infrastructure, buckling highways, hobbling public transit and triggering rolling power outages.

Avista Corp. — which serves nearly 340,000 customers in eastern Washington, Idaho and Oregon — instituted rolling outages for the first time in company history as temperatures soared. The periodic blackouts had impacted about 4,667 customers as of late Tuesday, with a total of 21,000 warned that they could face disruptions, the company said. Heat also warped Seattle highways and scorched Portland's streetcar wires, suspending service.

The breakdowns amid the worst recorded heat wave in Pacific Northwest history are the latest sign that unprecedented challenges loom this summer. Heat, drought and wildfires tied to climate change have authorities on edge as they try to keep the power on and avoid more heat-related deaths that claim about 650 U.S. lives annually. President Joe Biden will meet governors of Western states Wednesday to discuss how to address wildfire threats.

Dozens killed as Yemeni army, allies fire ballistic missiles at Saudi-led forces in Ma'rib

Yemeni army forces and allied fighters from Popular Committees have launched two missile strikes against the positions of Saudi-led militants in Yemen's strategic central province of Ma'rib, killing and wounding dozens of them.

Spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced in a post on his Twitter page that Yemeni troops and their allies launched a domestically-developed Badr-1 ballistic missile at a gathering of Saudi-led military commanders and officers in the Sahn al-Jin military camp near Ma'rib city, and another at the Third Military Region early on Wednesday.

He said the missiles struck their designated targets with great precision, adding that a number of senior Saudi-led mercenaries were killed and wounded as a result.

Saree gave assurances that Yemeni armed forces take all necessary measures to protect ordinary people and civilian facilities whenever they launch a missile against Saudi-led coalition forces and their mercenaries.

On Tuesday evening, Saudi military aircraft carried out an airstrike against the Majzar district in Yemen's Ma'rib province, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or material damage.

Saudi warplanes also pounded the Sirwah district in the same Yemeni province on more than two dozen occasions, though no reports about possible human and material losses were quickly available.

Earlier in the day, a civilian lost his life and three others sustained injuries when Saudi fighter jets bombed Bani Makki area in the Abs district of the northern Yemeni province of Hajjah.

Saudi-led forces violate Hudaydah truce 124 times in 24 hours

Additionally, an unnamed source in Yemen's Liaison and Coordination Officers Operations Room said forces of the Saudi-led military coalition and their mercenaries had violated 124 times during the past 24 hours a ceasefire agreement between the warring sides for the western coastal province of Hudaydah.

The source at the monitor said the violations included 15 reconnaissance flights over various districts, including Kilo 16 and al-Jabaliya neighborhoods, in addition to 13 counts of artillery shelling and 91 shooting incidents.

Taliban fighters launch attack on Ghazni

Taliban fighters have launched an attack on Ghazni, clashing with Afghan forces and using explosives in an attempt to seize the central Afghan city, local officials have said.

Tuesday's assault on Ghazni, on the highway linking the capital Kabul with the southern province of Kandahar, ramps up the Taliban's offensive against the government and comes as foreign troops prepare to exit from the war-torn country in less than three months.

The Taliban have had a strong presence in the province of Ghazni for years, but provincial police officials said the overnight attack from several directions was the fiercest launched by the armed group.

Clashes intensified near security checkpoints in the Shaikh Ajal and Ganj area of Ghazni city, forcing shopkeepers to shut the main market.

"The situation in Ghazni is changing, most of the lost areas in the outskirts are being taken back by the Afghan forces," said Abdul Jami, a provincial council member in Ghazni.

According to al Jazeera, roads into the area were closed and telecoms interrupted making it hard for aid groups and officials to assess the number of casualties.

As Afghan forces battled the Taliban in Ghazni and other parts of the country, officials said some civilians were actively joining the battle against the group.

Resistance News

Hamas condemns the opening of Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN — Hazem Qassem, Hamas's spokesman, said on Tuesday that the opening of an Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi reflects the insistence of the UAE on the "sin" it committed by signing the normalization agreement with Israel.

Qassem said, in a press statement, that the coincidence of the opening of the embassy with the demolition process in the Silwan neighborhood in Occupied Jerusalem confirms that the normalization agreements will encourage Israel to escalate its aggression against Palestinians and their holy sites.

Yair Lapid, the Israeli Foreign Minister, visited the UAE, in the first official visit by an Israeli minister, and inaugurated the first Israeli embassy in the Persian Gulf less than a year after the normalization of relations between the two sides.

Lapid is scheduled to move to Dubai where he will officially open an Israeli consulate.

Iraqi resistance group vows to hit back at U.S. positions in 'unexpected place' with 'unexpected weapon'

The leader of Iraq's Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq resistance group has announced a change of tactic in dealing with American forces on the Arab country's soil, pledging to respond to the US military's deadly attack against Iraq's popular forces in an "unexpected place" and with an "unexpected weapon."

