

Biden Words Aren't Enough on JCPOA

▶ Page 3

Report

U.S. trained Afghan military elites “defect” to Daesh

TEHRAN - In what might be one of the most disastrous outcomes of the anarchic 20 year American occupation of Afghanistan and subsequent chaotic withdrawal; a report suggests former members of the U.S.-trained Afghan intelligence service and elite military units, have joined the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group operating in the country.

For starters, before the American led invasion in 2001 there was no such Takfiri terrorist entity called Daesh in existence. Not in Afghanistan, not in West Asia and nowhere else in the world. Only After the America's so called “war on terror” and subsequent occupation of Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria did terrorist groups with extremely Takfiri ideologies emerge. Such as the al-Qaeda affiliated Nusra Front which chops the heads of civilians in front of the village elders for a living and the much more barbaric Daesh Takfiri group. There is many more of these org organizations but not enough space to name them.

Many have accused the United States and its allies of creating and funding these Takfiri terrorist groups; among those who have made those allegations include former U.S. President Donald Trump who blamed his predecessors. Thanks to Wikileaks which leaked Hillary Clinton's emails, the former U.S. Secretary of State, said “we need to use our diplomatic and more traditional intelligence assets to bring pressure on the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are providing clandestine financial and logistic support to ISIL and other radical Sunni groups in the region.”

What about President Joe Biden himself? He had previously told students at the Harvard Kennedy School “our biggest problem was our allies, the Turks... the Saudis, the Emirates, etc., what were they doing? They were so determined to take down (Syrian President Bashar al Assad) ▶ Page 5

Interview

Ex-player Manafi worries about Persepolis' future

By Farrokh Hesabi

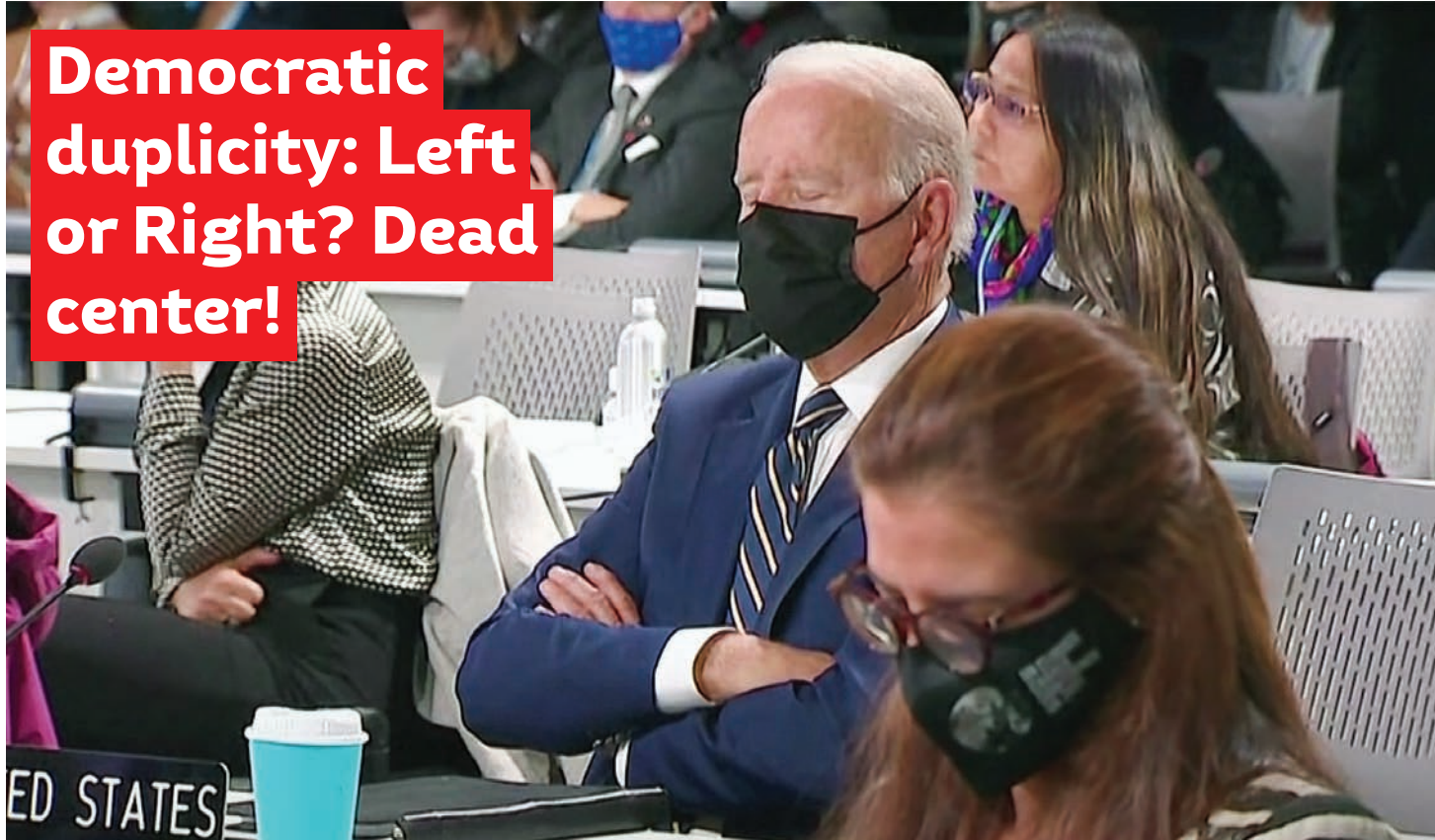
TEHRAN - Former Persepolis and Iran national team football player, Javad Manafi, says Persepolis' loss against Aluminum was one of the worst performances of the Reds in recent years.

Yahya Golmohammadi's side went down 1-0 to Rasoul Khatibi's men in Matchday 3 of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Monday.

Titleholders Persepolis were far away from their best day in Arak's Emam Khomeini Stadium.

“It was clear that condition is not good in Persepolis. Their performance was disappointing. Nobody expects the IPL champions to play like this,” said Manafi in his interview with Tehran Times.

Speaking about the technical issues of the Persepolis- Aluminum match, Manafi said: “In the first half, Persepolis couldn't create even a single goalscoring chance. Persepolis have always been the dominant team in the recent years against any team in the Iranian league. But in this match, we saw Aluminum had possession of the ball most of the time and dominated the game in the best way possible. ▶ Page 3



Democratic duplicity: Left or Right? Dead center!

TEHRAN — In yet another – not so unexpected – eerie move by the 78-year-old U.S. President Joe Biden, he took a power-boosting nap at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

This is a continuation of the numerous strange acts by the U.S. president since he

came to power in January 2021.

Biden, who admitted to being a “gaffe machine” in 2018, has had a handful of weird moments in his 47-year political career, yet it seems that the pressure of being the United States president is getting to him, as he is acting strange on a weekly basis.

During the 2021 UN climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, cameras caught Biden nodding off for a good minute, before one of the White House staffers rushed to “wake him up,” showing some notes to him.

The video immediately went viral in social media, with many American ▶ Page 2

Small-scale power plants' output hits record high of 1,100MW

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC) has said the generation capacity of the country's small-scale power plants reached 1,100 megawatts (MW) during the current year's summer peak consumption period (June 22- September 22), IRNA reported.

“The share of small-scale power plants in the country's electricity generation currently stands at two percent,” Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi wrote in an Instagram post.

We need the output of these power plants during the coming winter and the next year's summer peak period as well, so it is recommended that overhaul operations be conducted for these units in case of necessity, so that they can operate at full capacity during peak consumption periods, he stated.

According to the official, such power plant units have proper economic justification in most parts of the country, especially in underprivileged areas.

At present, Tehran, Isfahan and Mazandaran have the highest number of installed small-scale power plants, Rajabi Mashhadi said.

