

“Unconstructive” Approach May Result in Failure of Vienna Talks

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Opinion



Exploration operation seriously pursued in mining sector

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran has 68 different types of minerals. The country's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons (eight tenth of the world's total reserves), and copper ores are 2.6 billion tons (four tenth of the world's reserves).

Iran also has 11 million tons of zinc (four percent of world reserves). The total proven reserves of the country's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the country's first exploration priority in an area of 500,000 square kilometers. Therefore, the mining sector and mining industry is one of the most important and influential areas in the production and trade of the country.

Given the significance of mining sector in Iran, implementation of projects to develop different parts of this sector has been always a major program of the governments.

Achieving a 10.5-percent value added rise in the mining sector, and increasing mining exploration to two million meters from 510,000 meters is a top agenda of Iran's new Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin's activity.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) is playing a significant part in this regard, and in line with its development role, it is seriously pursuing the target of conducting two million meters of mining exploration by the next three years.

To this end, the organization has defined a number of programs including supporting the contractors active in the mining exploration operation, upgrading the geographical information system (GIS) database based on international standards, exploration of hidden and deep resources using new methods and training of required manpower. ▶ Page 4

Interview



Ex-futsal coach Shams questions team's preparation

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Former Iran futsal head coach Hossein Shams said that Iran did not play well against Kazakhstan following the team's elimination from the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania.

The Iranian team wasted their early 2-0 lead in their quarter-finals match against Kazakhstan and suffered a 3-2 defeat to bid farewell to the tournament.

Shams believes that Iran had a good draw during the tournament and should have used it better.

"In my opinion, we were drawn in a good group in the first stage, and then we had a good path in the knock-out rounds. But we couldn't use it because we didn't play well enough," Shams said in his interview with Tehran Times.

"Our players deserved to win due to their talents and qualities. However, tactically speaking, we were not an organized group, especially in the second half against Kazakhstan. It seemed that we lost our motivation for scoring more goals," added the former head coach of the Iran national team.

It looked like Mohammad Nazemoshahria's side might have claimed their spot in the semi-finals of the FIFA Futsal World Cup when Moslem Oladghobad opened the scoring in the eighth minute and Ahmad Esmaeilpour extended the lead in the 15th minute.

But it all began to unravel for the Iranian side in the second half when their European opponents completed a fantastic comeback at the Kaunas Arena. ▶ Page 3

Iran says remarks by Azeri president are surprising

TEHRAN — In reply to a question raised by correspondents about Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's comments regarding Iran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Tuesday said Aliyev's remarks are "surprising" because they come at a time when Tehran and Baku have good relations based on mutual respect and there are normal channels through which the two sides can talk at the highest level.

Khatibzadeh added that the Iranian and Azeri foreign ministers also engaged in serious and meticulous discussions over issues of mutual concerns on the sidelines of the recent UN General Assembly in New York.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, the chief diplomats agreed to continue the talks.

Khatibzadeh reiterated that Iran has always opposed any occupation of territory and stressed the need for

respecting the territorial integrity of countries and internationally recognized borders. He said good neighborliness is a key matter and all neighbors are expected to observe it.

He added that the recent Iran's military drills along the northwestern border was a sovereign matter and was aimed at protecting regional security. He, however, said that Iran will not tolerate the Israeli regime's presence near its borders even if it is ceremonial and the Islamic Republic will do anything that it takes to protect its national security.

"Iranians, Azeris have most affinities"

Speaking in an interview with Tasnim on Tuesday, Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, said the Iranian and Azeri people have

the most religious, cultural, and ethnic affinities.

Meshkini also said that Iran believes that no behavior should result in tensions between the two neighbors, warning any tension "will only benefit foreigners, especially the Zionist regime."

In recent weeks, the Azeri police and customs officials have begun imposing a "road tax" on Iranian trucks shipping fuel and other goods to neighboring Armenia, causing a strained atmosphere in the relations between Tehran and Baku.

Aliyev has claimed that Iran had ignored Azerbaijan's calls for many years to stop transporting goods to Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave that's internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory. He said no Iranian truck has entered Nagorno-Karabakh since Azerbaijan started imposing taxes.

Report



Congress Okays \$1 billion for Israel's Iron Dome

The U.S. House of Representatives has overwhelmingly given the green light for \$1 billion in fresh funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile system, a system whose failure to bring down Palestinian missiles was on full public display in the 11-day Sword of al-Quds battle. However, the green light did come after a debate that exposed divisions among Democrats over U.S. policy towards its closest ally.

The house vote was 420 to 9 to help Israel replace missile interceptors used during heavy fighting in a devastating rocket and missile war with the Palestinians in May, reflecting the widespread bipartisan support in Congress for the regime that has persisted for decades.

But the lopsided vote came only after days of acrimony between some lawmakers who have accused Israel of human rights abuses and other lawmakers, including party leaders, who said they were appalled and astonished by their colleagues' refusal to fund a "defense" system to protect Israelis. ▶ Page 5

70% of population to be vaccinated within the next 2 weeks: minister

TEHRAN – Over the next two weeks, 70 percent of the country's population will be vaccinated against coronavirus, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said.

So far, 53 million people have been inoculated against the pandemic, which will reach up to 60 million over the next two weeks, he added.

Einollahi went on to say that during the past week, 8.2 million doses of vaccine were injected in the country, which is unprecedented and unique in the world, referring to the speed of vaccination.

"We will soon celebrate the victory of vaccination," but vaccination does not mean that there is no need to follow health protocols, he concluded, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain issued a statement, saying that it is encouraging to see an acceleration in coronavirus vaccination in Iran that started early August.

In July, delta variant mortality peaked and recorded over 700 daily deaths, but the increase of vaccination pace reduced the toll.

Alireza Raisi, a spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus control, said that

"We plan to double the number of vaccination centers, which is about 1,008 by now," in addition, we plan to operate most centers in two work shifts to increase the speed of vaccination and to surpass 1.5 million injections per day.

Homegrown vaccines

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

It proved effective against Indian strain, according to Hoojat Niki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam.

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said in June.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country which are in different study phases.

Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, is another homegrown vaccine, which has received the emergency use license, after COVIRAN.

From Inside



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Report



The terrorist plans to run for president

TEHRAN — It is crystal clear fact that Donald Trump is a terrorist. In another revelation, Yahoo News revealed that in 2017, Trump's administration had planned to assassinate Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks website.

The Yahoo News report said senior officials inquired about "options" for what to do with Assange, including the feasibility of assassinating or kidnapping him.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo – who later became secretary of state – was determined to take revenge on Assange after the leak, Yahoo News reported.

In 2017, Pompeo designated WikiLeaks a "non-state hostile intelligence service," meaning it could be targeted with the same aggressive actions used against foreign states' intelligence agencies.

A former senior counterintelligence official told Yahoo News that "there seemed to be no boundaries" during discussions with the Trump administration about Assange in 2017.

Scenarios included abducting Assange from the embassy, intercepting a Russian effort to extract him, or an outright assassination attempt. ▶ Page 2

Tourism projects worth \$159.5m underway in Semnan

TEHRAN - A total of 30 tourism-related projects worth 6.7 trillion rials (\$159.5 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) are currently underway across the north-central Semnan province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The projects, which include hotels, tourist complexes, accommodation centers, and traditional restaurants, are estimated to generate over 470 job opportunities upon their completion, IRNA quoted Hamidreza Dustmohammadi as saying on Tuesday.

"They will also add some 338 beds to the hospitality sector of the province," the official added.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanse-

rais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

The history of Semnan dates back to ancient Iran when the city was part of the Median Empire. At the time of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia, Semnan was a magnificent city. After the attack of Alexander, Semnan became famous as Koomeh. The great era of the prosperity of this city began after the advent of the Parthian Empire.

Due to its location, which was on the traffic center of the north, south, east, and west, Semnan had always been the subject of a struggle for power in the Sassanid period. In the Sassanid and post-Islamic periods, the city was the basis of central governments in the area. ▶ Page 6

Inequality of wealth is greater in the U.S. than in any other developed country: philosopher

Interview



By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Alphonso Lingis, a professor emeritus of philosophy at Pennsylvania State University, says the inequality of wealth in America is increasing and greater than its developed counterparts.

"Inequality of wealth is greater by far in the Unit-

ed States than in any other developed country and increasing," Lingis tells the Tehran Times.

"One percent of the population in the United States holds 42.5 percent of the national wealth. Just three men—Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, and investor Warren Buffett—hold combined fortunes worth more than the total wealth of the poorest half of Americans." ▶ Page 5



Arbaeen draws crowds to Karbala

Hundreds of thousands of black-clad Muslim pilgrims thronged to the revered shrine city of Karbala in Iraq on Tuesday to observe a major religious ritual. The annual pilgrimage, known as Arbaeen, marks the end of a 40-day mourning period for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (S), in the seventh century. At the time, Imam Hussein had revolted against the Damascus-based second Umayyad caliph, Yazid bin Muawiyah, moving from Madinah to outside Karbala in modern day Iraq, where a battle took place.

Iran nuclear chief in Moscow for talks with Rosatom officials



The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami has traveled to Moscow to discuss issues of mutual interest and further cooperation with Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom.

Eslami departed Tehran for the Russian capital at the head of a delegation on Tuesday morning. AEOI deputy chief and spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi is accompanying him during the visit, Press TV reported.

Upon arrival in Moscow, they were received by Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali and other diplomats at the Iranian embassy as well as Russian nuclear officials.

Eslami is due to meet Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev and explore avenues for further expansion of cooperation between the two organizations.

On Saturday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov criticized unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran after the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement, urging Washington to take a "more active" approach to help resume the stalled talks aimed at reviving the deal.

"It seems evident they should be more active" in "resolving all issues related" to the accord, Lavrov told reporters at the United Nations in New York, referring to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Iran is not doing anything that would be prohibited," he added.

The top Russian diplomat expressed hope that Iran and the remaining parties to the nuclear agreement – Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China -- would resume negotiations in the Austrian capital of Vienna "as soon as possible".

The U.S., under former president Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the deal and imposed the most draconian sanctions ever on the Islamic Republic, although the country had been fully compliant with the deal.

In early April, Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA began to hold talks in Vienna after the Joe Biden administration voiced willingness to rejoin the nuclear agreement and remove the sanctions.

Since the beginning of the Vienna talks, Tehran has argued that the U.S.—as the first party that violated the JCPOA—needs to take the first step by returning to full compliance with the agreement. Tehran also says it will resume all its nuclear commitments under the deal only after the US removes all the sanctions in practice.

The U.S., however, is intent on keeping the core elements of the sanctions as a tool of pressure against the Islamic Republic – a non-starter in the negotiations.

The terrorist plans to run for president

From page 1 ► While none of the operations were ever approved, they paint an alarming portrait of intelligence agencies' ongoing obsession with WikiLeaks and its controversial founder.

Pompeo and other senior officials "were completely detached from reality because they were so embarrassed about Vault 7," a former national security official told the publication. "They were seeing blood."

Yahoo News said it could not confirm whether the discussions were escalated to the Trump White House. The CIA and Pompeo did not immediately respond to Insider's request for comment.

In 2017, Assange was living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. He had been taking refuge there since 2012, after Swedish prosecutors opened an investigation into him following allegations of rape and molestation.

Assange had claimed that if he were extradited to Sweden for questioning, he would be sent to the U.S., where he said he would face persecution.

Assange had been charged in the U.S. with offenses related to WikiLeaks' publication of thousands of confidential U.S. diplomatic cables.

Yahoo News reported that U.S. officials picked up intelligence suggesting that Russia was planning to smuggle Assange out of the UK to Moscow, prompting a search for ways to ensure that he wouldn't escape.

Among the possible scenarios to prevent a getaway were engaging in a gun battle with Russian agents on the streets of London and ramming the car that Assange would be smuggled in, former officials told Yahoo News.

Ultimately, assassination plans were dropped because of legal concerns at the highest levels of the Trump administration. The report also described concerns that a kidnapping would derail U.S. attempts to prosecute Assange.

"As an American citizen, I find it absolutely outrageous that our government would be contemplating kidnapping or assassinating somebody without any judicial process simply because he had



published truthful information," Barry Pollack, Assange's lawyer in the U.S., told Yahoo News.