"Our tactic in the previous stage was to deplete the military capability of the enemy to force it to leave [Iraq], but the Ameri-

can enemy proved that it has no respect for the blood of the sons of the [Iraqi] nation," Qais Khazali said in televised remarks on Tuesday night.

"We are not bloodthirsty warmongers, and the resistance will refrain from shedding blood in its operations as much as possible," added the head of Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, a faction of Hashd al-Sha'abi, also known as the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In the early hours of Monday, the U.S. military conducted airstrikes against three targets purportedly belonging to Iraqi resistance groups along the Iraqi-Syrian border.

According to Press TV, Hashd al-Sha'abi said four Iraqi fighters were killed in the attack targeting the headquarters of the 14th Brigade of the PMU.

"The American enemy started the murder and brought the battle to this level," Khazali

said. "The resistance's operation has entered a new phase."

The leader of Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq also pledged "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and if the U.S. continues its bloodshed, we are capable [of responding]."

Hours after the Monday attack, the U.S. military reported that multiple rockets had hit an illegal American base in the eastern Syrian province of Dayr al-Zawr.

Old trees, rural landscape in Ardebil made national heritage

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A total of eight natural properties scattered across Ardebil province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

Five old walnut trees and two plane ones were among the natural properties added to the prestigious list.



The rural landscape of Qeshlaq-e Tang, a village near Meshginshahr, was also added to the list.

Plane trees have always been symbols of fertility and the greenery of nature in Iranian culture. It was believed that the tree could prevent the spread of fever and infectious diseases.

They have been mostly planted in sacred areas such as churches and holy shrines.

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

The province is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardebil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

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

Formula One racetrack to be inaugurated in central Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A recently-constructed Formula One (F1) racetrack will be officially inaugurated in Zaranjeh county of Markazi province in the near future.

“It is the first racetrack in the country suitable for holding Formula One competitions according to the standards of the [International] Automobile Federation,” provincial tourism chief Mostafa Marzban said on Wednesday.

“So far, 90% of the racetrack and its main building have been completed and the ensemble will be inaugurated by the end of Tir (July 22),” the official added.



Formula One (also known as Formula 1 or F1) is the highest class of international auto racing for single-seater formula racing cars sanctioned by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

The word formula in the name refers to the set of rules to which all participants' cars must conform. A Formula One season consists of a series of races, known as Grands Prix, which take place worldwide on both purpose-built circuits and closed public roads.

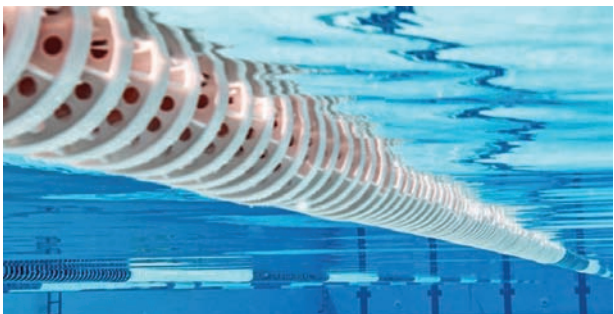
First hydrotherapy center to make debut in Urmia

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — An agreement in principle has recently been reached to launch a hydrotherapy center for the first time in the city of Urmia, which is the capital of the northwestern West Azarbaijan province.

“The agreement in principle seeks to encourage other investors to establish similar centers in the city,” Urmia’s tourism chief said on Wednesday.

The center is expected to require investments of 120 billion rials (\$2.8 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) to be completed, Mohammad Tanabi announced

Some 100 job opportunities are also expected to be generated when the project gets off the ground, the official added.



The provincial capital of Urmia, also spelled Orumiyeh, lies just west of Lake Urmia on a large fertile plain that yields grains, fruits, tobacco, and other crops. The population is mainly Azeri Turkish, with Kurdish, Assyrian Christian, and Armenian minorities. The remains of ancient settlements are scattered over the plain, as are traces of the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

7 beautiful mosques for your must-visit list in Iran

➔1 Jameh Mosque, Yazd

Soaring above the UNESCO-registered city of Yazd, this splendid building is graced with a tiled entrance portal, which is one of the tallest in the country.

The Jameh Mosque of Yazd is particularly notable for the prevalence of faience – a form of tiling that, like a mosaic, is formed of different colored pieces that are sandwiched together to create the design.

The terms “Jameh Mosque” or “Masjed-e Jameh” or “Friday Mosque” are used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

Blue Mosque, Tabriz
Covered in spectacular blue tiles, from which it derives its name, the Blue Mosque (“Masjed-e Kabud”) is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture in northwest Iran.

The mosque was completed in c. 1465 and is remarkable for its simplicity, brickwork, and great size as well. It survived a devastating earthquake in 1727. However, many parts of it caved in due to a quake struck later in the same century. Many parts of the structure were rebuilt in 1973.