The official noted that the government is pursuing a plan to make it possible for such power plants to sign contracts with industrial units to sell their generated electricity directly to the customers and get paid accordingly. ▶ Page 4

\$309m of smuggled goods discovered nationwide

TEHRAN – Smuggled goods worth 1.3 trillion rials (nearly \$309 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been seized across the country over the past month, Mohammad Reza Moghimi, the police chief, said on Sunday.

In order to help domestic production, the fight against smuggling is underway continuously through monitoring of goods (origin and destination), implementation of plans, periodic and intermittent inspections of roads, etc. are on the agenda by the anti-trafficking police throughout the country, he explained.

Under the plan, police detectives identified the location of the depot through round-the-clock efforts and specialized actions, Moghimi said.

The smuggled goods, include basic goods, home appliances, electronic equipment, car, and mobile phone ▶ Page 7



Music scholar Vahid Hayati dies at 51

Friends and mourners carry the remains of Iranian music scholar Vahid Hayati during his funeral in the courtyard of the Art Bureau in Tehran on November 2, 2021.

Hayati died of a stroke on Monday at the age of 51. He was working for the Music Department of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

Iranian minister hails investment in tourism

TEHRAN – Iranian tourism minister on Monday hailed further investment in the realm of the travel industry as the Islamic Republic is preparing to jumpstart tourism following months of recession caused by the pandemic.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami stated he welcomes [potential] investors who would in-

vest over one thousand billion tomans (about \$283 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in the tourism sector of the country, IRNA reported.

“I have decided to meet in person with all those who want to invest more than one thousand billion tomans in the field of tourism and do not need government facilities,” Zarghami said on Twitter.

The Islamic Republic has recently opened its doors to fully vaccinated travelers days after the new tourism announced the Iranian “government will soon scrap visa restrictions”.

Zarghami announced on September 19 that the country plans to lift visa restrictions to help the severely hit tourism industry. ▶ Page 6

From Inside

- Iranian FM tests positive for coronavirus P2
- Iran won't accept oversight beyond IAEA safeguards agreements: MP P2
- Deputy interior minister: The world welcoming post-American era P2
- Iran says onus on Biden to provide 'objective guarantees' on JCPOA P3
- Iran has defused sanctions in defense field, minister says P3
- Tehran hosting MINEC 2021 exhibition P4
- Tehran, Bishkek discuss ways of boosting bilateral trade P4
- South Pars platforms annual overhaul completed P4
- Masouleh, Yazd, Shushtar selected as 'paragon cities' P6
- Railway construction puts 7,000-year-old hill at risk: MP P6
- Iran exports medical equipment to 54 countries P7
- Youth unemployment rate rises in summer P7
- Iranian writer's plays with animal characters published P8
- “A Hero”, “Hit the Road” to premiere in Southeastern Asia at Singapore festival P8

Interview

Lebanese believe Riyadh overreacted on Kordahi's remarks: ex-diplomat

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A former Lebanese ambassador to Chile, Poland, and Canada says most of Lebanese people think that Saudi Arabia overreacted when it decided to cut diplomatic ties with Lebanon due to remarks by George Kordahi, who has been appointed as information minister in the new government of Najib Mikati.

“Many people in Lebanon, including those who blame Minister Kordahi for his comments, think that Saudi Arabia overreacted in its decision to break diplomatic relations with Lebanon,” Massoud Maalouf tells the Tehran Times.

Saudi Arabia ordered Lebanon's ambassador to leave the kingdom following what it saw as “insulting” remarks by Kordahi, which had been made before he was minister.

Months before he was appointed as information minister, Kordahi had criticized the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen, calling it “futile”.

“Although Kordahi's comments on Yemen were made as a private citizen before he became a minister, it seems that Saudi Arabia lost its patience with Lebanon,” Maalouf notes.

“When the Saudi authorities expressed their discontent with Kordahi's comments, Saudi adversaries in Lebanon became more emphatic in their support for Kordahi publicly insisting that no apology should be made and harshly criticizing Saudi Arabia in its war on Yemen,” the former ambassador pointed out. ▶ Page 5

P4+1 should be ready for talks based on mutual interests, rights: Iran FM

TEHRAN — In a series of tweets on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian criticized United States' double standards toward Iran while calling on the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal -JCPOA - to be prepared for meaningful talks on the basis of “mutual interests and rights”.

The foreign minister, who has tested positive for COVID-19, sent out two tweets, saying, “The White House calls for negotiations with Iran and claims to be ready to return to the JCPOA. Yet it simultaneously imposes new sanctions on Iranian individuals & entities. We are closely examining Mr. Biden's behavior. The purpose of negotiations is not talking for the sake of talking, but to achieve tangible results on the basis of respect for mutual interests.”

The chief diplomat also said, “The P4+1 should be ready for negotiations based on mutual interests and rights.”

Iran was recently hit by a new rounds of U.S. sanctions, just as it was completing a return to JCPOA revival negotiations in Vienna.

Iran won't accept oversight beyond IAEA safeguards agreement: MP

"JCPOA increased sanctions on Iran"

Democratic duplicity: Left or Right? Dead center!

From page 1 ▶ users resembling it to the way the country is being run at the moment.

"The power-nap is a perfect resemblance of how U.S. is being run. Wake up Sleepy Joe!" an angry American user said on Twitter.

Other users also criticized him, saying that if he is not up for the tough job of being the U.S. president, he should just resign.

Some experts have been questioning the importance of the climate change conference to Biden, saying that he wouldn't have fallen asleep if the meeting was important to him.

The contradictions between Biden's words during his election campaign and after his presidency is now hunting him. He made big promises, but so far, he hasn't been able to fulfill them. He promised to end the war in Middle East, yet, in Yemen, he is spoon-feeding the Saudi coalition in a futile war, and it seems that he is not planning to end it. He said he will return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but so far, he has kept on to the failed legacy of his ill-natured predecessor, Donald Trump, exerting maximum pressure by imposing new sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities.

It seems that there is not much difference between Trump, Biden, Obama, or Bush. The Democrats and Republicans are just some names that the United States establishment is playing with to keep the audience entertained. Democrats are known in the world for their "objection to war," yet the Democrat Obama increased the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to an all-time high.

Biden has followed the footsteps of Trump, with just one difference. His hypocrisy is even worse. While he speaks of "goodwill," he tightens the grip on Iran.

Iran has expressed its desire and willingness to sit down and negotiate diplomatically, and with seriousness, in order to lift all sanctions in an irreversible manner, but the United States, although utters good words, behaves in a way that

makes the return to the Vienna talks all the more complicated. The contradictory words and behaviors of the United States were an issue that the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman touched on Monday, November 1.

When asked about the sanctions, the spokesman said that Iran has never shown any contradictory behavior.

"We did not show any contradictory behavior nor did we say contradictory words, and we always expressed our points as a responsible government, and it does not matter to us in which direction the United States moves in its domestic policy towards Iran until the lifting of unilateral, extraterritorial and illegal sanctions... as the goal of the talks in Vienna," he stated.

Khatibzadeh also pointed out that all the sanctions imposed after the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA are related to the deal and have harmed Iran's interests that must be lifted.

Many experts believe that there is no "left" or "right" in America. There is one establishment, and anyone who rises to power must act within the framework of that establishment.

In an article in Washington Post on September 17, Fareed Zakaria criticized Biden's hypocrisy, saying, "Throughout his election campaign, Biden argued that Trump's withdrawal from that agreement had been a cardinal error and that, as president, he would rejoin it as long as Iran would also move into compliance."

He continued, "As with Iran, the cost of these policies has been paid by ordinary people. One of the cruelest aspects of America's sanctions policy is that it is so readily deployed because it satisfies special interest groups in Washington and is painless to Americans, but inflicts horrific damage on the poorest and most powerless — millions of ordinary Cubans and Iranians — who have no way to protest or respond."

Obama began to relax these policies toward Cuba. Trump reversed the course. Biden has kept in place the Trump policy and actually tightened sanctions."