The U.S., which has been involved in countless terrorist attacks over the years, has become more arrogant in its reckless adventures. Revelation of reports that Pompeo as CIA chief had tried to kidnap or assassinate Assange comes as the Trump administration was lecturing countries about the need to respect freedom of press.

By trying to assassinate a person whose crime was to reveal the true stories about countries, Pompeo, Trump and their inner circle proved that they are not much different from their Saudi friends who dismembered Jamal Khashoggi.

The Trump administration's hunger for killing did not stop there. In January 2020, he ordered the cowardly assassination of Iranian anti-terror hero General Qassem Soleimani. A move he proudly justified as "response to an escalating series of attacks...to protect United States personnel, to deter Iran from

conducting or supporting further attacks...and to end Iran's strategic escalation of attacks," which were truly false.

The United States must know that terrorism, kidnapping, and extremism will not bring peace and stability to the world. 20 years of invasion must have taught the Americans a lesson, yet the lesson has not been learnt yet.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said in his remote speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 21 that if rationality prevails in the minds of decision-makers, "they have to realize that nations' perseverance is stronger than the power of superpowers."

Referring to the U.S. terrorism in the past decade, Raisi said that over the past decade, the U.S. has been making the mistake of modifying its "way of war" with the world instead of changing its "way of life". "An erroneous path cannot be brought to fruition by merely adopting a different method," he opined.

A new era has begun.

Tehran rejects 'baseless' UAE claims on Iranian-owned islands

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN has dismissed the United Arab Emirates' "baseless" claims over three Persian Gulf islands, stressing that they are an "inseparable" part of the Iranian territory.

Addressing the general debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Monday, the mission responded to UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalifa Shaheen al-Marar, who had spoken against Iran's territorial integrity, Press TV reported.

"I would like to respond to the UAE representative's baseless claims against the territorial integrity of my country

regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb," the mission said in a statement.

"The Islamic Republic reiterates its fixed and principled position that it does not recognize the existence of such a dispute between Iran and the UAE. The three islands have been an inseparable part of Iranian soil, and thus any claim to the contrary is categorically rejected."

However, the statement added, "in order to show its utmost respect for the principle of good neighborliness, Iran has always declared its readiness for a bilateral dialog with the UAE with the aim of eliminating any misunderstandings that may exist on

the part of the UAE over Abu Musa Island"

During a speech at the UN General Assembly, Marar called on Iran to end its alleged "occupation" of the three Iranian islands.

The strategically-positioned islands of Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb have always been part of Iran, the proof of which can be corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

Elsewhere in the statement, the Iranian mission urged the Emirati representative to use the accurate designation -- the Persian Gulf -- for reference to the waters

between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, instead of using a fabricated name.

"The UAE representative should also be reminded that the correct term 'Persian Gulf' has been used since 500 BC to refer to the water zone between the Arabian Peninsula and the Iranian Plateau. This name will remain the same forever," he added.

The Persian Gulf is an international trade route connecting the Middle East to Africa, India, and China. It has been referred to by historians and ancient texts as "Persian" since the Achaemenid Empire was established in what is now modern-day Iran.

An overview of Amir-Abdollahian's intensive talks in New York

TEHRAN – New Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his diplomatic team spent five intensive working days in New York to elaborate on Iran's new foreign policy approaches.

Amir-Abdollahian held about 50 meetings with counterparts and officials from international institutions on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly meeting.

His meetings were so intense and frequent that he himself told IRNA before leaving New York that "indeed, if it were possible for me to stay in New York for another two or three days, some of the meetings will still be scheduled. I would not be able to make these appointments due to time constraints, and we followed up on some of them over the phone and on the sidelines of the meeting."

Although the Covid-19 imposed restrictions on the presence and number of foreign delegations, it was a good opportunity for many officials to have their own consultations.

Many countries wanted to hear about the policy of the new Iranian administration from its chief diplomat in order to regulate their relations on that basis and then decide.

The 57-year-old foreign minister, who is known for his kindness and sobriety in words and behavior, treated all his counterparts and international officials with tenderness, eloquence and great patience.

Sometimes his appointments were longer than the scheduled time; sometimes he had to take a short break after a few appointments, or his visits continued uninterruptedly until late at night.

Amir-Abdollahian was sometimes invited to meet with his counterparts at the residence of ambassadors to the United Nations; sometimes the meetings took place at the United Nations and sometimes at the hotel where he was staying. He preferred to walk to nearby places.

He even had meetings in the last hours of his stay in New York with the foreign ministers of Iraq and Algeria. The meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fouad Hussein began with warmth and diplomatic jokes.

The new Iranian Foreign Minister was accompanied in the meetings by Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other diplomats.

This year, the corridors, like the UN compound, were filled with security officers. Police were closely monitoring the security situation as well as health protocols due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

According to Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian, the discussions with foreign dignitaries revolved around several important issues. The most important point at the talks was the need to develop international trade and economic cooperation.

Another serious topic was about how to revive

the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This issue was raised in meetings with the UN Secretary-General, a number of European foreign ministers – including those from France, Germany and Britain – and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The minister also said that he explicitly complained about the behavior of Washington, especially in a closed meeting with directors of American think tanks and professors of international relations in the United States.

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran would judge the United States on the basis of its behavior and not words. He noted the conflicting messages, which are transmitted to Iran through media or diplomatic channels, would not be the criterion for Iran's final decision.

In addition to meeting with the President of Iraq and director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Amir-Abdollahian also met with his counterparts from Spain, Ireland, Belarus, Venezuela, Syria, Britain, Namibia, Turkey and Hungary on the anniversary of the Durban Declaration.

In addition to meeting with UN General Assembly President Abdullah Shahid and UN Special Envoy for Syria, he met with counterparts from Italy, Denmark, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Nigeria, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Singapore, Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, and Belgium.

The top diplomat also met separately with the American media and think tanks to explain about the Iranian government's new policies and approaches, as well as to hear their views and answer questions.

Amir-Abdollahian and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres discussed issues of mutual interest, including the JCPOA and regional issues including Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and Palestine.

In the meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Guterres pointed to the principled position of the United Nations in rejecting the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, said that he has always supported the nuclear agreement.

The UN chief also called Iran's position on Afghanistan "principled" and said an inclusive government should be formed in Afghanistan so that all groups have a voice in the government.

Recalling that UN consultations and cooperation with Iran on regional issues such as the Yemen crisis, the Secretary-General said that the UN welcomes broader cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

In the meeting with the UN chief, Amir-Abdollahian also said: "The United States uses sanctions and terrorism against nations for its political goals, the most obvious example of which was the cowardly assassination of General Soleimani."

Stressing that the united voice of the United Nations is necessary in the face of such heinous



acts, the Foreign Minister stated: "Of course, Iran is pursuing the issue at national and international levels to bring the perpetrators of the assassination of General Soleimani and his companions to justice." He suggested the UN can play a significant role in this respect.

In his meeting with UN General Assembly President Abdullah Shahid, Amir-Abdollahian said terrorism has spread all across the world.

The top Iranian diplomat said the United States is one of the most visible manifestations of such a terrorism.

The assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani by the United States on the Iraqi soil is the most concrete example of terrorism, Iran's foreign minister said.

Donald Trump ordered the assassination of General Soleimani, a legendary anti-terror commander, near Baghdad's international airport in early January 2020.

FM asks UN to strengthen unilateralism

Pointing to the constructive role of the Islamic Republic in collaborating with regional governments to confront terrorism in Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan, the foreign minister noted that Tehran expects the UN General Assembly to strengthen multilateralism in the face of the U.S. unilateralism and disrespect for international law.

"Sanctions have become a terrorist tool against nations, and the General Assembly is expected to confront U.S. unilateralism and lawlessness by strengthening multilateralism," the chief diplomat remarked.

He lamented that the United States, despite its rhetoric, has spread economic terrorism to medical terrorism, and stressed the need for a serious response from the international community to such act.

Abdullah Shahid described multilateralism as the only path forward, arguing that the UN is the best mechanism to enhance multilateralism.

He called the United Nations and the General Assembly the best mechanism ever built on multilateralism, and stressed that the General Assembly would do its utmost to succeed in its missions.

Economic diplomacy of Raisi administration

Proposals for a new round of joint cooperation

commissions between countries, even with non-neighboring countries, and regional issues such as Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria featured high in most of the foreign ministers' talks at the UN.

Examining the volume of economic and trade exchanges between Iran and other countries, promoting trade relations, presence of leading Iranian knowledge-based companies in other countries, strengthening the private sector and facilitating travel between countries were other topics discussed by the foreign minister with other countries.

The new Iranian administration's interest in establishing balanced relations with various countries, including Europeans, and emphasizing the expansion of cooperation in various fields such as environment, renewable energy, medicine, veterinary and healthcare were other topics.

"I am very optimistic that the future is bright," Amir-Abdollahian told IRNA in New York, noting that economic relations would strengthen and move forward at a good pace, and "we will see its effects inside the country."

Also, in his talks with counterparts from neighboring and regional countries, he said: "In the talks we had with the countries of the region ..., I felt that a new atmosphere has been created. The countries of the region tend to work with more motivation than in the past with a new administration and a new approach in which its neighbors are prioritized.

Therefore, I think there are new opportunities for us and the countries of the region."

Referring to the visit of President Ebrahim Raisi to Tajikistan and Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, he said: "In neighboring countries, they feel that the slogan and approach of the new Iranian administration to its neighbors is real, and part of it has been implemented by the president, and they are interested in developing their relations with Iran."

The foreign minister said that the Iranian private sector was ready to set up a business center in Bishkek. In addition to the business sector, leading Iranian knowledge-based companies could also be located in the center, he said.

Meeting with his German counterpart on JCPOA

In a meeting with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, Amir-Abdollahian discussed the foreign policy priorities of the new Iranian administration, the JCPOA and the continuation of the Vienna talks. He stressed that the talks should have tangible outcomes.

"The Iranian people rightly expect that the economic benefits of the JCPOA, which have not been realized due to the negligence of the other parties, would be guaranteed this time."

Iran has announced that that nuclear talks for reviving the JCPOA will be resumed soon. However,

it has been insisting that the talks must lead to tangible results.

"The United States should know that all trade-offs were made once in the JCPOA negotiations, and therefore the Vienna talks are not for a new agreement but to ensure the full and guaranteed return of the United States to its obligations under the JCPOA and Resolution 2231. Unfortunately, what we witness in the policies of the current U.S. administration is the continuation of the Trump administration's approach to imposing illegal sanctions."

The new foreign minister called various European excuses for not fulfilling their obligations "unacceptable" and suggested that the other sides should come to Vienna with the necessary flexibility and understanding of the new condition created by the new administration in Iran.

In a meeting with his German counterpart, he announced Tehran's readiness to design relations independent of the JCPOA, and said that Iran-Germany economic and trade relations were not satisfactory at all and that it was necessary to find a way to improve them.

The German Foreign Minister, for his part, said that Berlin is committed to the Iran nuclear deal and will make every effort to preserve and revive it.

Welcoming the Iran-IAEA agreement and the IAEA Director-General Grossi's visit to Tehran, Maas stressed the need for all parties to work for the success of the Vienna talks.

Such approach toward the JCPOA must change

Amir-Abdollahian's talks his new British counterpart Liz Truss also focused on bilateral issues, the JCPOA and the situation in Afghanistan.

Stating that a reconstruction of bilateral relations requires serious measures, the Iranian side stressed the need for a repayment of Britain's four-decade-long debt to Iran.

Amir-Abdollahian also said Iran has just heard promises by the Europeans to keep the JCPOA alive, but has not seen anything in action. "Unfortunately, Britain is also part of this inaction and this approach must change."

Iran's foreign minister stressed that Britain needs to pay attention to the fact that fulfilling its obligations is the only way to rebuild relations, and that Tehran will respond appropriately to any positive and constructive step.

Pursuing the issue of Iranian nationals detained by certain Western countries as well as the issue of prisoners who hold dual nationality featured in the meeting between the new Iranian and British foreign ministers.

The British Foreign Secretary also stated that her country is ready to repay its debts to Iran.

Referring to the nuclear deal, Truss said now the main issue is the time to start the negotiations to revive it.

“Unconstructive” approach may result in failure of Vienna talks

TEHRAN — In yet another unconstructive move, the International Atomic Energy Agency on Sunday said Iran had prevented access to the Tesa Complex in Karaj, a facility producing centrifuges machines.