In the southern part of the mosque lies a time-honored mausoleum, itself a source of splendor. It is entirely covered with massive marble slabs on which verses from the Holy Quran have been engraved with a background of fine arabesques.

Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Isfahan

A stunning example of intricate Iranian architecture, the 17th-century Sheikh



A view of Agha Bozorg Mosque in Kashan, central Iran

Lotfollah Mosque is best recognized for its defiantly off-center dome and lack of minarets; its cream-hued tiles shift colors as the sun moves throughout the day, giving them a pinkish tint at times.

The dome, which is covered in vivid colored tiles inside and out, is without a doubt the focal point of attention with its arabesque designs that become smaller as they approach the center.

The mihrab of the mosque is one of the finest in Iran and has an unusually high niche; a calligraphic montage names the architect and the date 1028 AH.

Goharshad Mosque, Mashhad
Goharshad Mosque is most revered

for its age, architectural characteristics, and rich tile decorations. Made of brick and plaster in the 15th century, it used to be served as a free-standing mosque and currently serves as one of the prayer halls within the splendid Imam Reza (AS) shrine complex in Mashhad.

The construction of the mosque started in 1418 by the order of Queen Goharshad, the wife of Shahrokh. It took about 12 years to be completed under the supervision of capable Iranian architect Ghavameddin Shirazi by the use of the architectural and decorative manpower supplied from the Iranian cities of Shiraz and Isfahan.

Standing in the courtyard, visitors can distinguish exuberant color and solidity among the tower-like minarets, merging with the outer atmospheres.

Agha Bozorg Mosque, Kashan
Standing tall in the oasis city of Kashan, the 19th-century Agha Bozorg Mosque boasts a pleasing symmetry embellished with intricate plasterwork, woodwork, mirrorwork, and geometric patterns.

The massive place of worship includes several congregational halls, adjoining arcades, tiled minarets, massive badgirs (wind towers), and an austere dome. The mud-brick walls, arches, and ceilings are covered with Quranic inscriptions and mosaics as well.

Narratives say that the mosque is named after Mulla Muhammad Mahdi Naraqi (1715-1795) who was nicknamed “Agha Bozorg” for being a Shia philosopher and theologian.

Vakil Mosque, Shiraz
Vakil Mosque is part of a bigger 18th-century ensemble, which comprises a bazaar, and a public bathhouse of the same name. The mosque is connected to the traditional marketplace and it is almost attached to the bathhouse with a lane in between.

Karim Khan Zand (r. 1751-1779), the founder of the Zand Dynasty, ordered the construction of the ensemble as part of his grand development projects in the heart of Shiraz.

A distinguishing feature of the mosque, however, is the forest of diagonally fluted columns that support the prayer hall, displaying a hypnotic rhythm of verticals and arabesques.

Work begins to reinforce fort in majestic Pasargadae

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — The millennia-old Tall-e Takht Fort, located in the UNESCO-designated Pasargadae, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

The project aims at strengthening brick structures using cob material, eliminating weed vegetation, eradicating signs of animal presence and nesting as well as constructing emergency water disposal channels, Afshin Ebrahimi stated on Wednesday.

Located on the northern part of Pasargadae on a high natural hill at a height of approximately 50 meters, Tall-e Takht was established by Cyrus the Great as a ceremonial site, but Darius the Great converted it into a fortress.

Some important historical evidence and clues have been uncovered on the eastern side of Tall-e Takht during several seasons of excavation, he said.

The excavations were conducted by the British Institute of Persian Studies in a season led by Professor David Stronach during 1961-1963, by Professor Pierfrancesco



Callieri of the University of Bologna, and by Alireza Askari in an Italian-Iranian joint project in 2007, the official added.

“However, the relics and discoveries have not yet been subject to a special protection program,” he added.

Hamedan directorate approves renovation for old mansion

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Samadi mansion, a Qajar-era (1789–1925) monument in the west-central province of Hamedan, is planned to undergo restoration in the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

A budget of 1.5 billion rials (\$35,700 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) is required for the restoration project, Maryam Mokhtar Musavi said on Wednesday.

The project will be involving the building's façade, wooden doors, and windows, the official added.

The brickwork and exterior design of this monument are distinctive, and since the roof decoration was damaged by



moisture, moisture insulation has been installed to protect it, she explained.

On two floors, this building consists of two independent units with two separate entrances and a shared yard.

The historical structure was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2006.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamedan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a

royal summer palace.

About 1220, Hamedan was captured by the sweeping army of Mongol invaders. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy. Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

Iranian handicrafts: Chalangari

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Chilan is a Persian word used to describe the tools and objects made from iron such as chains, small rings, horse bridle, saddle, and many other light-weighted objects.

Chalangar or blacksmith is a craftsman who heats the iron in the kiln, forges, and turns them into desired objects. According to the Dehkhoda encyclopedia, Chalangar is a person who makes or repairs iron keys, locks, fasteners, shields, chains, pliers, nails, and other objects, and Chilangar and Chalingar are two other names for it.