TEHRAN — The deputy chairman of the Article 90 Committee of the parliament has said Iran will not allow inspection of its nuclear activities by the Atomic Energy Agency beyond the safeguards agreement.

"The interaction between Iran and the Agency must be within the framework of safeguard, and Iran will not accept any obligation beyond safeguards agreement," Seyyed Mahmoud Nabaviyan said in an interview with Mehr news agency published on Monday.

MP Nabaviyan was reacting to the statements of some people that Iran has no choice but to accept the conditions of the West in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) because the economic situation depends on the agreement.

The comments by the MP comes as Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal, are set to resume Vienna talks in the current month with the aim of reviving the pact.

The talks to revitalize the JCPOA began in April and continued until June 20. The talks were suspended due to transition of power in Iran resulting from the June 18 presidential elections.

"Unfortunately, the ideological basis of some people and political currents is that if we do not join hands with Western and American officials and communicate with them, we will not be able to solve our country's problems. These people consider the solution of the country's problems to be dependent on extensive relations with the Westerners and have no belief in relying on our own internal capacities and the expertise of the Iranian elite," Nabaviyan remarked.

He said: "The idea that we should contact the Westerners



to solve the country's problems is completely false, because we must rely on the strength of our young forces and elites to solve the country's problems. Our nation proved during the imposed war that they can solve big problems without the help of other countries. We have also recently shown the world that we are capable of producing Coronavirus vaccines."

The imposed war refers to former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's military attack on Iran in the 1980s.

"Iran has reached nuclear self-sufficiency"

Emphasizing that the Islamic Republic has also achieved self-sufficiency in the nuclear industry, the parliamentary committee deputy chairman said that those who believe that in order to resolve the country's problems, "we should still sit at the negotiating table" and accept the conditions of the West, in the first place it is necessary to answer the question of whether the sanctions and Iran's problems were resolved with the JCPOA.

Nabaviyan noted: "Of course, the defenders of the deal say that the JCPOA was good and

there have been problems since the United States withdrew from it. This is while the United States withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, but the deal was signed in 2015, and before the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA, we did not see any opening, and even at that time, Iran's banking relations with many Western countries were not established."

The MP added: "The increase in sanctions on Iran is not only related to the Trump presidency, and even during the presidency of Obama; we saw the intensification of sanctions on Iran by the United States and the West. Therefore, in no way should we trust the United States and the West again, and we should not tie our country's economy to the JCPOA and the Westerners."

He said everyone knows very well that with the JCPOA, sanctions on Iran were not only not lifted but increased, but despite the promise of the West, some people inside the country still believe that "we must still accept the conditions of the West."

Through the JCPOA the Westerners sought to "weaken

our nuclear industry," and many of Iran's nuclear activities ceased, but ultimately, they did not lift sanctions on Iran, he pointed out.

The vocal MP also said one of the conditions of the Westerners is to undermine Iran's influence in the region.

"The Westerners are looking to negotiate on regional issues and their goal is for the Islamic Republic of Iran to leave the region and is confined only within its own borders. This is while the United States has brought its military to the Persian Gulf, so we should not be confined to our own borders. The reason why the enemies cannot make Iran insecure is that we have expanded our borders and now the Iranian borders have extended to Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq."

Nabaviyan stressed that another condition by the West is to negotiate on Iran's defensive missile program.

"They want to take missile power from Iran so that we have no means to defend ourselves in the event of an enemy attack. If we accept the Westerners' conditions for negotiating regional issues and missile issues, we have practically surrendered to the Westerners and the United States, and we should not accept these conditions."

He added: "Our problems are not only related to sanctions, but our main problem is lack of attention to domestic production and imports. The problems of domestic producers must be solved. For example, when we can produce high quality home appliances ourselves, why is it necessary for foreign home appliances to enter our country? Improper import of foreign goods to our country must be stopped."

Deputy interior minister: The world welcoming post-American era

TEHRAN — The Iranian deputy interior minister for political affairs said on Tuesday that the oppressive measures by the United States have become unbearable in recent decades, noting such policies have caused most people in the world to welcome the "post-American world".

Speaking at conference on the decline of the United States held in the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, Mohammad Baqer Khorramshad gave explanations why people in the world today are talking about "post-American world".

Such a term was not used over the past 20 years, Tasnim quoted Khorramshad as saying.

"To what extent is the prevalence of the term 'post-America' related to the emergence of a new rival such as China?" The prevalence of this gap in this country and the emergence of a deep division in the American society and a political crisis such as the recent U.S. elections or the expulsion of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and the failure of the U.S. in Africa have contributed to the post-U.S. emergence," explained Khorramshad, also a professor of political science.

The deputy minister added: "Due to American pressure, the

economic situation of the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and Iran has been put under pressure. The imposition of multi-year sanctions on Iran is an oppression perpetrated by the United States against the people of our country."

Despite long years of nuclear negotiations, the led to the conclusion of the 2015 nuclear deal, the United States reneged on its commitments under the agreement and imposed more sanctions on the Iranian nation, he stated.

The deputy interior minister for political affairs said, "Americans should be afraid of the storm of humiliation and embargos of nations against them."

He cited the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani as another great injustice perpetrated by the Americans.

"The resistance and revenge of the Iranian people will be the end of this decades-long battle between Iran and the United States," he predicted.

Khorramshad added: "The time has come for the Americans to accept Iran as a regional superpower and to live up to their commitments, just as the other side, Iran, has lived up to its commitments."

Iranian FM tests positive for coronavirus

TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said late on Monday that Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has tested positive for

COVID-19. Upon advice by physicians the minister is quarantined at his house and is performing his day-to-day tasks at home, as his general

health is currently fine, Khatibzadeh said. However, some of the visits that were on the minister's agenda will change, the spokesman added.

Issue	USA (United States of America)	FSA (Federated States of America)
Abortion	In most states abortion is legal but there would be some exception	In all states it becomes illegal.
Healthcare	Affordable Care Act expands, resulting in near-universal healthcare	Many states repeal the ACA but continue expanded Medicaid.
Guns	Private owned Rifle are banned and there would a universal background check requirement.	Private citizens can own any type of gun.
Religious Freedom	The US Congress is still debating the boundaries of religious freedom vs. undue discrimination.	Any private citizen can refuse to hire or provide a person based on religious convictions.
Electoral Collage	The Presidential Election is determined by popular vote.	The Electoral College remains in place.
Presidential Term Limits	No change: the President is limited to 2 terms or 10 years.	As promised to President Trump, an amendment is passed to extend term limit to 3 or 14 years.
Impeachment	Article 2 is revised to add abuse of power and obstruction of justice or congress.	No changes come Article 2 regarding impeachment.

TEHRAN – As Iran and the West move closer to resuming the stalled Vienna nuclear talks, it becomes increasingly clear that Washington needs to unequivocally show its word would be respected in regard to its commitments under a revived nuclear deal with Iran.

After months of back-and-forth diplomacy, Iran finally set a broader date for the resumption of the Vienna talks. The Iranian foreign ministry has recently announced that the next round of nuclear talks between Iran and major world powers over how to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), will begin before the end of November.

During his weekly press briefing on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the exact date for resuming the talks would be announced this week, putting an end to media speculations over the reasons behind Iran's procrastination.

But differences between Iran and the United States are not limited to the starting date of the talks. Over the last few days, another point of contention has come into focus between the two countries: ensuring that the U.S. won't leave the JCPOA again.



Of course, this demand is nothing new. Iran has asked during the past six rounds of talks that the U.S. provide guarantees it won't renege on its commitments again. What's new is U.S. President Joe Biden's apparent effort to assure Iran that he will honor his signature.

In a joint statement with the leaders of France, Germany, and the UK, President Biden said, "We welcome President Biden's clearly demonstrated commitment to return the U.S. to full compliance with the JCPOA and to stay in full compliance, so long as Iran does the same."

This was seen as a pledge by Biden to assure Iran that the U.S. won't withdraw from the JCPOA again. But Biden's opponents at home nullified Biden's messaging even before Iran took note of it.