The demand is against the “joint statement” issued between Iran and the IAEA on September 12, when the Agency’s Director General Rafael Grossi visited Tehran.

In its Sunday report, the IAEA had sought to replace the memory cards at the site which has suffered damages because of the sabotage acts mainly blamed on Israel.

Iran on Monday said the demand by the IAEA ‘isn’t accurate and goes beyond the agreed terms of the joint statement.’

Iran added, “During the discussions in Tehran and Vienna, Iran indicated that since the Tesa Karaj Complex is still under security and judicial investigations, equipment related to this complex are not included for servicing. That’s why the phrase ‘identified equipment’ has been used in the joint statement.”

The cooperation between Iran and the IAEA within the framework of the joint statement was insisted upon when Mohammad Eslami, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), visited Vienna to attend the annual IAEA General Conference.

AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi also on Monday sent a letter of complaint to the IAEA saying the IAEA director general is seeking to “generalize” replacing all memory cards, including those at the Tesa Complex which has suffered damages.

Iran and the global nuclear watchdog have found themselves in disagreement over the contents of an understanding reached earlier this month, which was part of efforts to restore the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The new Iranian Foreign Minister had previously announced that it has no problem returning to the negotiation table in Vienna, but it needs to see serious determination by the other side to revive the JCPOA.

One day after the IAEA made such a



demand, the E3 (France, Britain, and Germany) issued a statement claiming that Iran is not fully implementing the “agreement it reached with DG Grossi on 12 September, and that the DG has been forced to issue a report on non-cooperation after only two weeks.”

The E3 statement also called on Iran to “immediately establish high level contacts and fully cooperate with the investigation, with a view to making tangible and rapid progress.”

Nonetheless, the E3 refrained to point out that they have been misled by cheap, second-rate, and unconstructive reports and statements by the IAEA. Iran has been compliant with all its commitments.

On the contrary, the United States and its friends are violating all sorts of internationally recognized deals, such as the NPT, the JCPOA, and so on.

Iran’s ambassador to the IAEA on Monday afternoon reacted to the remarks by the representatives of the U.S., E3, as well as the IAEA regarding the Tesa Complex, saying they cannot “remain silent” in the face the Israeli regime’s “terrorist operations” against the Iranian sites and don’t prevent it and then seek a continued IAEA surveillance of the sites that have suffered damages in the “terrorist sabotage” acts.

“When the Agency’s surveillance

equipment run out of service by the Zionist regime, they should not expect Iran to install them again without any cost for this regime and without any measure by the Agency and claimant countries,” Kazem Gharibabadi asserted.

Gharibabadi added that the new agreement between Iran and the IAEA was “fully implemented during the specified time” and therefore Iran will monitor reaction to its “goodwill” and will take the “necessary moves” at each stage.

In a series of tweets earlier on Monday, Ambassador Gharibabadi said, “It is deeply unfortunate that after three terrorist sabotage operations at the facility over the past year, the IAEA has not yet condemned these heinous acts, contrary to numerous resolutions of the IAEA General Conference and the UN General Assembly, and even because of its equipment and assets and the safety and security of its inspectors.”

He added, “The joint statement of the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the director-general of the IAEA on September 12 was also obtained in good faith of Iran and with the aim of replacing the ‘specified equipment’ memory cards. The Agency also took action to implement this goal from September 20 to 22.”

He added, “Therefore, the director general’s report on Sep 26 isn’t accurate and goes beyond the agreed terms of the joint statement. Any decision taken by Iran on monitoring equipment is only based on political rather than legal considerations and the Agency cannot and should not consider it as one of its entitlements.”

On the sidelines of his visit to Moscow to meet with his Russian counterpart, Eslami on Tuesday said that Iran will not accept the reinstallation of cameras in damaged sites.

“The IAEA’s insistence on installing cameras in those places damaged by the terrorist operation is in line with the same operation against Iran,” the nuclear chief said.

“This is by no means acceptable,” he added.

He also noted that the IAEA’s expectation regarding reinstalling cameras will be “ineffective for sites that are damaged and still under reconstruction.”

The procession cannot continue this way. Iran, out of goodwill and respect to international bodies, has been compliant with all the agreements it has made. There are reports by the IAEA confirming this. However, Grossi’s approach in politicizing the IAEA, which is purely a technical body, is unconstructive and will not help negotiations to revive the JCPOA.

Russian ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov tweeted on Monday, “At today’s #IAEA BoG I stressed that the denial of access to facility in Karaj isn’t a violation of safeguards, just partial implementation of voluntary transparency measures by #Iran. However it’s important to find a positive solution in the interests of Iran and #JCPOA.”

Russia also puts on pin on the politicization of the nuclear case by the UN nuclear watchdog. Perhaps, a more constructive approach would be not to leak classified data given by Iran to media outlets. As for the United States, perhaps, they need to take “a few steps” and lift sanctions, as a facilitator of JCPOA revival negotiations.

The United States’ allies have already concluded that Washington will not be able to address Iran’s regional role in the context of nuclear talks.

Iran’s rulers are quick to point to a history of initiatives and contacts with the United States regarding the region that came to naught. Iran cooperated with the United States in dislodging the Taliban from Afghanistan in 2001 and then in establishing a new order at the Bonn conference, only to be almost immediately assigned as a member of the “axis of evil.”

Two years later, the George W. Bush administration rebuffed then-Iranian President Mohammad Khatami’s offer to discuss regional issues. Tehran believes it is not regional security the United States is after but weakening Iran and regime change. Having unilaterally left the 2015 nuclear deal, the United States is hard pressed to overcome Tehran’s deep distrust even before returning to that deal.

Still, Tehran has come to recognize that progress in nuclear talks ultimately needs to deal with regional security, just not as part of the JCPOA or in negotiations with the United States.

Iran wants to negotiate regional issues directly with its neighbors. It has repeatedly called for resolutions of regional issues under the aegis of the United Nations and directly called on the UN Secretary-General to initiate a process. Then-Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also put forth the Hormuz Peace Initiative in 2019, inviting Persian Gulf countries to a security dialogue; and during his last months in office, he launched a security dialogue with Saudi Arabia in Iraq.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have since met for three rounds of talks discussing cease-fires in Yemen, an end to drone attacks on Saudi facilities, and a path to normalized relations. Both sides have characterized their dialogue as productive.

Those talks laid the groundwork for last month’s regional security conference in Baghdad that brought together several heads of state and foreign ministers. At the end of the conference, Iran and Saudi Arabia announced they will meet for a fourth round of talks later this month. Saudi Arabia will need U.S. encouragement and promise of continued military support, but direct U.S. involvement is not necessary for the talks to progress.

The United States’ allies have already concluded that Washington will not be able to address Iran’s regional role in the context of nuclear talks. That is the reason why, unlike in 2015, U.S. allies have started engaging Iran even before there is a conclusion to nuclear talks. What they are looking for is U.S. support for their own diplomatic initiatives and future guarantees of their security.

SPORTS

Ex-futsal coach Shams questions team’s preparation

From Page 1 ► “Kazakhstan goalkeeper was superb in this game. But we cannot deny that we had physical problems among thm. In the previous match against Uzbekistan, we faced the same problem,” Shams said.

“Another issue was the lack of friendly matches before the tournament. We had some preparatory games, but they were not enough. The players hadn’t played with each other in many matches; therefore, they did not coordinate well in the tactical plans,” said Shams.

He also criticized the national team’s coaching staff: “Against Uzbekistan, we conceded four similar goals, and we again didn’t have any plan to solve our problems. In the game against Kazakhstan, we could manage the game to keep our 2-0 lead, but we let the rival dominate the game and conceded goals one after the other,” Shams concluded.

IPC lauds Iranian Para judo athletes

TEHRAN – International Paralympic Committee lauded Iranian judo athletes for winning the gold medal for their country for the first time.

World Championships bronze medalist Vahid Nouri won a gold in the men’s up to 90kg at Tokyo 2020.

Nouri just caught Great Britain’s Stewart with a neat sweep of his foot for ippon in the final, Paralympic.org wrote.

“This is the first gold medal for Iran in Paralympic judo. Before we got silver, bronze, now this is the first gold. I am so thrilled when my national flag goes up. I live judo,” Nouri said.

Following on from Nouri’s gold, teammate Mohammed Kheriollahzadeh then went on to win the men’s over 100kg to double up for Iran.

“Iran made history when Vahid Nouri won their first Judo gold – and team-mate Mohammadreza Kheirollahzadeh followed up with a second shortly after on the final day of action at the Nippon Budokan,” Paralympic Games tweeted.

Iran move two places down in futsal world ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team dropped two spots to seventh in the futsal world ranking published on Tuesday.

Iran were knocked out of the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup Monday night after losing to Kazakhstan 3-2 in the quarter-finals round.

Brazil remain top of the table.

Spain, Argentina and Russia also stayed unchanged in the ranking.

Portugal moved up one place to fifth place and Kazakhstan also climbed one spot to sixth.

Iran bid farewell to 2021 Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a late 3-2 loss against Kazakhstan and failed to book a place in the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup semi-finals Monday night.

Moslem Oladghobad finished Saeid Ahmad Abbasi’s pass into the area in the eighth minute at the Kaunas Arena.

Ahmad Esmailpour displayed individual brilliance in the 15th minute when he collected Mahdi Javid’s long-range cross before dribbling past Kazakhstan goalkeeper Leo Higuita to make it 2-0.

Dauren Tursagulov pulled a goal back in the 25th minute and Arnold Knaub levelled the score four minutes later.

Taynan then completed Kazakhstan’s amazing comeback when he scored off a corner as Iran’s hopes of making a third FIFA Futsal World Cup semi-final were dashed.

Iran’s Azadegan League to begin on Oct. 11

TEHRAN – The Azadegan League, also known as League 1, will begin on Oct. 11.

A total of 18 teams will participate at the 2021/22 season.

The winner and the runner-up of the Azadegan League will seal promotion to the Iran Professional League. The bottom three teams in the league are relegated to League 2.

In the past, the format and number of teams were changed for various times. Persepolis is the most successful club with four titles.

Matchday 1

*Mes Shar Babak – Pars Jonoubi Jam

*Malavan Bandar Anzali – Arman Gohar Sirjan

*Machine Sazi Tabriz– Shahrdiri Hamedan

*Shahin Shahrdiri Bushehr – Qashqai Shiraz

* Khooshe Talaei Saveh – Vista Turbine Tehran

* Saipa Tehran – Esteghlal Khuzestan

* Baderan Tehran – Mes Kerman

* Kheybar Khorramabad – Shahrdiri Astara

* Esteghlal Mollasani – Rayka Babol

2022 WCQ: Iran to travel to UAE on Oct. 3

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will travel to Dubai on Oct. 3 for match against the UAE in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification Round 3.

The foreign-based players will join the team in Dubai a day later.

Dragan Skocic’s team are scheduled to meet the UAE on Oct. 7 in Group A in Dubai’s Zabeel Stadium.

Iran lead the table with two wins against Syria and Iraq.

The National Team will return to Tehran a day after the match.

Iran will have to host South Korea in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium on Oct. 12.

Ex-Iran captain Shojaei reaches agreement with Nassaji

TEHRAN – Former Iran captain Masoud Shojaei has reached an agreement with Nassaji football club for the 2021-22 Iran Professional League season.

The 37-year-old midfielder has most recently played for Tractor.

Shojaei, who has represented Iran national football team in three FIFA World Cups, worked as Tractor coach-player last season for a short time.

Now, the former Osasuna player is going to continue his playing career in the Ghaemshahr-based football club.

Shojaei has already worked under leadership of Nassaji coach Saket Elhami in Tractor.

Iran sweep Morocco at 2021 FIVB U21 World C’ship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Morocco 3-0 (25-9, 25-14, 25-13) in Pool G of the 2021 FIVB Men’s U21 World Championship on Tuesday.

Amirhossein Sedaghat led Iran with 11 points and Mohamed Yakki scored eight points for Morocco.

Defending champions Iran will play Thailand on Wednesday.

The 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men’s U21 World Championship, contested by the men’s national teams under the age of 21 of the members of the FIVB, the sport’s global governing body.

The tournament is being held in Italy and Bulgaria from Sept. 23 to Oct. 3.

Senior analysts advise U.S. to separate the Iran nuclear deal from regional security negotiations

TEHRAN – Two senior political analysts have called on the Joe Biden administration to separate talks on a revival of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran from security issues in West Asia.