A Chalingar usually works alone and they have no apprentice. In the past, the artists of this craft made scythes, hammers, horseshoes, nails, horse and cow bindles in the cities and villages.

Today since both agriculture and animal breeding have become automatic or semi-automatic, the blacksmiths now make applicable- decorative objects such as vase bases, dividers, window protectors, etc. The basics of blacksmithing are like making a knife and are done by heating the metal in the kiln, blowing, forging, and making attachments to make the final product.



In the past, doors and windows were different from their contemporary counterparts and metallic locks made by the Chalangars were attached to wooden windows. One of these locks is known as Kubeh, according to Visit Iran.

Kubeh is an object that is attached to a metallic plate on the door of the house. A visitor could simply knock the Kubeh on Golmikh to make his presence known to the owner.

Kubehs were first made of iron and then brass. Some of the old Kubeh remaining from the past belong to three hundred and fifty years ago. But using brass Kubeh began only fifty years ago. The oldest brass Kubeh can be found on the entrance door of Ebrahim Khan School in Kerman or Agha Khan School in Kashan.

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.

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 a€ February 18, 2021). Ceramics, pottery vessels, hand-woven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Armenia welcomes setting up joint technology park with Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Armenia has welcomed the idea of establishing a joint technology park with Iran as a step to help Iranian-made products find their way to the Eurasian market.

The issue was discussed during a meeting between Armenia's acting Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan and an Iranian delegation led by Mehdi Eliassi, Vice President for Science and Technology, which also comprised Deputy Minister of Communications, Chairman of the Information Technology Organization Amir Nazemi Ashani, members of the Iranian Parliament, representatives of a number of large Iranian companies.

The delegation was in Armenia to participate in the Armenian-Iranian business forum.

The Iranian side said it has a rich experience in establishing high-tech centers in different countries, suggesting to establish a similar center in Armenia.

The meeting also referred to the bilateral cooperation within the framework of "Meghri" and "Aras" free economic zones. Taking into account Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the parties discussed the possibilities of organizing joint productions in different sectors of the economy and exporting the manufactured products to the EAEU to other countries.

"Establishing a joint technology park by



Iran and Armenia is a good idea, and we will attempt to launch the park over the course of six months," the Armenia official said.

The Iranian side also expressed readiness to cooperate in equipping Armenian medical institutions with Iranian equipment. The prospects of cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals were discussed.

Building houses of innovation

Iran plans to set up two houses of innovation and technology in Syria and Russia in the near future with the aim of finding

new markets for domestic knowledge-based products in the region.

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

By supporting innovative ideas, holding technological and innovative events, the centers will be a platform for the development

and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

A house of innovation and technology has already been set up as a technology exchange office in China, Mehdi Ghalehnoei, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, said, IRNA reported.

Currently, some 5,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari told the Tehran Times in October 2020 that "U.S. sanctions caused exports of knowledge-based companies to decline three years ago, however, it has returned to growth and is projected to reach the pre-sanctions level of more than \$1 billion by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 20, 2021).

Fortunately, last year, companies achieved a record sale of 1.2 quadrillion rials (nearly \$28.5 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), which is expected to increase by 40 percent this year."

To date, 42 knowledge-based companies with a total value of 2.8 quadrillion rials (nearly \$66.6 billion) have been listed on the stock exchange and they will soon turn into the biggest businesses in the county, Sattari said.

Second year into pandemic: national university entrance exam kicks off



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — As the COVID-19 pandemic still poses a serious challenge, Iran's national university entrance exam (Konkur) started on Wednesday under health protocols and will run through July 3.

The exam will be attended by 1,367,931 candidates, compared with 1,393,233 candidates last year. The national universities have the capacity to enroll some 1.09 million students this year.

Of the total participants, 662,114, equaling 59.5 percent, are female. A total of 86 contestants have declared being infected with the coronavirus. They will be sitting for the exam at a specified building.

Konkur includes three main groups of mathematical sciences, experimental sciences, and human sciences along with two other groups of art and foreign languages.

Large halls have been selected with a suitable capacity and

the seats are arranged with an approved physical distance of 180 cm from each other. Meanwhile, the venues and all equipment are disinfected.

The oldest candidate is 81 years old and the youngest is 13 years old.

The exam is simultaneously held in 11 other countries, namely Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Kuwait, and Oman.

Konkur is held annually in June or July in Iran and in some other countries as well, however, this year due to the pandemic, it was postponed till August. Every year the participants sit for the multiple-choice exam to vie to get the best results possible as the seats at tuition-free public universities are limited. Based on the figures only 20 percent of the students would manage to win the seats at top charge-free public universities.