Senator Ted Cruz, a staunch JCPOA critic, rejected any Biden move to protect the JCPOA beyond his tenure. The senator said Biden had no authority to make commitments with respect to the JCPOA.

"Nope. Joe Biden has ZERO constitutional authority to make that commitment," Cruz said on Twitter. "Unless any deal w/ Iran is ratified by

the Senate as a treaty—which Biden knows will NOT happen—it is a 100% certainty that any future Republican president will tear it up. Again."

Khatibzadeh responded to Senator Cruz by saying that Iran won't take Biden's words seriously unless he offers "objective guarantees" in regard to the continuation of the U.S. participation in the JCPOA.

Cruz and other Iran hawks' statements on the JCPOA will only make it harder for the Biden administration to revive the tattered 2015 nuclear deal. Because Iran will by no means let what former U.S. President Donald Trump did to the JCPOA happen again.

Besides, Biden's declining popularity even among Democrats and independents will also be a complicating factor. Iran is highly unlikely to allow a president who suffers from declining ratings to return to a deal already losing relevance to its economy.

All this puts the onus on Biden to craft a credible policy to revive the JCPOA. And such a policy should begin at home by creating a consensus on preserving the nuclear deal with Iran in case it is resuscitated.

Iran says onus on Biden to provide 'objective guarantees' on JCPOA

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has called on U.S. President Joe Biden to provide concrete guarantees that Washington won't renege on its commitments under a revived nuclear deal with Iran again.

Khatibzadeh's tweet came after President Biden said in a joint statement with the leaders of France, Germany, and the UK that Washington will abide by the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), so long as Iran does the same.

"The current situation underscores the importance of a negotiated solution that provides for the return of Iran and the U.S. to full compliance with the JCPOA and provides the basis for continued diplomatic engagement to resolve remaining points of contention – both our concerns and Iran's. In this spirit, we welcome President Biden's clearly demonstrated commitment to return the U.S. to full compliance with the JCPOA and to stay in full compliance, so long as Iran does the same," the joint statement said.

This part of the statement was widely seen as an attempt by the Biden administration to allay Iran's concerns over a possible U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA in case it is revived. And the apparent pledge of Biden was met with varied reactions in Iran and the U.S.

In Washington, some Iran hawks sought to nullify Biden's perceived pledge by underlining that the U.S. can withdraw from the JCPOA any time, particularly if a Republican president takes the rein in the White House. Senator Ted Cruz went so far as to predict that any future Republican president will rip up the JCPOA again.

"Nope. Joe Biden has ZERO constitutional

authority to make that commitment," Cruz said on Twitter. "Unless any deal w/ Iran is ratified by the Senate as a treaty—which Biden knows will NOT happen—it is a 100% certainty that any future Republican president will tear it up. Again."

"Rogue regime"

Khatibzadeh strongly reacted to Cruz's prediction, describing it as proof of the U.S. being a "rogue regime."

"The world is acutely aware of what Mr. Cruz confesses: that regimes in Washington are rogue," the spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry said on Twitter.

He then called on Biden to provide credible guarantees that Cruz's prediction won't come true.

"Onus is on @POTUS to convince int'l community—incl all JCPOA participants—that his signature means something. For that, 'objective guarantees' needed. No one would accept anything less," Khatibzadeh added.

Earlier on Monday, Khatibzadeh issued a statement in response to the one issued by Biden and the three European signatories to the JCPOA – France, Germany, and the UK – collectively known as the E3.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized at its highest levels that in accordance with the fatwa issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei banning the production and use of nuclear weapons, it will not seek to build nuclear weapons and that these weapons have no place in the country's defense doctrine.

The spokesman added that Iran, as a responsible signatory of the Non-Proliferation

Treaty and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has always cooperated properly with this technical and specialized body within the framework of the Safeguards Agreement and has fully adhered to its obligations, and showed goodwill until one year after the illegal and irresponsible withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA.

Khatibzadeh stated that Iran welcomes the intention of the other parties to fully return to fulfilling their obligations, adding that the criterion for Iran is the action of the other party.

Contrary to its stated policy, the new U.S. administration continues to pursue a policy of maximum pressure that led to new sanctions or the re-imposition of previously lifted sanctions, he stated.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman further emphasized that after the necessary time for the formation of the new Iranian administration and conducting necessary reviews, and after consulting with partners and consultations with the coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission, it was announced that negotiations to remove sanctions will begin before the end of November.

Regarding what was announced in the statement of the leaders of the four countries about the production of enriched uranium metal and high-enriched uranium, Khatibzadeh clarified that contrary to the statement, production of uranium metal and high-enriched uranium, as previously stated, was for peaceful purposes and had civilian uses, including medical use and refueling of Tehran's research reactor.

It should be noted that such positions that do not correspond with reality will not have constructive results, he said.

Iran has defused sanctions in defense field, minister says

TEHRAN — Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani has said many sanctions in the field of defense against Iran have failed due to the implementation of the orders of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and efforts of defense industry experts.

Ashtiani made the remarks in a meeting at the Defense Ministry with members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament on Tuesday, Mehr reported.

"With self-reliance and relying on indigenous capabilities, we are able to produce power; but the requirement for Iran's power and strengthening in all sectors is proportional growth and attention to all components of the economic surge, and we are ready to help the transfer of defense knowledge to different parts," the defense chief stated.

Brigadier General Ashtiani also insisted on his ministry's continued cooperation with the parliament in the new government.

"The interaction between the Defense Ministry and Majlis has developed in different aspects and

since the esteemed representatives, especially the members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Majlis, are concerned about the issue of security and sustainable development, the interactions between the Ministry of Defense and the Majlis are going well," the minister remarked.

The strategy of the Defense Ministry is comprehensive and synergistic interaction with the parliament, Ashtiani added.

The defense minister went on to say that over hundreds of letters have been sent from the Parliament to the Defense Ministry that part of them is directly related to different military branches, including the IRGC, Army, Police and the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

There is an effort to pursue the requests of the parliament from the armed forces, and define a new role for the Defense Ministry, he pointed out.

Ashtiani went on to say that the ministry has a decisive role in promoting the defense power of the armed forces and the deterrence power.

Iran, Kazakhstan hold round table on "dialogue for peace"

TEHRAN— On November 2, 2021, an online round table "Interfaith dialogue for peace and understanding" was held in Tehran.

The event was organized by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Iran with the support of Nursultan Nazarbayev's Center for the Development of Interfaith and Intercivilizational Dialogue, with the active participation of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of Iran and the Iranian Embassy in Kazakhstan.

The round table was attended by the Vice Minister of Information and Social Development S. Egizbayev, Chairman of the Center for Interfaith and intercultural dialogue of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran G. Suleimani, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran A. Orazbay, Ambassador of Iran to Kazakhstan M. Saber, Deputy Mufti of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Kazakhstan E. Ongarov, Deputy

Head of the International Organization of Religious Studies in Qum X. Abdipur, Head of the NJSC "Kazakhstan Institute of Social Development" Rukhani Zhagryu "K. Maigeldinov, Head of the Department for Islamic, Orthodox Christian and Protestant Religions of the Department for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of the IRI Ms. Z. Rashidbeigi and other experts who are of two countries.

Representatives of IRNA, Tehran Times, Iran News, Iran daily, Asia, Iran and other media also took part in this event.

Vice Minister of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan S. Yegizbayev officially opened the round table and officially opened the round table and spoke about the achievements of Kazakhstan over 30 years of independence, including the importance of interreligious dialogue.

SPORTS

Iran's Shahbakhsh into AIBA World Championships semis

TEHRAN – Iranian boxer Danial Shahbakhsh defeated Edgaras Skurdelis in the 2021 AIBA World Boxing Championships on Tuesday.



He defeated the Lithuanian boxer 3-2 in the lightweight.

Shahbakhsh will face Uzbekistan's Abdulmalik Khalokov on Wednesday.