U.S. allies in West Asia have already taken the initiative on regional issues, the two analysts wrote in an article in the Foreign Policy.

Insisting on a package deal could permanently derail nuclear talks, warned professor Vali Nasr from Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies and Hossein Mousavian, a West Asia security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University.

Farid Zakaria, a Washington Post columnist, has also recently expressed surprise at Biden normalizing Trump’s foreign policy in many areas, including the 2015 nuclear deal.

Efforts to revitalize the nuclear deal, ditched under the Trump administration, started in April after Biden took over as president in the White House. Six rounds of talks were held until June. The negotiations failed to bear fruits as the U.S. linked revival of the nuclear deal to Iran’s regional policies.

Nasr and Mousavian have suggested that the U.S. “should decouple” the nuclear deal and regional issues and “pursue a resolution to the regional standoff separately.”

Following is an excerpt of their article in Foreign Policy:

Over the past year, the United States and Iran have struggled to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Despite progress made in several rounds of talks in Vienna, the two governments remain deadlocked, and there is increasing worry that time is running out.

Iran is coming to the conclusion that the U.S. government is stalling and is unlikely to lift economic sanctions; hence, they would see no point in persevering to restore the JCPOA.

One stumbling block is how to address Iran’s role in the region. The United States and Iran must find a way to do so without threatening progress on the already difficult nuclear talks. Insisting on discussing regional issues—such as Iran’s role in Syria and Iraq, its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon, an end to war in Yemen, and maritime security in the Persian Gulf region—as part of nuclear talks also runs the risk of dooming progress on diplomatic efforts to resolve some of those issues if nuclear talks stall.

Currently, disagreements on regional issues are slowing progress on nuclear talks, and failure to get to a nuclear deal will worsen regional security.

If the Biden administration is determined to avoid costly conflicts in the Middle East (West Asia), then it should change its approach to remove a significant



stumbling block facing nuclear talks and help regional security at a time when the United States is looking to reduce its military commitments in the region. It should decouple the two issues and pursue a resolution to the regional standoff separately.

The United States has, for some time, been insisting its return to the JCPOA is contingent on Iran agreeing to negotiate its regional policies. That was not its position when nuclear negotiations started in 2011. Then, Iran was more open to a broader negotiations’ framework, and it was the United States that insisted talks focus narrowly on the nuclear issue to quickly get to a deal. The U.S. posture changed after the JCPOA was signed and the Obama administration came under fire for not demanding a rollback of Iranian policies in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.

Critics of the nuclear deal at home and U.S. regional allies were quick to fault the agreement for giving Iran greater resources and room to expand its regional influence. There was scant evidence for this linkage, but regardless of its merit, the criticism became an obvious shortcoming of the JCPOA, which the Biden administration must rectify if it is to return to the deal. Washington seems to think anything less would be a concession to Tehran.

Iran has rejected the allegation it escalated aggressive policies after signing the JCPOA and is unwilling to discuss an issue that was not on the table during nuclear negotiations. It sees the focus on regional issues as a product of successful lobbying by its regional rivals who want to undermine the nuclear deal.

It does not help that Iran also deeply distrusts Washington’s motivations. Iranian Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei recently dismissed a U.S. demand tying its return to the JCPOA to future negotiations over regional issues, saying the United States is using the issue to drag its feet on rejoining the nuclear deal. Iran, he added, will not accept foreign meddling when it comes to its national security interests.

It is best if the U.S. takes “a few steps” and lifts sanctions

Exploration operation seriously pursued in mining sector

From page 1 ► Exploration and processing of rare minerals with special technologies, assistance in equipping and updating the drilling fleet with the help of Mining Investment Insurance Fund, planning to support and upgrade the scientific-technical level of exploration consultants, and conducting additional exploration operations in all existing mines for increasing the reserves tonnage are the other programs of IMIDRO in this due.

Involving the private sector in exploration activities is also an approach that the organization has included in exploration programs.

IMIDRO Head Vajihollah Jafari has stated that his organization is considering the financing for the import of exploration and drilling equipment by large companies, and this will accelerate the achievement of the goal of two-million meters of mining exploration.

Also in early June, an official with the organization had announced that IMIDRO is going to spend 10 trillion rials (about \$238.1 million) for developing mining infrastructure across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2022).

Jamshid Mollarahman had said: "This year we are mainly focusing on exploration operations; however, infrastructure is also a necessity for development of this sector."

It is also worth mentioning that Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran (GSI) has carried out 16 percent more mining exploration in the county compared to the targets set for the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021), as announced by the GSI head.

Referring to the targeting of 425,000



square kilometers of exploration in the Sixth Development Plan, Alireza Shahidi has said: "The performance achieved is 16 percent ahead of the plan, which indicates good productivity as a result of centralized, scientific and resource-oriented decision-making."

"Despite all the restrictions and limitation [created by the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic], more than 490,000 square kilometers of exploration operations were carried out in this organization during the Sixth [National] Development Plan," he stated.

Also, as previously announced by the IMIDRO head, considering the importance of exploration operation in the mining sector, IMIDRO will prepare a strategic five-year program for more focus on exploration activities.

Emphasizing that directing liquidity will accelerate the achievement of the goals of the mining sector, Jafari has said that a five-year strategic plan will be developed to focus more on the exploration sector.

'SCO membership provides Iran with great trade opportunities'

TEHRAN – Head of Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce has said Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is going to be a great opportunity for Iran to expand trade with the members, IRNA reported.

According to Hadi Tizhoush Taban, the SCO member states account for 40 percent of the world's population and 28 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and Iran should benefit from the opportunities that permanent membership in this organization will provide for facilitating trade.

"The three major members of the

pact, including China, India and Russia, are among the world's top economic powers today, and their position is expected to improve in the coming decades," he said.

Tizhoush Taban further noted that the permanent membership of Iran in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization can also provide the necessary basis and requirements for the implementation of the 25-year strategic agreement between Iran and China.

According to the official, increasing the level of trade, facilitating banking cooperation and a joint energy club are some of the benefits of



the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

"China has also proposed a long-term plan to establish a free trade zone and is looking for short-term strategies to increase trade among member states," he added.

The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce mentioned an agreement to establish a Joint Banking Council among the members of the SCO as another important achievement of this organization, saying: "The purpose of establishing this joint banking council is to facilitate providing the necessary funding required for the implementation of

the members' joint projects."

He stressed that given the current situation in the country, joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a golden opportunity for the Iranian economy, noting that the country's economy needs more than ever to develop non-oil exports in order to be able to compensate for the decrease in oil revenues and on the other hand, to increase the gross domestic product.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was officially accepted into the SCO on September 17 during the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the organization.

10 new power plant units to come on stream by late June 2022

TEHRAN – Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH) plans to construct 10 new steam units with a total capacity of 1,752 megawatts (MW) in the country's combined cycle power plants by the next summer's peak consumption period (Iranian calendar's summer begins on June 22, 2022), a TPPH official announced.

According to TPPH's Deputy Managing Director for Planning Affairs Hamidreza Azimi, the inauguration of these units, in addition to increasing the country's electricity generation capacity, will boost the efficiency of thermal power plants, IRNA reported.

"With these units going operational, about 2.5 billion cubic meters of fuel will also be saved annually," Azimi added.

The official noted that the mentioned units are being constructed in Jahrom, Harris, Orumi-yeh, Chababhar, Dalahu, Sabalan, Ferdosi, and As-saluyeh power plants.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been



following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

Back in July, Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Saeed Zarendi had announced the signing of an MOU with the Energy Ministry for constructing power plants for big industries.

"Since earlier this year, the Industry Ministry, on behalf of the industrial sector, started seeking a permit for building 13 power plants. We held several meetings with Tavanir [Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company] and the Energy Ministry and proposed to sign a memorandum of understanding with the ministry. We also sent a letter to the Energy Ministry last week to expedite the issuance of the permit," the official explained.

According to Zarendi, the mentioned power plants are financed by 12 investors from various industrial sectors and will be constructed within 2.5-3 years.

One of the main goals of this program is to provide reliable and sustainable electricity to high-consuming industries and the country's industrial parks in order to reduce the pressure imposed on the national grid in the industry and mining sector, according to Zarendi.

"If these power plants are built, a significant load will be removed from the national electricity distribution network," he stressed.

The official further noted that in case of any surplus electricity generation, the industrial units can sell the surplus electricity to the Energy Ministry.

H1 tax revenues rise 62% year on year



TEHRAN – Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) managed to collect 1.38 quadrillion rials (about \$32.85 billion) of tax revenues during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), registering a 70 percent rise compared to the previous year's same period.

Over 1.92 quadrillion rials (about \$45.7 billion) of tax revenues were also collected during the past Iranian calendar year of 1399 (ended on March 20), showing that the country's annual tax income plan came true by 107 percent.

According to Mohammad Masihi, Iran's national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year has predicted a tax income of 2.7 quadrillion rials (about \$64.2 billion), which indicates that the country's tax income plan for the first half of the year has been realized by over 101 percent.

Masihi underlined focusing on important tax cases, monitoring suspicious banking transactions and dealing with shell companies under the framework of the tax evasion program, facilitating tax processes and

improvement in the attitude of taxpayers as major factors contributing to the realization of tax revenues.

The government had also managed to collect 590 trillion rials (about \$14 billion) of tax revenues during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), registering a 70 percent rise compared to the previous year's same period.

Over 1.92 quadrillion rials (about \$45.7 billion) of tax revenues were also collected during the past Iranian calendar year of 1399 (ended on March 20), showing that the country's annual tax income plan came true by 107 percent.

According to the former Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand, tax revenues accounted for 84 percent of the total funding made in various sectors in the previous year.

Over 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) of deferred taxes were also collected in the previous Iranian calendar year, the official said.

One of the most important achievements of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in recent years has been the smartening of the tax system, the most important outcome of which has been the complete realization of the tax income plan.

The realization of tax income plans in recent years has taken place in the condition that the country is facing severe economic sanctions.

Home appliance production increases 8.7% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN – Production of home appliances in Iran increased 8.7 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry indicate.

The ministry's data put the country's home appliance output at 2.61 million sets in the five-month period of this year, while the figure was 2.4 million in the same time span of the previous year.

Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niarakhi has said that the country's home appliance industry experienced a 78-percent growth in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, the official said, adding, "While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities."

Back in April, the official had said

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

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

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

of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production capacity increased by 24 percent in the past Iranian year, and by 10 percent in its preceding year.

In early April, the secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran announced the 24-percent growth in the home appliance output over the past year and said, "We expected to produce

about 12 million units, including small and large appliances in the previous year, however, the figure increased to about 15 million by the yearend, registering a 24 percent

growth compared to the preceding year."

"We also had good growth in after-sales service, product quality improvement, indigenization and exports, so that last year \$345 million worth of home appliance products were exported," Abbas Hashemi added.

Pointing to the advantages of home appliance industry in Iran, the official said: "Production of home appliances in the country is an advantage considering cheap energy and workforce and the country's geographical situation," he noted.

"This industry should be more supported," he stressed.

Regarding the return of foreign brands to the country, Hashemi said: "we should prevent the imports of foreign finished products into the country in order to support domestic producers."

He further noted that foreign companies can invest in this industry and co-produce their products with local manufacturers.

TEDPIX gains 708 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- After several days of drops, TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose just 708 points to 1425 million on Tuesday.

Over 5.749 billion securities worth 50.456 trillion rials (about \$1.2 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index rose 3,140 points, while the second market's index fell 6,718 points.

TEDPIX fell 7.3 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Sepid Makian Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

It's over two years that stock market in Iran has been playing an outstanding role in the attraction of the people's investment.

Iranian people, who used to invest their money in some traditional ways such as buying gold, or deposit money in the banks, have taken a new approach for investment over the past two years, as they have been investing more and more in the stock market.

The rising number of new shareholders in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, is an indication of this new approach.

Different factors have created such condition, among them it could be referred to the efforts made by the stock market to attract people's more investment through laying the proper ground, for example via introducing new financial instruments, and also by making people more acquainted with this market.

The other factor is the government's policy and new approach toward the stock market, and putting emphasis on this market's role in funding



and economic growth.

The status of the parallel markets such as forex, housing, and gold markets has also made stock market a more attractive place for the people to invest in.