Second Iranian coronavirus vaccine gets emergency use license

→ 1 The vaccine's production line can deliver one million doses a month in the first trimester, then two million doses a month in the second trimester, and possibly three million doses a month in the third trimester.

In addition, the CovPars Razi, Fakhra, and Spicogen vaccines are likely to be licensed for emergency use and mass-produced by late September if their clinical trial is successful.

The CovPars Razi developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute which started the clinical trial on February 27 will be administered among the population in early August.

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.

"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.

Homegrown COVIRAN BAREKAT vac-



cine has received the license for public use.

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.

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

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

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

World must remove 1 billion tons of CO2 by 2025 to meet climate goal: report

More than 190 countries have signed the Paris agreement designed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but even with pledges of big reductions in emissions many scientists believe removal technologies will be needed to meet the goal.

"Without action to deliver 1 Gigatonne (Gt) of negative emissions globally by 2025, keeping global warming within the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C cannot be achieved," said the report by the Coalition for Negative Emissions (CNE), and consultancy firm McKinsey.

It said countries will need to remove a billion tons of CO2 from the atmosphere by 2025, if the Paris target is to be met, and more than one billion tons annually thereafter.

The current pipeline of projects in development could remove only around 150 million tons of CO2 by 2025, well short of what's needed, the report said.

Negative emission projects include bioenergy with technology to capture and store carbon emissions, technology to directly capture and store emissions from the air and natural climate solutions such as afforestation.

Currently removal technology is expensive and while many countries around the world have initiatives in place to put a price on CO2 emissions, the prices are far too low to incentivize new projects.

The report said scaling up the technology would lead to lower costs, with a likely average cost of 30-100 pounds (\$41-138) per ton of CO2 removed by 2050.

Will Gardiner, CEO of coalition member Drax, which is seeking to develop an emissions negative power plant using biomass and carbon capture, said countries could help to pay for the technology by awarding tax credits for each ton of CO2 removed.



Other members of the CNE, which includes over 20 companies, investors and trade associations, include Bank of America and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

ENGLISH IN USE

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Families with multiple births to receive monthly allowances

In line with population growth policies, families with triplets or more will receive monthly allowances of up to 5 million rials (nearly \$120 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), head of Welfare Organization has announced.

The allowances would be paid when the children are born till the age of 6, IRNA quoted Vahid Ghobadi Dana as saying on Saturday. Some 17,000 households with three or above births will receive the government support across the country, he stated.

He went on to say that since the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015) till 1397 (March 2018-March 2019), nearly 1.5 million births were registered in the country per year, 3 percent of which have been twins and 0.5 percent triplets or more.

خانواده‌های دارای چندقلو کمک ماهانه معیشتی می‌گیرند

در راستای سیاست‌های افزایش جمعیت، به خانواده‌های دارای سه قلو به بالا ۵۰۰ هزار تومان به صورت ماهانه به عنوان کمک هزینه معیشتی پرداخت می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، وحید قبادی دانا، رئیس سازمان بهزیستی روز جمعه با بیان این که کمک هزینه از ابتدای تولد تا ۶ سالگی پرداخت می‌شود، ادامه داد: تعداد خانواده‌های دارای فرزند سه قلو به بالا نیارمند کمک معیشتی دولت، ۱۷ هزار خانوار در کل کشور هستند.

قبادی دانا اظهارداشت از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۷ هر سال تقریباً یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار نفر تولد ثبت شد، و بیش از ۳ درصد این تولدها دوقلو به بالا و حدود نیم درصد از آن سه قلو به بالاتر بود.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 29

New cases	11,748
New deaths	137
Total cases	3,204,557
Total deaths	84,264
New hospitalized patients	1,222
Patients in critical condition	3,183
Total recovered patients	2,876,828
Diagnostic tests conducted	23,635,679
Doses of vaccine injected	5,032,590

Environmental protection in Iran

(Part 1)

Environmental protection efforts before the 1979 Revolution. In Iran conservation consciousness began, as it so often does, with concern for wildlife. In the absence of protective legislation, the more conspicuous plains species—notably gazelles and the wild ass—had been relentlessly pursued by hunters using Jeeps all too often and were obviously threatened with extinction.

The efforts of a group of sportsmen resulted in 1956 in the nation's first conservation law and the creation of the Game Council of Iran (Kanun-e Shekar-e Iran).



These measures were soon followed by others: the nationalization of all forest and rangelands in 1963 and of all water resources in 1966. In 1967 the progressive Game and Fish Law (Qanun-e Shekar wa ?ayd), still in effect in 1994, established the Game and Fish Department (Sazman-e Shekarbani wa Ne?arat bar ?ayd), which was responsible for wildlife, protected areas, inland fishing, and conservation.