He started the campaign with a 5-0 win over Gambian Musa Cham. Shahbakhsh also defeated Italian Gustavo Rivera in the second round with the same result.

The Iranian beat Kyrgyzstan's Munarbek Seitbek Uulu 5-0 in the quarterfinals.

The gold winners at the showpiece will walk away with a prize money of \$100,000.

The silver medalists are to be given \$50,000, and both bronze-medalists will be awarded \$25,000 each. The total prize purse stands at a whopping \$2.6 million.

The competition is being held in Belgrade, Serbia from Oct. 27 to Nov. 5.

Cast complete for Uzbekistan 2022

TEHRAN – The cast for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 was finalized on Tuesday with the conclusion of Groups D and I.

Vietnam emerged Group I winners after a 1-0 win over Myanmar while Saudi Arabia advanced as the second of the best four runners-up following their 3-0 victory over Bangladesh in Group D.

Thailand (Group J) advanced as the best of the runners-up with Turkmenistan (Group F) third. Tajikistan took the fourth spot by the narrowest of margins, edging Bahrain on yellow cards.

Teams that had already booked their spot in the 16-team Finals as group winners were Qatar (Group A), Islamic Republic of Iran (Group B), Iraq (Group C), Kuwait (Group D), United Arab Emirates (Group E), Jordan (Group F), Australia (Group G), defending champions Korea Republic (Group H), Malaysia (Group I) and Japan (Group K) along with hosts Uzbekistan.

Iran to participate at 2021 Karate World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran will send women and men karate team to the 2021 Karate World Championships in the UAE.

Dubai is set to host the 25th edition of the Championships. The event had been scheduled to be held in 2020 but it was postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Karate's biggest event will be capturing the attention of fans of the sport from November 16 to 21, 2021.

The last edition of the Karate World Championships was held in Madrid (Spain) in 2018. Nearly 1200 athletes from 131 countries took part in the event in a record-breaking tally of participation.

A total of 956 karate athletes from 117 countries are expected to compete in this edition.

Iran U23 forward Barzegar suspends for two matches

TEHRAN – Iran U-23 football team forward Arya Barzegar will have to serve two-match suspension.

The player was sent off in the match against Tajikistan in the 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualification due to the violent conduct.

The Asian Football Confederation has sent a letter to Iran football federation and informed it Barzegar has suspended for two matches.

Mehdi Mahdavia's team qualified for the 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup in Uzbekistan.

Iran beat Saudi Arabia in Qatar handball tournament

TEHRAN – Iran national handball team started the four-team Qatar handball tournament with a 24-16 win over Saudi Arabia.

Iran are scheduled to meet Kuwait on Thursday and meet hosts Qatar on Saturday.

The tournament is being held in Doha from Oct. 31 to Nov. 6.

Iran prepare for the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship which is scheduled to be held from Jan. 18 to 31, 2022 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Iran are leading by Spanish coach Montoya Montoya Fernandez since July.

Ex-player Manafi worried about Persepolis' future

From Page 1 ▶ "Persepolis team are full of talented players, as it should be given that they are Iran's league champions for five consecutive seasons, but they showed lackluster performance against Aluminum.

"Aluminum's coaching staff had analyzed Persepolis, and they knew how to benefit the Reds' weaknesses," he added.

Golmohammadi is now under more pressure to recover and rebuild his side.

"Yahya has more difficult job comparing the previous season. The management's problems are still in the club, and it seems that the situation is getting worse day by day. In such a condition, Golmohammadi must hold his nerve and get the team back on track," he added.

"Persepolis team should be strengthened by signing some new players. They need a playmaker and an international-level striker. Golmohammadi changed both of his forwards in halftime against Aluminum because they didn't do their tactical tasks. However, the main problem was in the midfield, where the midfielders could not create opportunities for the forwards and assist them," the former Iran defender stated.

"In defensive tasks Persepolis have been weak and incoherent as well. They have conceded goals in all of their matches in the new season, while their defensive strength has been one of the keys to their success in recent seasons," Manafi concluded.

Small-scale power plants' output hits record high of 1,100MW



From page 1 ▶ As reported, because small-scale power plants are constructed at the place of consumption (e.g. for factories, etc.) the loss of electricity in the transmission lines is eliminated, and therefore they are of significant

importance in this regard.

Reducing the costs of network development, improving the voltage profile, and strengthening the resilience of the network are other important advantages that the use of such power plants is offering to the country's electricity industry.

Iran's electricity consumption has been increasing sharply in the past few years as the weather is getting hotter in the country and people are using air conditioners more often; So, constructing such power plant units could reduce the pressure imposed on the power grid during the peak consumption period.

Tehran hosting MINEX 2021 exhibition

TEHRAN- The 10th International Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Exhibition and Conference (MINEX 2021) kicked off on Tuesday in Tehran.

As IRNA reported, the opening ceremony of the mentioned exhibition was attended by senior officials from the country's industry and mining sectors, including the deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister and the head of Geological Survey of Iran (GSI).

Some 215 domestic companies along with 35 foreign companies from 22 countries, including Italy, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, China, Russia and Turkey, are participating in this three-day exhibition.

This event is an opportunity for

experts and investors to introduce their potentials and capabilities and to provide the necessary investment opportunities in these areas.

Presenting the achievements of producers as well as the discovery of new export markets are also among the objectives of the exhibition.

The exhibition covers three areas of discovery, mining, and processing in which exhibitors from a variety of areas such as mining equipment and machinery, mining industries, various investor companies, financial institutions, credit, and consulting engineers are participating.

The exhibition is being held under special circumstances and in full compliance with health protocols due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

Angouran Complex's zinc, lead extractions up 19% in H1

TEHRAN - The extraction of zinc and lead ores from Iran's Angouran mining complex reached 562,327 tons in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), registering a 19-percent increase year on year.

As one of the country's major zinc and lead mines, Angouran Complex had produced 473,325 tons of the mentioned minerals in the previous year's first half,

the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade indicate.

The complex's six-month output was 187 percent more than the planned amount (300,000 tons).

Although, the amount of minerals sent to processing plants in the mentioned six-month was 381,721 tons, which shows a 20-percent drop compared to the same period last year in which the figure stood at 477,662 tons.

Export from Isfahan province increases 73% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of export from Isfahan province increased 73 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Karim Salimi, the head of foreign trade office of Isfahan's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that 1.218 million tons of commodities worth \$749.5 million were exported from the province in the said seven-month, indicating a 21-percent rise in terms of weight.

Stating that the goods exported from Isfahan are mainly industrial items, the official named cast iron, iron, steel and the products produced from these metals as the major exported items, followed by petrochemicals, carpets and floorings.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 43 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past



year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded over 98 million tons of non-oil products worth \$54.8 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

According to the IRICA head, the volume of trade in the mentioned period also grew by 16.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year.

The official put the seven-month non-oil exports at 75.2 million tons valued at \$27.1 billion, with a 47-percent rise in value and 15-percent growth in weight.

Mir-Ashrafi mentioned natural gas, methanol, polyethylene, semi-finished iron products, liquid propane, iron ingots, iron rods, urea, copper, and bitumen as

the main exported products in the said time span.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 16.9 million tons worth \$7.7 billion, Iraq with 19.7 million tons worth \$5.5 billion, Turkey with 11 million tons worth \$7.4 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 6.6 million tons worth \$2.6 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.8 million tons worth \$1.1 billion.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 23.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$27.7 billion in the first seven months of the present year, with a 38-percent growth in value and a 21-percent rise in weight year on year.

Mir-Ashrafi named basic goods, machinery, livestock feed inputs, and raw materials for production units as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with 6.9 million tons of goods worth \$8.6 billion was the top exporter

South Pars platforms annual overhaul completed



TEHRAN- Annual overhaul operations for the platforms of Iran's South Pars gas field, which the country shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, have been completed, according to a deputy with South Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC).