Meanwhile, the government's policy of lowering the interest rate of the bank deposits has redirected a huge amount of people's investment to the stock market.

Iran's new Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsan Khandouzi has previously underlined the capital market as one of the major priorities of his ministry during his tenure.

Increasing the role of the capital market in financing production

and projects, diversifying financial instruments in the capital market, eliminating unnecessary regulations and barriers, facilitating the entry of companies into the stock market, reducing the cost of issuing bonds by facilitating relevant regulations, canceling monopolies and facilitating licensing for stock market-related services such as portfolio management, marketing, and brokerage, reforming corporate governance to manage conflict of interest between major and minor stakeholders and finally providing incentives for people to invest indirectly in the capital market have been mentioned as the major programs that the economy ministry is going to pursue in order to improve the capital market.

According to Khandouzi, the stock market is one of the most important pillars of the economy as it will play a significant role in financing government projects and supporting economic growth.

Private sector representatives meet with agriculture minister to discuss issues

TEHRAN – Iranian Agriculture Minister Seyyed Javad Sadati Nejad attended a meeting hosted by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Tuesday, to discuss major issues facing the country's agriculture and food industry.

The meeting was also attended by the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and the heads of committees and entities active in the country's agriculture and food industry, including Kaveh Zargaran, the chairman of the TCCIMA Agricultural Committee, and the Head of Iranian Food Industries Association Mohammadreza Mortazavi, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the meeting, the attendees mentioned some of the problems and issues of the agriculture sector and called for the elimination of subsidized foreign currency allocations as a major cause of inflation and rent in this sector.

Addressing the meeting, Sadati Nejad stressed that no decision would be made in the Agriculture Ministry without consulting the relevant organizations in the private sector, and called on the private sector to submit their

expert opinions to the ministry.

Also, during the event, Khansari underlined some of the major problems that the country's agriculture and food industries are currently facing including high inflation and lack of investment and asked the minister to take the necessary measures for resolving such issues.

Khansari stressed that TCCIMA is ready to offer technical and scientific solutions to these problems for the Agriculture Ministry.

The existence of a multi-rate currency system and the continued allocation of subsidized foreign currency is a major problem for the country's economic and business sectors, he said.

Referring to the scientific and technical capacity of the private sector for providing counseling and assistance to various ministries, including the Agriculture Ministry, the official said: "Tehran Chamber, in addition to holding meetings with different entities and business organizations, cooperates with the country's scientific institutions like universities to prepare proposal packages for overcoming economic challenges that can be used by the ministries."

Inequality of wealth is greater in the U.S. than in any other developed country: philosopher

‘A national voting rights law is presently being blocked by Republicans in Congress’

From page 1 ▶ Since wealth means political power in the United States, the gap between tycoons and ordinary people reflects a defect in the political system.

Critics say capitalism in the U.S. is going to marginalize democracy. Mass media plays a key role in this regard.

“As wealth becomes increasingly concentrated in an ever smaller number of individuals and corporations, so does the potential political power of the wealthiest,” Lingis notes.

Meanwhile “the median White family has 10 times more wealth than the median Black family and 7.5 times more wealth than the median Latino family. This increasing economic inequality is damaging to the health, education, job opportunities, and home ownerless possibilities of a growing number of people in the nation,” the professor of philosophy adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see the political fallout of Trump’s presidency in America and its impact on U.S. democracy?

Lawyers for President Trump identified 62 incidences of alleged voter fraud in the 2020 election, which the courts individually examined and rejected.

Nonetheless, Trump continues to claim that massive voter fraud invalidated the election, a claim shared by more than half of Republican voters. This does undermine public trust in the essential institutions of democracy in the country.

U.S. officials claim to defend democratic values, but apparently giant corporations, lobbies and money have a big influence on U.S. democracy. Is American democracy in favor of the majority or just a tool in the hands of the elites?

As wealth becomes increasingly



concentrated in an ever smaller number of individuals and corporations, so does the potential political power of the wealthiest. In 2020 candidates for the U.S. Congress spent \$8,703,050,547 on their campaigns. Individual candidates spent up to \$270 million on a campaign.

The greater part of the money spent was donated by a small number of very rich individuals and corporations. One-fifth of the money spent on campaigns was donated by just 2635 individuals. Their influence makes President Trump’s numerous actions against climate change control, environmental protection, and his massive tax reduction for the rich difficult to reverse.

What is your comment on Republicans’ efforts to restrict voting rights in some states? Do you think the American establishment can protect democracy?

Since the 2020 election, nine

Republican-dominated states have passed new laws that restrict access to voting for poorer people and minorities. Seventeen states have passed laws to expand access to voting for their citizens. A national voting rights law is presently being blocked by Republicans in Congress.

Is there any correlation between defending democracy at home and supporting democracy abroad? Apparently, the U.S. has failed to realize this goal in foreign policy. For example, America is a great sponsor of tyrannical regimes in the Persian Gulf.

President Trump openly admired authoritarian regimes, and leaders such as Bolsonaro in Brazil, Duterte in the Philippines, and Orban in Hungary copied Trump’s rhetoric and domestic policies.

President Biden, addressing the United Nations General Assembly, affirmed that his government will exercise “relentless diplomacy” in

favor of democratic regimes. He called for international cooperation to address the coronavirus pandemic, global climate change, and cyber threats. He said the United States will double its financial commitment to climate aid and spend \$10 billion to fight hunger.

He also announced a donation of 1.1 billion doses of the Covid vaccine to poor countries, “for everyone shot we’ve administered to date in America we have now committed to doing three shots to the rest of the world.”

Some critics like Bernie Sanders believe that capitalism may push the U.S. and its democracy towards an abyss. What is your comment?

Inequality of wealth is greater by far in the United States than in any other developed country and increasing. One percent of the population in the United States holds 42.5 percent of the national wealth. Just three men—Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, and investor Warren Buffett—hold combined fortunes worth more than the total wealth of the poorest half of Americans.

The median White family has 10 times more wealth than the median Black family and 7.5 times more wealth than the median Latino family. This increasing economic inequality is damaging to the health, education, job opportunities, and home ownerless possibilities of a growing number of people in the nation.

In 2014, The World Economic Forum based in Davos, Switzerland released its “Global Risks 2014” report, listing income disparity first of the most likely five global risks, followed by extreme weather events, unemployment and underemployment, climate change and cyber-attacks. Noted economist Thomas Piketty and others have argued that the growing economic inequality is also economically unsustainable.

Simon Williams said on Monday.

Major suppliers, including BP, Shell and Esso, said in a joint statement on Monday they expected demand to return to normal levels in days, easing pressures on fuel station forecourts.

“We would encourage people to buy fuel as they usually would,” they said.

As the chaos unfolds, however, calls have grown for the government to prioritize healthcare workers and emergency services staff.

British Medical Association Chief Dr Chaand Nagpaul said they should be given first access to fuel so they can continue crucial work.

“Everyone will have their own reasons for needing to fill up, but as pumps run dry there is a real risk that NHS staff won’t be able to do their jobs, and provide vital services and care to people who urgently need it,” he said.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

UK fuel crisis: Prices rise to eight-year high as army on standby

Britain’s army has been put on standby to deliver fuel as panic buying worsened a supply crisis, sending prices to an eight-year high.

Announcing the move late on Monday, the government said a “limited number” of military tanker drivers were ready to be deployed if needed.

“While the fuel industry expects demand will return to its normal levels in the coming days, it’s right that we take this sensible, precautionary step,” Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said in a statement, without specifying how many drivers had been readied.

The Petrol Retailers Association (PRA) had earlier warned that up to 90 percent of petrol pumps were running dry in some areas of the United Kingdom due to supply chain issues, which were caused by a shortage of truck drivers.

The PRA represents independent fuel retailers, who account for 65 percent of all UK forecourts.

Price rises

Government ministers, fuel companies and petrol stations say there are sufficient supplies of fuel but that the lack of truckers, combined with the rush to fill up cars and jerry cans, has drained the system.

Long lines of vehicles have formed at many filling stations around the UK since Friday, causing spillover traffic jams on busy roads.

Tempers have frayed as some drivers waited for hours, with sporadic fights breaking out as people jostled for access to petrol pumps.

Meanwhile, the average price of a liter of petrol rose to 1.366 pounds (\$1.86) on Sunday, the highest level since September 2013, according to figures collated by the RAC, a motoring group.

“We are also aware of a small number of retailers taking advantage of the current delivery situation by hiking prices,” RAC fuel spokesman

Congress Okays \$1 billion for Israel’s Iron Dome

From page 1 ▶ Nevertheless, the passing of the legislation with such a majority highlights the reality of the Zionist lobby’s power over the American Congress.

An exchange of accusations over the measure spilled onto the House floor, as some Democrats who were opposed called Israel an “apartheid state,” and proponents hurled accusations of anti-Semitism. By the end, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, a “vocal” critic of Israel who had come under heavy criticism from pro-Israel activists for refusing to back the bill, switched her “no” vote; to “present.”

It also highlights what many observers say that any criticism of the Israeli regime automatically leads to accusations of anti-Semitism.

The exchange of words was the latest flare-up in a long-simmering feud between a small new generation of Democrats. Many of them were people of color that has called for an end to conditions-free aid to Israel and others in the party who argue that the United States must not blink in its support for Israel.

The internal tensions come as a growing number of Democrats in Washington; say they are no longer willing to give what right groups call an apartheid regime a pass for its treatment of the Palestinians, which has unsettled top Israeli officials.

The dispute began this week after emerging progressives within the Democratic Party rejected the inclusion of the Iron Dome funding in an emergency spending bill. That would, in effect, potentially shut down the government if the spending bill is not passed. Democratic

leaders were therefore forced to take it out of that bill, which passed the House on Tuesday and arranged a separate vote to approve the Iron Dome money.

Democrat Representative Rashida Talib of Michigan, said “I will not support any effort to enable war crimes and human rights abuses and violence. We cannot be talking only about Israelis’ need for safety at a time when Palestinians are living under a violent apartheid system and are dying from what Human Rights Watch has said are war crimes.”

Such statements have left many other Democrats furious, who said their colleagues’ opposition to funding Israel’s missile system was beyond the pale. They claim that during the peak of fighting in May, the Iron Dome “intercepted more than 90 percent” of the flurry of Hamas-launched rockets and missiles. However, the footage on the ground during the peak of the battle in May suggests the opposite, with widespread destruction at vital Israeli infrastructure, which indicates the iron dome was unsuccessful in intercepting the surprising barrage of rockets by the Palestinian resistance in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Despite the anxiety, only eight Democrats — and one Republican, Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky — ultimately opposed the measure.

With minutes before the vote closed, Ocasio-Cortez was seen tearfully huddled with her allies before switching her vote to “present.” The images again underscore the controversy of the vote was even outspoken progressives, who have been caught between their principles and the

still powerful pro-Israel voices in their party. It should be noted a spokesman for Ocasio-Cortez declined to comment on her change of position. Another Democrat, Representative Hank Johnson of Georgia, also voted present.

Other critics also delivered harsh words about Israel’s conduct and argued that solid backing for the regime in Congress should come to an end. Representative Ilhan Omar, Democrat of Minnesota, said the United States should no longer continue to provide Israel with funding “without addressing the underlying issue of the occupation.”

Privately, some progressive lawmakers were reportedly furious with Representative Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 Democrat, who pushed for the vote on Iron Dome funding after removing it from the broader spending bill this week.

His maneuver appeared to be intended to calm Israeli officials, who had been watching with some alarm as the fight unfolded on Capitol Hill and had been closely following previous attempts by a younger liberal generation of lawmakers to cut off U.S. military aid to Israel.

After Yair Lapid, Israel’s minister of foreign affairs called Hoyer and emphasized the need for the House to approve the request as soon as possible, and the congressman assured him that progressives’ initial revolt was no more than a “technical delay.” That’s according to an account of the call released by Lapid’s office. Hours later, Hoyer announced that the House would vote to approve the funding later in the week.

Meanwhile, The House on has also approved by a 316-to-113 vote a massive \$740 billion annual defense bill that would add about \$24 billion more to the Pentagon’s budget than even President Joe Biden had requested.

Hezbollah blasts Erbil conference on normalizing ties with Israel, lauds Iraq’s legal action



The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has lambasted a recent conference in Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, which called for normalization of relations with Israel.