It was incorporated into the Department of Environmental Conservation (Sazman-e Hefa?at-e Mo?i?-e Zist), established in 1971, which was also responsible for controlling environmental degradation in general. The Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Qanun-e Hefa?at wa Behsazi-e Mo?i?-e Zist) of 1974 created the present Department of the Environment, attached to the office of the prime minister. This legislation recognized the complexity of environmental problems and gave wider authority to the Department of the Environment for control of air and water pollution than is found in many other countries.

Apart from administering the Game and Fish Law, the department administered the several categories of protected areas created by the law and all wetlands, including associated outdoor recreation; set emissions and quality standards for air, water, soil, wastes, and noise; oversaw ecosystem protection and the sustainable use of resources; protected natural landscapes; conducted research on the adverse effects of biocides and alternative means of pest control; educated the public in all fields of environmental protection and enhancement; and assisted in the establishment of natural history museums and zoos).

Recent history. After the 1979 revolution, the legacy of environmental protection was also suspect. With law enforcement in disarray, forests and rangelands, including national parks and protected areas, were pillaged and ploughed, and wildlife was massacred. Environmental regulations were often either suspended as unnecessary or rejected by some judiciary courts, factories, poachers, and some of the public.

The contraction of the country's economy in subsequent years encouraged the destructive exploitation of the environment and its resources. Most damaging was the explosive growth in population, from 36 million in 1978 to 60 million in 1991. With a growth rate measured in the 1986 census at 3.91 percent, among the highest in the world, the population is projected to exceed 75 million by the year 2000.

The population explosion has placed a tremendous strain on the environment in both the urban and rural areas. The influx of people into towns and cities has produced uncontrolled urban growth that often uses up scarce agricultural land, unprecedented population densities, air pollution, water shortages and polluted aquifers, and enormous increases in the volume of waste.

Green spaces have disappeared, and recreation areas are increasingly threatened. Important sectors such as energy production and industry face environmental problems similar to those in other countries and thus will not be discussed in detail here.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)



Without water, everything withers

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.
Imam Ali (AS)

Art, architecture during Qajar period

Part 1

The Qajar period is now increasingly recognized as a time of significant change in Persian society. Perhaps the most obvious influence was the impact of Western ideas and technology, which accompanied the diplomats, military and technical advisers, merchants, travelers, and missionaries who flocked into 19th-century Persia.

Qajar art, which reflects such influences, has been treated with scant sympathy. Viewed through eyes accustomed to the standards of earlier periods of Persian art, it has been dismissed as garish and unoriginal, instead of being considered on its own terms.

Qajar art is in fact firmly rooted in Persian tradition while giving accurate visual expression to the changes in 19th-century Persia, and any study of it must reflect this duality.

A balanced assessment is still difficult because the basic information has not yet been systematically classified: there are no comprehensive indexes of surviving monuments and few catalogues, with the possible exception of paintings.

The bibliography is equally meager, as the standard works of Persian art stop with the decline of the Safavids in the early 18th century. The most lucid and satisfactory account still is that of Robert Murdoch Smith who, during his career as director of the Persian Telegraph Department from 1865 to 1888 systematically built up collections of Persian art for the Victoria and Albert Museum and viewed Qajar art with a sympathetic yet critical eye.

The priority of Qajar art studies is therefore to catalogue its monuments and artifacts, supplementing firsthand examination and description of this wealth of material with references from secondary sources such as European travel accounts and official reports, Persian chronicles, and archives.

Main characteristics

Qajar art is characterized by an exuberant style and flamboyant use of color, which became more emphatic as the 19th century progressed; here Persian art may be compared with developments in 19th-century Europe, where technological mastery made virtuoso forms of decoration possible.

In the meticulous painting of detail and shading of color, there are also close similarities among such media as painted lacquer (papier maché), enameled gold and copper, and, on a somewhat larger-scale, overglaze painted tilework.

In such works and also in certain groups of textiles, the quality of craftsmanship is high. A particularly important feature of Qajar art is the richness of its iconography.

Flowers (especially roses and irises), foliage, and fruit function both as central and supporting motifs. There are views of pastoral landscapes and buildings mainly inspired by imported European illustrations.

There are also many narratives. Nostalgia for Persia's past is reflected in scenes of Sassanid rulers, traditional themes of Persian literature, and more recent battles with the Ottoman Turks and Mughals.

The contemporary world is seen in the portrayal of Qajar rulers in both official and informal situations and in scenes of everyday life treated with varying degrees of naturalism; here European influence intrudes in such features as the military uniforms worn by Nasser ad-Din Shah and his officers.

Perhaps, however, the most significant and interesting iconography is drawn from the themes of popular folklore, which are found in the oil paintings decorating the walls of coffee houses, paintings on glass, colored lithographs, and tilework panels.

Unique to the Qajar period, these images undoubtedly represent the survival of a tradition whose earlier history has been lost. Here the tragic events of Shia martyrology and the exploits of legendary heroes such as Rustam are depicted. Rustam's role is a dual one because he appears both as a respected character of the Shahnameh and as a more earthy folk hero.