Mehdi Tayebi, the deputy director for repair operations at POGC, which is in charge of implementing development phases of the gas field, said overhaul operation of 36 platforms was completed in 136 days, POGC public relations department reported.

According to the official, during the period of overhaul operations more than 100,000 hours of work were carried out without any accident.

Referring to the decrease in the average number of

days for the overhaul of each platform in the current year compared to the previous year, Tayebi said: "The average duration of annual repairs in the previous year was nine days per platform, the figure has decreased to 8.3 days this year."

He underlined the importance of this reduction in production downtime, saying: "By reducing the average number of days of major repairs to 8.3 days, on average each platform will produce about 16.5 million cubic meters of gas and 11,000 barrels of gas condensate more than the previous year."

The overhaul of South Pars gas platforms is carried out in the first half of the year due to the reduction in natural gas demand across the country.

These repairs are aimed at monitoring, troubleshooting, and preparing platforms for safe and stable gas production in the second half of the year.

The operations mostly include inspection of containers, calibration of safety valves, periodic repairs of control and F&G systems (which was not possible at the time of production), inspection and periodic repairs of UPS systems, replacement of process lines, repair of MOV, and ESDV valves and other valves that couldn't be repaired or replaced during the production due to their location in the processing paths.

Pars Oil and Gas Company has taken preventive health measures to deal with the outbreak of coronavirus among its employees working on the

platforms, and fortunately, there has been no case of this disease so far, according to the company's office of public relations.

South Pars Gas field is currently divided into 24 standard phases on the Iranian side and is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

The mentioned gas field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

Tehran, Bishkek discuss ways of boosting bilateral trade

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie met with Kyrgyzstan's ambassador to Tehran Turdakun Sydykov on Tuesday to discuss ways of expanding trade ties between the two countries.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, in this meeting the two sides explored the two countries' trade capacities, while discussing rail, and air transportation problems, and visa issues.

Speaking in the meeting, Sydykov noted that Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to economic cooperation with Iran in various fields, especially in joint ventures, saying that currently, the conditions are right for the activities of foreign investors in both countries.

He further mentioned ICCIMA's great experience in cooperating with the private sectors of other countries, saying: "Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture has good experience in the field of economic relations with different countries and we have also had good relations with Iran Chamber of Commerce."



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Kyrgyzstan's ambassador to Tehran Turdakun Sydykov

"The President of Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to the development of economic cooperation and investment in the energy sector. We invite our Iranian partners to invest in our country's energy and hydropower sectors since Iran has good experience in the construction of hydropower plants," Sydykov said.

The official mentioned some of the previous agreements reached between the two countries and said: "We have also had the experience of cooperating

with Iran; two agreements were signed with the Kyrgyz National Energy Holding Company and the Ministry of Energy, but nothing has been done yet and we are currently working on them."

Elsewhere in the meeting, Shafeie mentioned historical political, trade and cultural ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan and noted that Iran was one of the first countries to recognize Kyrgyzstan's independence.

"Kyrgyzstan has the strongest free economic rules, and this is interesting for Iranian businessmen. We have the least regulation differences with Kyrgyzstan compared to other countries. Kyrgyzstan is rich in natural resources and is highly attractive in the agriculture and mining sectors. It is also one of the richest countries in terms of water resources. This capacity is important for water-scarce countries such as Iran, and it is a good place for extraterrestrial cultivation," Shafeie said.

"Iran's mining industry is well-developed, and Kyrgyzstan has good gold mines, which could be a proper ground for cooperation," he added.

TEDPIX climbs 14,600 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 14,665 points to 1.376 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 4.324 billion securities worth 33.564 trillion rials (about \$799 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 15,444 points, and the second market's index gained 14,751 points.

TEDPIX lost 43,000 points, or three percent, to 1.393 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, National Iranian Copper Industries Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Iran Khodro, and Sabzevar Pars Steel Complex, and Arian Chimia Tech Industrial Group were the most widely followed ones.

Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi hosted a meeting with the representatives of over 30 major companies active in the capital market on Monday to exchange ideas for resolving issues and developing the



economy.

Speaking in the meeting, Khandouzi said his ministry plans to make the economy more predictable and eliminate pricing systems that are harmful to the capital market and the stock exchange industry, Mehr News Agency reported.

The official noted that the government will follow new strategies to compensate for the budget deficit by making government assets more productive and also by selling surplus properties.

"The task of the Economy Ministry and the Securities and Exchange Organization is to develop tools and institutions in order to create a transparent, efficient, and predictable market," Khandouzi stated.

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

Saudi Arabia ordered Lebanon's ambassador to leave the kingdom following what it saw as "insulting" comments by Kordahi. What are the roots of such a decision? Is it comprehensible that critique result to such a political crisis?

Saudi Arabia's concerns have been mounting for some time about Lebanon's handling of a variety of matters and it appears that Mr. Kordahi's comments on the war in Yemen, made before he was appointed a minister in the government, were the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back". The Saudi statement announcing the severance of relations with Lebanon clearly noted those grievances:

- That the Lebanese government did not take any measures to stop the export of illegal drugs to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia blamed this lack of action on Hezbollah alleging that Hezbollah controls all exit and entry points into/out of Lebanon.

- That Lebanon was not cooperating with the Saudi Arabia in extraditing those involved in the drug smuggling alleging that the Lebanese government's major decisions are under the control of Hezbollah.

Do you think it is acceptable to demand the dismissal of a minister in a foreign country because of his previous remarks? According to political protocols, they can call for an apology.

Many people in Lebanon, including those who blame Minister Kordahi for his comments, think that Saudi Arabia overreacted in its decision to break diplomatic relations with Lebanon. Although Kordahi's comments on Yemen were made as a private citizen before he became a minister, it seems that Saudi Arabia lost its patience with Lebanon. When the Saudi authorities expressed their discontent with Kordahi's comments, Saudi adversaries in Lebanon became more emphatic in their support for Kordahi publicly insisting that no apology should be made and harshly criticizing Saudi Arabia in its war on Yemen.

Personally, it is my opinion that Kordahi's comments about Yemen were made as a private citizen and did not warrant a diplomatic breakup between Saudi Arabia and



Lebanese believe Riyadh overreacted on Kordahi's remarks: ex-diplomat

Lebanon.

Some political observers claim that the Lebanese government is the result of an American-French consensus to the exclusion of Saudi Arabia. Do you think that the Saudis are trying to pressure the new government?

In fact, many more observers think that the Mikati-led Lebanese government was the result of a French-Iranian agreement. Their assessment is based on a phone conversation between French President Macron and Iranian President Raisi a few days before the formation of the Mikati-led government. Although neither Iran nor France has confirmed the existence of such an agreement, it is likely that Saudi Arabia was upset with the fact that the new Mikati-led Lebanese government required the approval and intensive participation of Hezbollah after more than a year of political haggling between Lebanese factions.

Don't you think that the

pressure by Riyadh may lead to the collapse of government in Lebanon? What factors can help Mikati's government to survive?

Just as the Kordahi comments on Yemen seem to have been "the straw that broke the camel's back" vis a vis the Saudi-Lebanese diplomatic fray, continued Saudi pressure could also be a factor in a potential downfall of the Lebanese government, especially after the recent decision by Saudi Arabia and other (Persian) Gulf nations to no longer have a presence in that market.

"Saudi adversaries in Lebanon became more emphatic in their support for Cordahi publicly insisting that no apology should be made."

However, there are many domestic reasons that could lead to the collapse of the Mikati-led government such as:

- The Lebanese economic situation whereby more than 70% of the Lebanese population is now under the poverty line according to the UN;

- The fact that people have lost their deposits in the banks;

- The widespread of

corruption throughout the government and institutions;

- The inability of the government to implement reforms that could attract foreign assistance;

- The lack of basic necessities such as electricity, gas, medicine and imported products that have become very expensive due to the banking issues and devaluation of the Lebanese pound.