Hezbollah, in a statement released on Monday, also praised the position of Iraqi officials, political parties and popular and religious groups and their strong condemnation of the event.

The movement hailed arrest warrants issued for the participants of the conference, organized by US think-tank Center for Peace Communications (CPC), stating that the legal action reflects the awareness of the Iraqi people and political parties toward the normalization project in the Middle East.

Hezbollah further lauded the Iraqi nation’s unwavering support for Palestinians and their legitimate cause.

Last Friday, more than 300 people attended a conference in a hotel in Erbil, the capital of the Iraqi Kurdistan region, during which they demanded that Baghdad join the so-called Abraham Accords and normalize relations with Israel.

The Abraham Accords were signed at the White House in September 2020 between Israel, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. Morocco and Sudan later signed normalization agreements with the Israeli regime as well.

The Friday conference was welcomed by Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid as “a hopeful event.” Speakers at the conference included Chemi Peres, the head of an Israeli foundation established by his father, former Israeli president Shimon Peres.

Hezbollah also condemned the fatal shooting of five Palestinians by Israeli forces during raids that led to armed

confrontations in the city of Jenin and other areas of the occupied West Bank on Sunday.

It stated that the killings expose “the criminal and treacherous nature of the Zionist regime.”

Hezbollah also praised the resilience and heroism of Palestinian resistance fighters in the face of raids and arrests by Israeli military forces, and extended its condolences to the families of the victims.

Karbala mourners set Israeli flags on fire

Angry mourners torched Israeli flags during ceremonies held in the Iraqi city of Karbala to mark Arbæen, the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam.

They held banners and chanted “Never, never to normalization” as they entered the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS).

The Iraqi presidency on Saturday rejected attempts aimed at normalizing ties with the Israeli regime, and reiterated the Arab nation’s strong support for the Palestinian cause.

On Sunday, a court in Baghdad issued arrest warrants for tribal leader Wisam al-Hardan, former lawmaker Mithal al-Alosi, and Sahar Kareem al-Taie, an employee of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council said in a statement.

Their charges include participation in an “illegal meeting” held in Erbil, the court said.

The statement said the judicial council will take legal measures against other participants of the meeting once authorities get their full names.

(Source: Press TV)



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez criticised for ‘theatric’ crying after vote on Israel Iron Dome funding

Government pays \$22.1m in loans to support tourism businesses in Isfahan



TEHRAN – The Iranian government has paid 930 billion rials (\$22.1 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in loans to the tourism businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic in the central province of Isfahan.

The tourism industry and tourism-related businesses in the province have suffered a lot of damage since the outbreak of the COVID-19, and part of this damage has been compensated by providing them with loans, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

These loans have mostly been given to accommodation centers, eco-lodge units, traditional restaurants, and recreational centers, the report added.

Earlier in March, a provincial tourism official announced that the tourism industry of Isfahan province has suffered a loss of some 48,000 billion rials (about \$1.1 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to available statistics and information, the number of tourists in Isfahan province this year decreased by 90% compared to the past year and the occupancy rate of hotels and accommodation centers reached an average of 10%, the official said.

Isfahan province has some 150 hotels, 444 eco-lodge units, 70 traditional hotels, 150 inns, 230 guest houses, he said.

Isfahan, Nesf-e-Jahan

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-

lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

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

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

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan. Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

Government's care and support packages

In October 2020, the tourism ministry proclaimed that a new support package was approved to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

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

The loans were allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers.

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

Isfahan tourism has suffered a lot of damage since the outbreak of the COVID-19.

Persian handicrafts: pristine pottery of Mend

TEHRAN – The village of Mend is the only pottery center in the east of Iran, located three kilometers north of Gonabad, the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, with a population of approximately 1000 people. This village's residents are also engaged in brick, pottery, and tile making besides farming.

The pottery industry in Mend can be traced back to the 3rd millennium BC, without a specific name until the early 12th century; however, a new type of pottery has appeared since then which is known as Faience Pottery.

The patterns and composition of Mend potteries closely resemble those of Meybod products. They are also closely similar to the patterns of Shahreza potteries so that they are hard to distinguish.

A variety of traditional potteries are produced in this region using either red clay or Faience ceramic. Both methods differ in terms of their materials and the process of making the body. Faience is a type of ceramic made from white clay. These types of ceramics are mainly made from silica or flint, bentonite, and kaolin.

The surrounding mines produce bentonite and kaolin. Upon extraction, flint is pounded with a hammer to be broken into smaller pieces. Red clay pottery is another type of pottery made from clay, and is newer than faience works in the area.

Traditionally, hand-made potteries produced wares such as birds, animals and bulks formed



through the molding of vases, thermoses, and other objects, embellished with relief motifs. Since Mend's products are wheel-made, they are produced more easily and are a popular choice among people due to their versatility.

There is also a high demand for underglaze painting here. Many of the motifs on Mend pottery come from symbols and rituals rooted in people's beliefs. On ceramics, human beings, animals, plants, and geometrical patterns are the most commonly used motifs. An exemplar of Mend's wares typically depicts the human face surrounded by lines. Potteries like these are often regarded as the most important of Mend. There are many motifs depicting animals, such as chickens, fish, butterflies, etc., which are painted in

Hamedan in western Iran, he says.

TEHRAN – With his trimmed beard, red scarf, and bronze-colored waistcoat, Kazem Mabhutan serves a steady stream of customers in the smallest and oldest teahouse in Tehran, but at 63 years old, he is counting on God to find him a successor.

Tucked in an alleyway of the Grand Bazaar, wedged between a clothes shop and the door of a mosque, his 1.5-square-metre chaikhaneh (tea house) is invisible from the main street.

And yet it is the most famous among tea connoisseurs in the Iranian capital, AFP reported.

In between pouring glasses of steaming brew for his customers, Mabhutan tells the century-old story of the fabled Haj Ali Darvish Tea House with pride.

His father Haj Ali Mabhutan, nicknamed the Dervish or Beheshti, or "He who deserves paradise", was born in

"He came to Tehran at the age of 15 to earn a living. He bought this shop from Haj Hassan who had opened it in 1918."

Arranged around him are cups and teapots, boxes of tea, and a samovar water-heater. There is an antiquated radio, a paraffin lamp, statuettes of dervishes, and gold-colored sticks of Nabat, a saffron-scented barley sugar.

On the wall, a tourism ministry certificate assures that the place "is part of the intangible heritage of the national culture".

'Tea of kindness'

Aside from the traditional Iranian black tea, Mabhutan prepares cardamon, cinnamon, mint, thyme and hibiscus brews every day from 7:30 am.

But his favorites is his signature "tea of kindness", a mixture of mint, lemon, and

saffron which gives it a zesty yellow color.

Business is usually steady: experts say that Iranians consume an average of nine small glasses of tea a day, or 100,000 tones nationwide every year.

"Until 2007, my father ran this house, known as the smallest in the world," said Mabhutan. "Then he broke his leg and never returned to work. He stayed at home until his death in 2018 at the age of 92."

Kazem then left his advertising agency job and took over the business.

"I don't regret it at all," he said. "Advertising was a business, but this is a question of love. I chose this job with my heart, not for the money."

On the menu, the price of a cup of tea is listed at 100,000 rials (35 cents), but "the rates are not fixed," he said. "It depends on the financial situation of the customer."

Savior of Urartian inscription tours National Museum of Iran

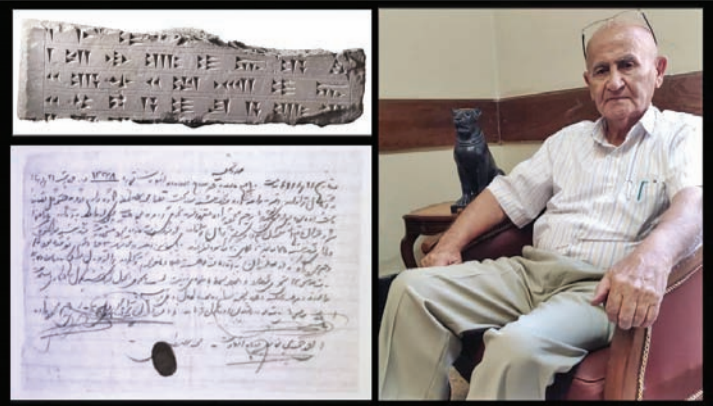
TEHRAN – Cultural heritage lover, Rahim Oshnavi Mahmoudzadeh, has paid a visit to the National Museum of Iran to which he donated a fragment of Urartian inscription some half a century ago.

"The Qalatgah inscription is one of the few examples of Urartian inscriptions in the National Museum of Iran. This inscription, which is related to the 9th century BC, has been registered in the National Museum of Iran under the number 4637 and its translation is as follows: Minua, Son of Ishpuini, The powerful king, the great king, King of the country of Bia, Lord,...," a curator of the museum told Tehran Times on Tuesday.

The inscription fragment with two other fragments was discovered in 1967 by Majid Mostafavi at Qalatgah Cheshmeh Gol village in Oshnawyeh.

Two other fragments of the inscription fell into the hands of smugglers, whose fate is unknown. Fortunately, a fragment of the inscription was preserved and finally handed over to the representatives of the Iran Bastan Museum (the National Museum of Iran) at that time.

"The savior of this fragment was Rahim Oshnavi Mahmoudzadeh, who, considering his knowledge



and interest in the cultural heritage of the region, bought this part of the inscription at his own expense and at the same time handed it over to two representatives of the Museum, Mr. Babak Rad and Ali Akbar Sarfaraz," the curator said.

During the years of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War,

Mahmoudzadeh carried out many efforts to save the famous inscription of Kileh Shin on the border of Iran and Iraq, in the present-day area of Oshnawyeh city which finally transferred to

the Urmia Museum.

More than half a century after the discovery of the inscription, Mahmoudzadeh visited the National Museum of Iran on Sunday and had a meeting with the director of the museum, during which he presented two volumes of his recent book on linguistics and the history of the region to the National Museum of Iran.

Oshnavi Mahmoudzadeh was born in 1935 in Oshnawyeh and so far he has published five books on

The Urartu kingdom rose to power in the mid-9th century BC.

Ilkhanid-era tombstone discovered in central Iran

TEHRAN – An ancient tombstone, estimated to date from the Ilkhanid era (1256 to 1335), has recently been discovered in one of the surrounding hills near Mahallat, central Iran.

"This magnificent tombstone was located in one of the hills northwest Mahallat on the path of an urban development project.... It was found with the guidance of a cultural heritage-loving resident," Mahallat's tourism chief Mehdi La'lbar said on Tuesday, CHTN reported.

"A legibility project for the inscription, and a detailed examination performed by cultural heritage experts suggest the tombstone dates back to the Ilkhanid period," the official explained.

The object is 120 cm in length, 70 cm in width, with a thickness of about 20 cm, he stated.

"After the discovery of this historical tombstone, with the help of the municipality of Mahallat, it was transferred to the anthropological museum of Mahallat for protection, maintenance, and display."

Earlier this month, a giant piece of rock bearing some 30 petroglyphs was discovered in Mahallat. According to experts, its motifs belong



to the Sassanid period (224-651 CE) carved by engraving tools such as flint, iron, and thick hunting bones.

Ilkhanid dynasty, also spelled Il-Khanid, was a Mongol dynasty that ruled in Iran from 1256 to 1335. Il-khan is Persian for "subordinate khan."

Hulegu, a grandson of Genghis Khan, was given the task of capturing Iran by the paramount Mongol chieftain Mongke. Hulegu set out in about 1253 with a Mongol army of about 130,000. He founded the Il-Khanid dynasty in 1256, and by 1258 he had captured Baghdad and all of Iran, according to Britannica.

The Il-Khans consolidated their position in Iran and reunited the region as a political and territorial entity after several centuries of fragmented rule by petty dynasties. During the reign of the Il-Khanid Maumud Ghuzun (reigned 1295-1304), the Il-Khans lost all contact with the remaining Mongol chieftains of China. Mahmud Ghuzun himself embraced Sunni Islam, and his reign was a period of Iranian cultural renaissance in which such scholars as Rashid al-Din flourished under his patronage.

Ghazan's brother Oljeitu (reigned 1304-16) converted to Shia Islam in 1310. Oljeitu's conversion gave rise to great unrest, and civil war was imminent when he died in 1316. His son and successor, Abu Sa'id (reigned 1317-35), reconverted to Sunni Islam and thus averted war.