Architecture

Architecture and the various techniques used for its decoration offer possibly the most comprehensive illustration of the qualities of Qajar art.

From the surviving monuments it is clear that the Qajars pursued an energetic building program; the majority of buildings date from the two longest reigns, those of Fath-Ali Shah (1797-1834) and Nasser ad-Din Shah (1848-1896).

There are also some interesting large-scale buildings found in the reign of the last Qajar, Ahmad Shah (1909-1924). Surviving examples are found throughout Persia, while the main concentration of buildings is in the capital, Tehran, which was drastically altered by Nasser ad-Din Shah's construction program begun in 1867.

Interesting groups of buildings have also survived in Qazvin, Isfahan, Shiraz, Kashan, Kerman, Rasht, Semnan, and Zanjan. Traditional building materials were used: Kiln-fired clay brick for the main sections of construction, stone more sparingly for features such as columns and dados, wood for doors and window frames.

Decoration was applied in various techniques, including polychrome tile, carved and molded stucco, painted wood and plaster, inlaid mirrorwork, carved and pierced woodwork.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

“Walnut Tree” on tragedy of Iraqi chemical attack on Sardasht hits theaters

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian's war drama “Walnut Tree” made based on the true story of the profound tragedy of Iraq's chemical attack on the Iranian town of Sardasht in 1987 hit the Iranian movie theaters on Wednesday.

It tells the story of Qader Mullanpur, a man who was away when his family was affected by the chemical attack in a village near Sardasht. His effort to save his pregnant wife and their three children is in vain and they die one by one from the fatal wounds sustained as a result of the chemical attack.

The film had its premiere in Tehran during the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in February 2020 and brought Mahdavian the Crystal Simorgh for best director.

“This film is about the grief of the fathers of this land, and I dedicate my prize to all the bereaved fathers of our country,” Mahdavian said after accepting his award.

In addition, Payman Maadi was crowned the best actor at the festival



“Walnut Tree” directed by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

Astan-e Qods library flags more details on 530-year-old Kulliyat-i Attar

The manuscript is composed of the Asrar-nameh (Book of Mysteries), Mantiq at-Tayr (Conference of the Birds), Mosibat-nameh (“Book of Affliction”) and 76 love poems by the Persian mystic and poet Farid ud-Din Mohammad ibn Ebrahim Attar Neyshaburi (C. 1142-1220).

This is the oldest of 142 manuscripts of Attar's works, which are preserved at the library's storehouse, Seyyed Reza Sedaqat-Hosseini, a manuscript expert of the library, said during the unveiling the ceremony of the book.

He called the book one of the most beautiful manuscripts, which was donated to the library by Reza Naeini in 1932.

Ali ibn Heidar Qasemi is the calligrapher of the collection written in 222 pages. He completed inscribing the Asrar-nameh in Mehrabad near Neyshabur on December 1, 1491.

The calligraphy of the Mosibat-nameh was finished in the same place on February 20, 1492, while the inscription of the love poems were completed on February 2, 1497, in

Gazorgah near Ansarieh and the Mantiq at-Tayr was finished on December 17, 1505 in Mehrabad near Neyshabur.

Poems on each page have been inscribed in 19 lines in four columns. Each page has also been illuminated with floral motifs by gold, azure and cinnabar.

Attar is most famous for the Mantiq at-Tayr, an allegorical poem describing the quest of the birds (i.e., Sufis) for the mythical Simorgh, or Phoenix, whom they wish to make their king (i.e., God).

His Elahi-nameh and the Mosibat-nameh (“Book of Affliction”) both are mystical allegories similar in structure and form to the Mantiq at-Tayr.

Attar was also the author of the Elahi-nameh (The Book of God), Mokhtar-nameh and Tadkerat al-Awliya.

UNESCO is commemorating Attar by registering the 800th anniversary of his passing on its 2021 calendar of events.

Attar's works have been published in several languages across the world.

Tehran theater hosts “God of Carnage”

A R T **TEHRAN** — French playwright Yasmina Reza's black comedy “God of Carnage” was staged at Tehran's Jamshid Mashayekhi Theater on Wednesday.

Shaahin Chegini is directing the play based on a Persian rendition by Puya Valilzadeh. Helia Kushki, Samaneh Kamali, Amir Kordi, Ali Shayeqi, Dorsa Derakhshan, Mehdi Khalili, Kiana Hosseinpour, Mahshad Eslamzadeh and Mehdi Asadi are members of the cast.

The play first published in 2008 is about two sets of parents, one of whose child has hurt the other at a public park.

They agree to meet to discuss the matter in a civilized manner. However, as the evening goes on, the parents become increasingly childish, resulting in the

evening devolving into chaos.

Two 11-year-old children, Ferdinand Reille and Bruno Vallon get involved in an argument because Bruno refuses to let Ferdinand join his “gang”.