In order to survive, the Mikati-led government will have to address all these problems and more. But some members of the government are insisting on the removal of Judge Bitar before they would agree to attend ministerial meetings.

Judge Bitar is in charge of investigating the 4 August 2020 massive Beirut port explosion. Thus, the Lebanese government is incapable of reaching any solutions to the current problems under the current circumstances with the local population facing the brunt of this inaction.

How can the Lebanese government strike a balance in its ties with regional powers that are at odds with each other?

Striking a balance with the regional political situation is extremely difficult, frankly. Lebanon is always under the influence of the regional powers. It is not only that these powers have interests in Lebanon, but it is a fact that different Lebanese factions seek the support of regional powers in order to promote their own domestic agendas. During the Nasser era, some Lebanese wanted to join the United Arab Republic and unite with it while some others wanted an independent Lebanon. This led to a civil war in 1958. During the early seventies, some Lebanese joined forces with the PLO while others refused and a 15 year war started in 1975. In the current period, some Lebanese are pro-Iranian while others are pro-Saudi Arabia and it will be very difficult for the government to strike a real balance in its ties with regional powers when these powers do not get along. This has been the fate of Lebanon since its independence and nothing shows that things will change in the near future. This is the fate of relatively small countries when they are surrounded by powers competing with each other.

(The views expressed in this interview do not necessarily reflect those of the Tehran Times.)

U.S. trained Afghan military elites "defect" to Daesh



From page 1 ► and essentially have a proxy Sunni-Shia war, what did they do? They poured hundreds of millions of dollars and tens, thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against Assad." He added that these policies ended up helping Takfiri militants linked to al-Qaeda and ultimately Daesh.

Countries such as Russia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon and others have long accused the United States of supporting Daesh.

Remember America supported militants against the Soviet Union that went on to form the al-Qaeda terror group, America supported the former Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein who became a monster, the same can be said about militants in Libya, Iraq and Syria. Some analysts say American foreign policy in West Asia has always been a disaster with the creation of terror groups and instability. But the real question is whether this policy is intentional? Surely after decades a country would learn that arming the wrong groups again and again will create a terror; yet that doesn't appear to be the case for America.

So is it really surprising to hear reports that Taliban leaders and former Afghan republic security officials saying the number of U.S. trained defectors joining the Daesh terrorist group is relatively small, but growing. And that more crucially, these new recruits bring to Daesh vital expertise in intelligence-gathering and warfare techniques, potentially strengthening the extremist organization's ability to contest Taliban supremacy. Or to put it more simply carry on the instability, violence and terror in Afghanistan. Continue the status quo before the U.S. withdrew.

After all, trillions of dollars have been spent on this occupation so why would America want to see stability or security in the country. If it did, Washington would not have led the invasion in the first place 20 years ago with the aim of causing sedition in West Asia and surrounding the Islamic Republic of Iran by invading Iraq as well.

In Syria and Iraq some groups began as al-Qaeda terrorists, then rebranded their names (or were ordered to do so) to get funding and weapons; then changed their names again, such as the Nusra Front for example. But they never changed their ideology. And if you ask any military expert; they will tell you defeating a terrorist group on the battlefield is just part of the solution. You have to defeat the ideology and that is something that cannot be achieved by guns.

Do you really invade and occupy an entire country to take out Osama Bin Laden, one single terrorist? An individual that could have been killed with a drone strike in Afghanistan; as it turned out he wasn't in Afghanistan in the first place anyway. So much for U.S. intelligence.

What makes this report by the Wall Street Journal more disturbing for the international community is recent comments by the Russian military. Dmitry Shugayev, the chief of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation says the vast amount of advanced U.S. military hardware abandoned in Afghanistan may appear on the black

market, which will create problems for the whole world. He warns "that the Americans have squandered a mammoth amount of money on weapons and other military equipment has become a terrible headache not only for Afghanistan, but for the whole world as well to an extent, because various terrorist organizations are entrenched there. It should not be ruled out that they may lay [their] hands on this arsenal, if they have not done so already"

He also warned that there was a high risk that these weapons might begin to be sold on the illegal market. "In other words, they may surface anywhere in the world. In all likelihood, some very unpleasant surprises may be in store for us. The more so, since the equipment the United States has left behind is a lot more serious than popguns."

Countries such as Russia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon and others have long accused the United States of supporting Daesh.

According to Kazakhstan's President, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the day that the U.S. troops pulled out of Afghanistan, they abandoned \$85 billion worth of sophisticated weapons. Other separate reports had also indicated a similar figure, with some referring to former U.S. president Donald Trump as a source.

According to the Wall Street Journal an Afghan national army officer who commanded the military's weapons and ammunition depot in the southeastern Paktia province, joined Daesh and was killed a week ago in a clash with Taliban forces, according to a former Afghan official who knew him. The former official said several other men he knew all members of the former Afghan republic's intelligence and military, also joined Daesh after the Taliban searched their homes and demanded that they present themselves to the country's new authorities.

The WSJ also reports that a resident in district north of Kabul says his cousin; a former senior member of Afghanistan's Special Forces, disappeared in September and was now part of a Daesh terror cell. Four other members of the Afghan national army that the man knew have enlisted with the terrorists.

Rahmatullah Nabil, a former head of Afghanistan's spy agency, the National Directorate of Security, who left the country shortly before the Taliban takeover says "In some areas, Daesh has become very attractive" to former members of Afghan security and defense forces "who have been left behind." "If there were a resistance, they would have joined the resistance." But he said, "For the time being, Daesh is the only other armed group."

Does that sound close to what the U.S. deep state is trying to implement. Withdraw from the country after 20 years of violence, but leave behind \$85 billion worth of sophisticated weapons, leave behind a security vacuum and leave behind tens of thousands of former soldiers without a payroll and Daesh terrorists with plenty of money to pay them. Then, expand Daesh in Afghanistan and use the group as a proxy to continue the bombing of mosques and other forms of insecurity. And it's not difficult to believe that Daesh ringleaders have always been informed of the plan.

At least 20 killed, 43 injured as two bombings hit Kabul's biggest hospital

TEHRAN - Two suicide blasts and the sound of gunfire erupted Tuesday at the main military hospital in Kabul, in an attack that killed at least 20 people and injured dozens more, a doctor and a Taliban official said.

The doctor at Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan military hospital, Habib Rahman, said at least 20 people had been killed and more than 43 wounded, but added he expected the toll to rise because the first explosion at the entrance also hit many people.

The two back-to-back powerful attacks were reported at the entrance of the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan Hospital, the country's biggest military hospital, in central Kabul's Wazir Akbar Khan area, interior ministry spokesman Qari Saeed Khosty said.

The explosions, followed by indiscriminate gunfire, led to chaos inside and outside the busy hospital, reports quoting eyewitnesses said.

At least 43 had been wounded in the attack until last reports came in. The casualty toll is likely to mount as many have been admitted to hospitals in a critical condition, reports said.

Khosty said the Taliban's special forces had rushed to the scene to secure the area.

Afghanistan's private TV Tolo News, citing an Italian NGO that runs a separate hospital in Kabul, said the hospital had received some ten people with injuries from the blast site.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but according to Kabul-based Bakhtar News Agency, a number of Daesh terrorists had entered the hospital and clashed with security forces.

The hospital had come under terrorist attack in 2017, when gunmen disguising as medical personnel killed at least 30 people.

There have been a series of terrorist attacks across Afghanistan in recent weeks, mostly claimed by the Daesh terrorist group, which is engaged in fierce power rivalry with the Taliban.

Today's attack is the worst since the twin bombings outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul late August, which killed at least 175 people.

Senior Taliban officials have



unequivocally blamed the US for the resurgence of Daesh, which ironically coincided with the botched exit of the US-led coalition forces from Afghanistan mid-August.

The US-led NATO alliance invaded the South Asian country in 2001 under the pretext of 'war on terror', to decimate the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. None of the goals were achieved despite massive investment.