However, during Abu Sa'id's reign, factional disputes and internal disturbances continued and became rampant. Abu Sa'id died without leaving an heir, and with his death, the unity of the dynasty was fractured. Thereafter various Il-Khanid princes ruled portions of the dynasty's former territory until 1353.

East Azarbaijan to boost digital tourism

TEHRAN – Iran's northwestern East Azarbaijan province plans to develop digital tourism in the region, CHTN reported on Monday.

Explaining the importance of tourism to the public, establishing a real and accurate image of the province for the international community, and developing and updating the area of tourism have been on the agenda of the cultural heritage department of the province, the report added.

More than 100 360-degree video clips, 20 motion graphics, and 200 graphic posters of historical and cultural attractions in the province have been produced for social networks over the past year to benefit from new methods of tourism development.

Two new multilingual websites have been created to facilitate and provide tourists with comprehensive access to the province's tourism information in order for tourists to make an informed travel decision.

Meanwhile, the province is making efforts to attract investment, particularly from the private sector, in its tourism sector.

Some 100 tourism-related projects worth 100 trillion rials (\$2.3 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) are currently underway across the province in collaboration with the private sector.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz,

which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Using a digital platform, holiday travelers can research, plan, book, and have an immersive experience of their holiday destinations. The wide variety of travel information available today helps people decide their destinations, activities, and other things, which is one reason why digital tourism is crucial to the industry and travelers.

With nations struggling to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on their economies and tourism, as well as many countries imposing travel restrictions, digitalization of tourism seems a viable solution today.

Tourism projects worth \$159.5m underway in Semnan

From page 1 ► Ongoing tourism projects

Last September, the former Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that over 2,400 tourism-related projects are currently being implemented across the country with a total estimated cost of 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion).

"This volume of investment indicates that investors recognize the growing tourism sector as a new economy in the country and have high hopes for it," he added. He also noted that ecotourism has developed rapidly and the number of eco-lodge units increased from 400 units in 2017 to over 2,000 units at the beginning of 2020.

The tourism industry of the country was growing and progressing well but unfortunately, it has faced the coronavirus outbreak, which brought the industry to a standstill, he added.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Vaccination cuts COVID-19 deaths among elderly by %65



TEHRAN – Coronavirus mortality in nursing homes has reduced by 65 percent due to mass vaccination, Hamed Barekati, the deputy health minister for population, family, and schools, has said.

Also, the incidence of the disease in nursing homes has been reduced by 75 percent, and about 95 percent of the elderly in these centers have been vaccinated, and the rest have received the first

dose, he explained.

Generally, the mortality rate among the elderly aging 60 or above in hospitals has reduced by 30 percent after vaccination, and this trend is declining, he noted, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The elderly constitutes more than 10 percent of the country's population, which is currently growing. In 2025, it will reach about 27 percent of the total population, which should

increase the country's infrastructure three times its current capacity.

Iran started mass vaccination with the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine, with the priority given to medical staff, the elderly, and people with underlying diseases.

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, over 60 million doses of foreign vaccines have already been imported, while others are expected to be imported soon.

Vaccination up, mortality down

In July, delta variant mortality peaked and recorded over 700 daily deaths, but the increase of vaccination pace reduced the toll.

Today, more than one million doses of vaccine are injected daily in the country, and many age groups of the elderly, rare diseases patients, teachers, university professors, health professionals, veterans, etc. have been vaccinated and now the process of vaccinating students is underway.

Studies show that people who are not vaccinated are 4.5 times more likely to develop COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated, and 10 and 11 times more likely to be hospitalized and die, respectively.

The mortality rate among the elderly aging 60 or above in hospitals has reduced by 30 percent.

School to be constructed for Afghan students in Fars province



TEHRAN – An educational institution will be built for Afghan refugees with the participation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The school is constructed in an area of 1,675 square meters with a credit of 150 billion rials (nearly \$3.5 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), Alireza Kamraei, deputy minister of education stated.

He announced that more than half a million Afghan students attended Iranian schools last

school year (September 2020).

The Ministry of Education pays special attention to the construction of schools for Afghan nationals residing in Iran and has taken a rapid approach in this regard, he stated.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei placed special emphasis on "covering the education of foreign nationals" and this enabled these students to enjoy educational facilities and services just like Iranian students, he said.

Supports for Afghan refugees in Iran

Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years.

Scholarships will increase to 35 this year from 20 in previous years. Based on the latest sta-

tistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran - some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education Gholamreza Karimi said in March.

Over 474,000 Afghan national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, he added.

Out of 970,000 foreigners (men and women) in working-age of 15 to 60 years, some 36,000 are under social insurance coverage in the country, head of Social Security Organization's department for foreign nationals Ahmad Reza Khazaei said in July 2018.

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million) annually on the education of foreign national students.

Mazandaran wetlands hosting first flocks of migratory birds

TEHRAN – The first group of migratory birds from Siberia have landed in the wetlands of northern Mazandaran province to spend the winter.

Two species of migratory birds, namely Eurasian teal and flamingos, entered Sorkhrud and Azbaran lagoons over the past few days, Kouroos Rabiei, the head of the provincial department of environment, said on Tuesday.

According to the routine of previous years, different species of migratory birds, including ducks (mallard, common pochard, gadwall, crested duck, and pintail), pelicans, swans, graylag goose, owls, flamingos, coots, and cormorants, winter in 600,000 hectares of the wetlands as well as Miankaleh wetland.

It is predicted that in autumn and winter, 120 species of birds will land in the wetlands, reservoirs, and dams of Mazandaran, he further noted, IRNA reported.

And any trapping and hunting of



birds in the wetlands, ponds, and reservoirs of Mazandaran is prohibited and in case of any violation, violators will face punishment.

The annual census for migratory birds in Iran begins in the middle of the Iranian calendar month of Dey (December 22-January 20) and ends in the middle of the month of Bahman (January 21-February 19), through which Iran hosts rare species of migratory birds heading from north to the southern countries due to reduced seasonal temperatures and food availability.

Iran's bird species

Hosting over 600 species of birds, Iran is a climatically rich country, so it is said that the number of bird species in Iran is higher than in the whole of Europe. A wide range of wetlands is the reason behind migratory birds choosing Iran for an annual wintering habitat, as a large number of birds fly a thousand miles each year to benefit from this rich climate.

Every year, from early September to late February, Iran hosts rare species of migratory birds heading from north to the southern countries due to reduced seasonal temperatures and food availability.

It is estimated that there are about 50 billion birds in the world out of 9,000 species, many of which

are migratory. Accordingly, about five to seven million birds migrate to Iran in different seasons. There are about 530 species of birds in Iran, 320 of which are migratory species, some of which are native species.

Among the various groups of migratory birds wintering in Iran, the largest population belongs to the group of geese, swans, and ducks amounting to 781,499 and the smallest population of seven are the long-tailed ducks or old-squaw.

The provinces of Mazandaran and Golestan are the first provinces with the highest number of migratory birds for having sufficient resources, as the movement of migratory birds is closely linked to the seasonal availability of resources.

About five to seven million birds migrate to Iran in different seasons.

Fauna of Iran



(Part 9)

The Kuzestan plain and the Persian Gulf coast. The fauna of this region, geographically an extension of the Mesopotamian plain, is closely related to those of lowland Iraq and northern Arabia.

Apparently the Tigris basin has served as a barrier to some taxa, however. The fauna is not uniformly distributed, certain species being reported only from the more humid coastal plain. With some exceptions, the species of this region may be identified as Saharo-Sindian.

Persian Baluchistan and the Makran coast. There are two main elements in these fauna, an Iranian element composed of wide-ranging plateau forms, many of them confined primarily to the rugged, folded terrain of Baluchistan, and a Saharo-Sindian element, largely confined to the coastal region. Many species in the latter group range no farther west than Bandar-e Lenga.

It is primarily in Baluchistan and the Makran that a few Oriental elements, wide-ranging species of broad ecological tolerance, exist in Persia. The large Jaz-e Murian depression is a low internal basin rimmed by mountains and having extensive eolian sand deposits on its floor. The fauna is incompletely known, but some endemic species occur there.

The Turkmen steppe. Small portions of these low plains are enclosed within Persian borders in the northeastern corner of the country and in a narrow wedge east of the Caspian, between the shore and the mountains. Anderson found that fewer than half the lizards could be considered truly Aralo-Caspian, the remainder being species from the Iranian plateau or confined primarily to mountain slopes.

The Mogan steppe. A portion of this region, drained by the Aras River, falls within the northernmost part of Persian Azerbaijan. There are species with Mediterranean and Transcaucasian affinities, as well as with forms from the Iranian plateau.

The Zagros. This long mountain chain forms both a barrier between the plateau and the Mesopotamian lowlands and a corridor for the southward distribution of northern faunal elements. Unfortunately, available zoological information is very sketchy, though the southern extent of many northern species is known.

A number of species are also endemic to these mountains. The best-known are those of the lower passes, species that range widely through southwestern Asia and are broadly distributed at various elevations in lowland and mountain areas.

The western foothills of the Zagros. This area, too, has been relatively little studied. Although it shares species with both the Zagros proper and the Mesopotamian lowlands, there are also endemic species

that lend it a unique character. Some species are most closely related to species of highland Arabia, others to those of Baluchistan and Sind. Anderson found that strictly Iranian species were absent among the lizards, and in this respect the region differs sharply from Baluchistan, where such species are an important element.

The Alborz. The fauna of this range consists of two fairly well-defined segments, that of the dry southern slopes (included in the discussion of the central plateau) and that of the much wetter, forested northern slopes (included in the section on the Caspian coast). A few species cross the passes, and a few range along the lower crests. In addition, a few endemic taxa from these mountains have been described.

The Kopet-Dag. The fauna of the more arid mountain folds stretching along the border between Persia and Turkmenistan east of the Alborz has not been studied in any detail on the Persian side. One reason is that the routes crossing the border run west and east of the mountains. The relatively low Atrak valley divides the two main folds of the range and has been little traveled by zoological collectors. Several endemic taxa occur in this region.

Islands of the Persian Gulf. Knowledge of the fauna of these islands, most of which lie close to the Persian coast, is incomplete, but it seems to represent the Saharo-Sindian group.

TYPES OF HABITAT

In analysis of the lizards Anderson (1968) emphasized the importance of the substrate to the occurrence of particular species; he also considered the relationship of climate types and lizard distribution. Harrington (1977) organized his guide to the mammals of Persia according to thirty-one types of habitat.

Although Harrington's scheme is useful in classifying the considerable diversity of ecological conditions in Persia, most of the representative mammals mentioned have much greater ecological tolerances and occur in many different types of habitats.

Furthermore, his plates and accompanying texts represent a mixture of habitat types and more general geographical areas containing several habitats. Lay, in his study of mammals, described the geographical areas investigated by the Street expedition of 1962-63 and within this context provided a more detailed description of habitat types than that by Harrington.

Scott (1989) identified eight major habitat types for birds in Persia: true desert and semidesert, semi-arid steppes of the desert rim and foothills, high mountains, forests and woodlands, hot southern lowlands, wetlands, habitats of the Persian Gulf and Makran coasts, and offshore islands.

Concluded.
(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 28

New cases	11,701
New deaths	239
Total cases	5,559,691
Total deaths	119,888
New hospitalized patients	1,821
Patients in critical condition	5,124
Total recovered patients	4,988,109
Diagnostic tests conducted	31,976,745
Doses of vaccine injected	51,986,883

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran to hold first national online project Olympiad

The first round of online project Olympiad will be held in Iran in the next Iranian calendar year (starting on March 21), Fatemeh Mohajerani, an official with the Ministry of Education has said.

The project Olympiad will focus on special subjects and is very much like Khwarizmi International Award the only difference is that the Olympiad will be carried out online, IRNA news agency quoted Mohajerani as saying on Sunday.

The participants can submit their projects online via a website and a jury will evaluate them, she added.

اولین المپیاد مجازی برگزار می شود

فاطمه مهاجرانی رئیس مرکز ملی پرورش استعدادهای درخشان و دانش‌پژوهان جوان گفت: سال آینده اولین المپیاد مجازی با عنوان «المپیاد پروژه ای» برگزار می شود.