Ferdinand knocks out two of Bruno's teeth with a stick. That night, the parents of both children meet to discuss the matter. Ferdinand's father, Alain, is a lawyer who is never off his mobile phone. Ferdinand's mother, Annette is in “wealth management”, and consistently wears good shoes.

Bruno's father, Michel, is a self-made wholesaler with an ailing mother. Michel's wife, Veronique, is writing a book about Darfur. As the evening goes on, the meeting degenerates into the four getting into irrational arguments, and their discussion falls into the loaded topics of misogyny,

racial prejudice and homophobia.

Originally written in French, the play was a success. It has since been translated into English by translator Christopher Hampton, and has enjoyed equal acclaim in productions in both London and New York.

Roman Polanski directed the 2011 film adaption of “God of Carnage”, whose title was shortened to “Carnage”. The film was shot in Paris, due to Polanski's outstanding criminal conviction in the United States, but the play's Brooklyn setting is retained in the film.

Jodie Foster and John C. Reilly play Penelope and Michael, while Christoph Waltz and Kate Winslet play Alain and Nancy.

Reza's “Bella Figura” was also staged by Chegini at Jamshid Mashayekhi Hall in early June.



A poster for Yasmina Reza's black comedy “God of Carnage”, which is on stage at Tehran's Jamshid Mashayekhi Theater.

Book of birds’ life lessons for humans published in Persian

may be useful to human life has been published in Persian.

The book translated into Persian by Kaveh Feizollahi has been released by the Tehran-based publishing house Now.

The book provides twenty-two life lessons inspired by watching birds, written by the French philosopher and ornithologist Duo.

“The greatest wisdom comes from the smallest creatures,” wrote Virgin Digital, the publisher of the original book released in 2018.

There is so much we can learn from birds. Through twenty-two little lessons of wisdom inspired by how birds live, this charming French book will help you spread your wings and soar.

We often need help from those smaller than us. Having spent a lifetime watching birds, Philippe and Elise - a French ornithologist and a philosopher - draw out the secret lessons that birds can teach us about how to live, and the wisdom

of the natural world.

Along the way you will discover why the robin is braver than the eagle, what the arctic tern can teach us about the joy of travel, and whether the head or the heart is the best route to love (as shown by the mallard and the penguin).

By the end, you will feel more in touch with the rhythms of nature and have a fresh perspective on how to live the fullest life you can.

Dubois has been passionate about birds since he was a boy, and has traveled the world birdwatching. He is the author of a number of works on climate change and biodiversity and was the head of Delachaux and Niestlé, the oldest nature books publishing house in France.

Rousseau has degrees in literature and philosophy, and is a journalist and author of several works on nature and animals. She has spent several years working to protect animals.

“Fruit of the Drunken Tree” offered at Iranian bookstores

C U L T U R E **TEHRAN** — Colombian writer Ingrid Rojas Contreras's novel “Fruit of the Drunken Tree” appeared in Persian.

Qoqnus, a Tehran-based major publisher, has released the book rendered into Persian by Sahar Qadimi.

In the vein of Isabel Allende and Gabriel García Marquez, a mesmerizing debut set against the backdrop of the devastating violence of the 1990s in Colombia about a sheltered young girl and a teenage maid who strike an unlikely friendship that threatens to undo them both.

The Santiago family lives in a gated community in Bogotá, safe from the political upheaval terrorizing the country.

Seven-year-old Chula and her older sister Cassandra enjoy carefree lives thanks to this protective bubble, but the threat of

kidnappings, car bombs and assassinations hover just outside the neighborhood walls, where the godlike drug lord Pablo Escobar continues to elude authorities and capture the attention of the nation.

When their mother hires Petrona, a live-in-maid from the city's guerrilla-occupied slum, Chula makes it her mission to understand Petrona's mysterious ways.

But Petrona's unusual behavior belies more than shyness. She is a young woman crumbling under the burden of providing for her family as the rip tide of first love pulls her in the opposite direction.

As both girls' families scramble to maintain stability amidst the rapidly escalating conflict, Petrona and Chula find themselves entangled in a web of secrecy that will force them both to choose between sacrifice and betrayal.

Inspired by the author's own life, and

told through the alternating perspectives of the willful Chula and the achingly hopeful Petrona, “Fruit of the Drunken Tree” contrasts two very different, but inextricable coming-of-age stories.

In lush prose, Rojas Contreras sheds light on the impossible choices women are often forced to make in the face of violence and the unexpected connections that can blossom out of desperation.

Rojas Contreras is an award-winning author who was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. She recently received the Mary Tanenbaum Award for non-fiction, and the Audio Miller Prize from the Missouri Review.

She currently teaches writing to immigrant high school students as part of a San Francisco Arts Commission initiative bringing artists into public schools.



A poster for the Persian translation of Colombian writer Ingrid Rojas Contreras's novel “Fruit of the Drunken Tree”.