فاطمه مهاجرانی روز یکشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: این المپیاد یک موضوع خاص را به عنوان یک مساله تعریف کرده و به آن می پردازد و در واقع شبیه جشنواره خوارزمی است با این تفاوت که نیازی به حضور افراد نیست بلکه به صورت مجازی برگزار می شود.

وی افزود: شرکت کنندگان و نخبگان از طریق یک پورتال ، طرح ها و موضوعات خود را ارسال می کنند تا مورد داوری قرار گیرد.

TEHRAN TIMES





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SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:11:55 Evening: 18:09 Dawn: 4:35 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:58 (tomorrow)

Iranian languages and scripts: Documentation

Part 3
Parthian
This was the local language of the area east of the Caspian Sea and official language of the Parthian state and is known from inscriptions on stone and metal, including coins and seals, and from large archives of potsherd labels on wine jars from the Parthian capital of Nisa, as well as from the Manichean texts.

Two Pahlavi texts are commonly thought to have been originally in Parthian, the Draxt i Asurig and the Ayadgar i Zareran, but forms such as present kar- “do” instead of kun- could also be from a later dialect.

Numerous Parthian loanwords are found in Armenian, where they are distinguished from the later Middle Persian loans by their form.

Parthian was written in the Parthian script descended from “imperial” Aramaic. Manichean Parthian was written in the Manichean script, occasionally in the Sogdian script.

Descriptions of Parthian are found in Osnovy and in CLI. Dictionaries and glossaries include Boyce, Gignoux, and Durkin-Meisterernst.

Bactrian
This local language of northern Afghanistan was, until ca. 1990, known from coins, the calendar names preserved in the works of Muslim authors such as Abu Rayhan Biruni, a few stone and wall inscriptions, and a small number of Manichean manuscript fragments from Turfan.

This material, collected by Humbach formed the basis of the description of Bactrian in Elr. III, 1988, pp. 344-49, and CLI, 1989, pp. 230-35.

Since then, several extensive new inscriptions have been discovered, as well as a large number of economic and legal documents and letters, most of them on leather.

These documents, which were discovered in northwestern Afghanistan, are now being published. Much more is therefore now known about this language than two decades ago, and we now see that it shares features with both Parthian, its western neighbor, and Chorasmian and Sogdian, its northern neighbors.

Bactrian loanwords are found in adjacent languages, notably in Khotanese and especially as legal vocabulary.

Bactrian was written in the Greco-Bactrian script, but there is also one Manichean Bactrian fragment in the Manichean script, frequently cited in the literature but still unpublished.

An updated sketch grammar of Bactrian is included in Sims-Williams. Dictionaries and glossaries include Humbach and Sims-Williams.

Sogdian
The language of the kingdom of Sogdiana (Pers. Soghd), in the area of modern Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, is known from a few inscriptions on stone and metal, including coins and seals, but mainly from a large corpus of paper manuscripts, comprising letters (the earliest from the 4th century); official documents (8th century: Mount Mug near Samargand); and Buddhist, Manichean, and Christian texts discovered in eastern Xinjiang (at Turfan and Dunhuang).

Indigenous Sogdian was written in a script descended from “imperial” Aramaic, the “Sogdian” script; Manichean Sogdian was written in the Sogdian and Manichean scripts; and Christian Sogdian was written in Nestorian Syriac script. There are also a few Sogdian fragments in Brahmi script.

Several chronological stages or local variants of the language are attested. The oldest is that of the Ancient Letters, which date from the early 4th century, the latest that found in some Christian Sogdian texts and late inscriptions.



Bactrian language and its Greco-Bactrian script.

The forms of the language as written in the three different scripts differ somewhat in phonology and morphology, while it is more difficult to establish genuine points of difference in the syntax, especially since translated texts, notably Buddhist and Christian, tended to imitate their originals (Chinese and Syriac).

Tokharian contains a fair number of Iranian loanwords that may have been borrowed from a form of proto-Sogdian.

The earliest grammar was Gauthiot and Benveniste (1914, 1929). Gershevitch's grammar of Manichean Sogdian (1954) was the only complete grammar of its time (although short on syntax).

Recent descriptions with bibliographies include those in Osnovy and CLI. For Christian Sogdian morphology, see also Sims-Williams, 1985. Qarib/Gharib 1995, is a complete dictionary of texts published to that date.

Chorasmian
In the early 20th century, the language of Chorasmia, a state along the upper Oxus/Amu Darya, was still known primarily from its calendrical terminology, cited by Abu Rayhan Biruni in his Asar al-baqieh.

Since then, archeological excavations have uncovered miscellaneous inscriptions and documents on parchment and wood from ca. 200-700 CE, and a number of Arabic works containing interlinear glosses in Chorasmian have come

to light. All these texts have now been published, and there are several dictionaries and grammatical descriptions.

The Chorasmian inscriptions are written in the indigenous script descended from Aramaic. They are mainly lists of names and dates, with frequent use of arameograms.

The glosses are written in Arabic script, with several modified letters. Especially those in the Moqaddemat al-adab are often under-pointed or not pointed at all, which makes them hard to interpret.

A description of Chorasmian with bibliography is found in CLI. Dictionaries and glossaries include Benzing (1983) and Samadi (1986).

Tumshuqese
This language, the local name of which may have been Gyazdiya, was spoken on the Northern Silk Road in a local kingdom in the area of Kucha.

It is known from a dozen or so legal documents and a few Buddhist and Manichean manuscript fragments currently in Berlin and London. At least two chronological stages of the language are attested in the texts.

Tumshuqese was written in the Northern Brahmi script. There are no up-to-date descriptions and glossaries of Tumshuqese covering all the published manuscripts and those online at the website of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Iranian director Narges Abyar named honorary professor at Xi’an Jiaotong University

TEHRAN – Iranian director Narges Abyar has been named an honorary professor at Xi’an Jiaotong University in China.

Director of the acclaimed Iranian dramas “Track 143” and “When the Moon Was Full” attended a meeting with a number of theater and film students at the university, answering their questions on various fields of cinema and theater, some Persian news websites announced on Tuesday.

She also held a master class on breaking new ground in filmmaking at the university and visited different departments of the university.

Earlier in July, Abyar was invited by the Chinese ambassador to Tehran, Chang Hua, to China to collaborate on a joint film project about the Silk Road.

The title of honorary professor of the Xi’an Jiaotong University was also conferred upon Iranian cultural activist Hossein Khalifi at the same time.

Recent recipients of the title included Professor Farhad Rachidi, Nobel Prize laureates Martin J. Evans, David J. Gross and Robert C. Richardson.

Abyar’s achievements have also been acknowledged by several other organizations across the world.

The Governor’s House in the Pakistani city of Karachi honored



Director Narges Abyar (L) and cultural activist Hossein Khalifi (R) pose with an unidentified person after being decorated with the title of honorary professor of the Xi’an Jiaotong University.

Abyar with the HUM Women Leaders Award in 2020.

The HUM Women Leaders Award is presented to female achievers from Pakistan and abroad by the HUM Network Limited, a global entertainment and news network, and one of the largest broadcasting

brands with a strong following among the South Asia diaspora around the world.

She has been a jury member for several international film festivals, including the 6th Herat International Women’s Film Festival organized in the Afghan city last November.

Her 2019 drama “When the Moon Was Full” was screened at many international festivals and won awards, including the grand prize of the 2nd Carcassonne International Political Film Festival in France and the audience award at the 23rd Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in Estonia.

Iranian photographers win awards at Global Photographic Union contest

TEHRAN – Iranian photographers Pardis Maaleki and Mardin Ahmadi have been honored with awards at the second edition of the GPU Under 25 Photo Competition.

This contest has been established by the Global Photographic Union (GPU) to offer an encouraging opportunity for young photographers to show and share their creativities and interact in this social opportunity, by connecting with one another from all over the world.

The jury honored Maaleki in the categories Open Color and COVID-19.

Her “Desert” showing a desert scene won the GPU Silver Medal in Open Color, while her “Nurses” depicting two Iranian health workers in a hospital during the pandemic won the same award in the COVID-19 category.

Ahmadi received the GPU Ribbon in the Mobile Photos section for his photo “Remains of Autumn”, which shows a single tree with few yellow leaves in a plain blanketed in snow.

The GPU Gold Medal in Open Color was awarded

to British photographer Lee Walker for “Nail Salon”, in which he has focused on a high jump athlete’s fingernails, which are adorned with colorful nail polish.

Walker also received the Second Best Entry award worth 200 Euros for the photo.

Khoa Nguyen Nguyen Doan from Vietnam won the GPU Bronze Medal for “Net Sewing” in this section.

The Gold Medal of the International Association of Art Photographers (IAAP) in this category went to Mohammed al-Shaaili from Oman for “Care”.

The Third Best Entry ward worth 100 Euros was also given to Al-Shaaili for the photo.

Algerian photographer Akram Menari won the GPU Gold Medal in the COVID-19 category for “My Grandfather and Grandmother”.

This photo, which shows his grandfather nursing his wife who is ill with COVID-19, also won the Best Entry award worth 300 Euros.

“Stay at Home” by Aung Chan Thar from Myanmar won the GPU Bronze Medal in this section.



“Desert” by Pardis Maaleki and “Remains of Autumn” by Mardin Ahmadi won awards at the GPU Under 25 Photo Competition.

In the Mobile Photos category, the GPU Gold Medal went to Sultan Ahmed Niloy from Bangladesh for “Traveler”, which depicts several boats waiting for passengers on the bank of a river.

“A Butcher” by Karim Magdy from Egypt was awarded the GPU Silver Medal, while the GPU Bronze Medal was given to Yousef Tarek from Egypt for “Hard Life”.

“Bandar Band” honored at Batumi Intl. Art-House Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian movie drama “Bandar Band” has been awarded an honorable mention at the Batumi International Art-House Film Festival (BIAFF) in Georgia.

Directed by Manijeh Hekmat, the film is about some Iranian women singers who are going to enter an unofficial competition in a coffee shop in Tehran.

Pregnant Mahla along with the other members of Bandar Band, her husband and one of their closest friends, start their journey to Tehran from a southern province just when they have lost all they had in a flood.

They still keep their hopes alive, although every road they take leads to a dead-end in a flood-stricken land. They intend to go to Tehran, but they wonder if it is just another turn around a vicious circle.

The film, which has been purchased by Canadian distributor Mongrel Media, was named best film at the 26th Kolkata International Film Festival, which took place in the Indian city in January.



“Bandar Band” by Iranian director Manijeh Hekmat.

It also received the NETPAC Award at the 6th Ulju Mountain Film Festival in Ulsan, South Korea in April.

The Batumi International Art-House Film Festival took place in the Georgian city of Batumi and the winners were announced on September 24 as “Bandar Band” was screened in the competition of feature films.

The Grand Prix went to “What Do We See When We Look at the Sky?”, a co-production between Georgia and Germany.

Directed by Alexander Koberidze, this film also was picked as best film by the Georgia film critics jury.

Kornel Mundruczo from Hungary was selected as best director for his film

Leon Trotsky’s “Third International After Lenin” published in Persian

TEHRAN – Ukrainian-Russian Marxist revolutionary Leon Trotsky’s “Third International After Lenin” has been published in Persian.

Talayeye Porsoo is the publisher of the Persian translation by Hushang Omid. The book was first published in 1928.

This is Trotsky’s alternative to Stalin’s course toward gutting the revolutionary program of the Communist International.

“An international communist program is in no case the sum total of national programs or an amalgam of their common features,” Trotsky wrote.

“In the present epoch, to a much larger extent than in the past, the national orientation of the proletariat must and can flow only from a world orientation and not vice versa,” he stated.

Suppressed by Stalin in the Soviet Union, its publication elsewhere in the world helped gather the forces that continued the fight to build a

revolutionary international movement of the working class.

Topics, including “The Program of the International Revolution or a Program of Socialism in One Country?,” “Strategy and Tactics in the Imperialist Epoch” and “Summary and Perspectives of the Chinese Revolution” are discussed in this book.

Trotsky was a communist theorist and agitator, a leader in Russia’s October Revolution in 1917, and later commissar of foreign affairs and of war in the Soviet Union (1917–24).

In the struggle for power following Vladimir llich Lenin’s death, however, Joseph Stalin emerged as victor, while Trotsky was removed from all positions of power and later exiled (1929).

He remained the leader of an anti-Stalinist opposition abroad until his assassination by a Stalinist agent.

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