Incidentally, Tuesday's attack came on the anniversary of the deadly attack on Kabul University, which killed scores of students.

Iranian minister hails investment in tourism



From page 1 ► Months of steep recession has taken its toll. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators have faced dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

Last November, Zarghami's predecessor, Ali Asghar Mounesan, said: "Investment in the tourism sector and boosting tourism infrastructure hasn't stopped despite the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country. . . Over the past years, a large number of tourism projects have been commenced across the country."

"This volume of investment indicates that investors have high hopes for the future of this industry in the post-coronavirus era and for the next years to come," Mounesan added.

Moreover, the head of the Association of Iranian Hoteliers said last month that 90 percent of Iranian hoteliers and accommodation staff had received the COVID-19 vaccine to date. "The association has set a deadline, which comes to an end on October 30, for unvaccinated employees of the chain hotels... when the time limit passes unvaccinated employees may lose jobs," Jamshid

Hamzehzadeh

Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic. Only months into the outbreak, Mounesan, lamented that the number of foreign travelers to Iran was drastically plunged due to the pandemic.

Even before the pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. Some experts believe Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to such a "media war". They, however, consider bright prospects for the tourism sector of the country if it vigorously pursues comprehensive strategies to counter U.S.-led propaganda and strict sanctions, yet does its best to loosen tough travel regulations.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Masouleh, Yazd, Shushtar selected as 'paragon cities'



TEHRAN – The stairs village of Masouleh and the cities of Yazd and Shushtar have been named Iran's "paragon cities" by the international magazine of 2A (Architecture & Art), CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Choosing these cities was due to the way each of them combines design, public space, sustainability, social justice, transportation, and other aspects of city life in order to create a space that willfully addresses every aspect of city life, the report added.

The result and fruit of living in a "Paragon City" are helping its citizens to become more peaceful, less stressed, and, as a result, avoid dissipation of their creative energy, allowing them to live in a more positive, kinder, more loving, and more innovative way, the official website of the magazine has announced.

In such ideal cities, all members of society of all ages can grow and live harmoniously and peacefully.

Paragon city is a major, modern city, one that combines the past with energy and liveliness. Urban design is the way cities are fashioned to best unite the local populations with their surroundings.

Masouleh, the most beautiful stairs village in Iran

The stairs village of Masouleh where roofs and streets become one is located in the middle of green mountains of Gilan, northern Iran. Stairway with a specific architecture, the houses of the village are built on each other and the roof of each house is the courtyard of his upper Neighbor.

Masouleh is estimated to date for a millennium, as the existence of numerous graveyards inner and outside of the village proves its old age.

The combination of such architecture with natural landscapes can be a national and international touristy center and the only way of the inhabitants' living. As all people could directly see the main facade of houses, the local artists and artisans did their best in this part of the building.

According to the Lonely Planet, local and foreign tourists swarm like ants across the village's rooftops and through its narrow passageways during summer.

Yazd, city of wind-catchers

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern

Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors.

Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. The concept of Persian Qanat was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016 as they provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, ba-

zaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Shushtar, home to numerous historical sites

Situated in southwest Iran, Shushtar is home to numerous sites dating from prehistorical times onwards.

The town is also famed for being home to the UNESCO-registered Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, known as a "masterpiece of creative genius". The ensemble comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient watermills powered by human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius the Great, the Achaemenid king.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2009, the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System may testify to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian knowhow. According to UNESCO, the ensemble was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

IranAir operates more flights to Kuwait

TEHRAN – Iran's flag carrier IranAir is projected to operate flights from Shiraz, Mashhad, Ahwaz, and Lar airports to Kuwait International Airport.

IranAir was scheduled to increase the number of direct flights abroad as of November 1, Trend reports citing Fars news agency.

The first flight is scheduled from Shiraz International

Airport with Airbus A319. The flight departs Shiraz each Monday. The return flight is on the same day.

The next flight is scheduled for November 3 from Mashhad International Airport to Kuwait International Airport. Mashhad-Kuwait flights will be on Saturdays and Wednesdays each week.

Ahwaz-Kuwait and Lar-Ku-

wait flights are scheduled for Nov. 5, the report said.

The airline aims to increase flights to Dubai from Bandar Abbas International Airport as well.

In the coronavirus era, all air travelers are required to wear masks, maintain physical distancing and present a required health certificate concerning the COVID-19.

Handicrafts sector creates 650 jobs in Kermanshah

TEHRAN – The handicrafts sector has generated some 650 job opportunities in the western province of Kermanshah during the current Iranian year (started March 21), the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

These jobs have been created through the issuance of workshop permits as well as individual licenses for the local crafters, Hossein Veisi said on Tuesday.

Employment creation has always been on the agenda for the province's cultural heritage department, the official added.

Kalash (lightweight traditional footwear also called Giveh), textile, door locks, musical instruments, woodwork, leatherwork, figurines, and rugs are among the highlights of native handicrafts in Kermanshah.

In late 2017, Marivan, a historical city in Ker-



manshah, officially celebrated being named a world crafts city for Kalash.

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

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year

1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

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

Under the lens of CNN: Iran pavilion among the most 'spectacular' at Expo 2020

TEHRAN – A recent CNN report has selected Iran pavilion as one of the most "spectacular" structures that participating countries have set up at the Expo 2020 Dubai.

The Cable News Network has selected images of 15 pavilions under the title "The most spectacular pavilions at Expo 2020 Dubai", which include pavilions of Iran, the UK, Australia, Pakistan, Russia, Japan, Switzerland, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

"World Expos are among the largest and oldest international events, and countries use the platform to showcase their latest technological innovations and cultural heritage. But often, the biggest attraction is the national pavilions," the report said.

"A series of blue boxes draped in fired clay balls make up the Iran pavilion. Each box showcases different elements of the country's culture,

tradition and handicrafts. Streams of water accompany visitors down walkways and into the pavilion, designed by architects Shift Process Practice."

Travel insiders, crafters, musicians, chefs, and exhibitors from all Iranian provinces take part in a row at the Expo 2020 Dubai, which is currently underway in the UAE.

Visitors to the pavilion are offered to discover epitomes of the ancient land in terms of rituals, cultural heritage, natural and historical destinations, indigenous handicrafts and foods, as well as live performances and workshops.

Iran pavilion also reveals more about medical tourism, novel startups, and off-the-beaten tracks.

Many countries and companies are also looking to the expo - the first major global event open to visitors since



A view of Iran pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai. (PHOTO: Karim Sahib/AFP/Getty Images)

the coronavirus pandemic - to boost trade and investment.

According to organizers, the Expo, an exhibition of culture, technology, and architecture under the banner "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future", is expected to be a demonstration of ingenuity, and a place where global challenges such as climate change, conflict,

and economic growth can be addressed together.

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 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Railway construction puts 7,000-year-old hill at risk: MP

TEHRAN – Damghan's Tepe Hesar, a 7,000-year-old archaeological hill in northcentral Iran, is on the verge of destruction due to the passage of the railway through it, an Iranian parliamentarian has said.

One of the oldest civilizations of Iran, Tepe Hesar, exhibits urbanization, but the railway runs through the heart of this complex, Ali Akbar Alizadeh, who represents Damghan city in Majlis, said on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Plans have been made for the relocation of the railway, but a final decision and a decisive order from the President is needed, he said.

Among the main demands of the people of Damghan and all history lovers is the preservation of this ancient hill, and it is hoped that the government will prevent further destruction of this valuable historical complex as soon as possible, the MP added.

Situated on the southern out-

skirts of Damghan, Tepe Hesar is one of the world's five archaeological hills of the Iron Age, and the hill is also considered as of the oldest prehistorical sites in the Iranian plateau.

Identified in 1880, Tepe Hesar was excavated in 1925 and 1931-1932 when the construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway cuts through the main mound. It was one of the first Chalcolithic and Bronze Age excavations in this area, and the stratigraphy has been very important to date similar sites. In 1976, research was briefly resumed and radiocarbon measures were taken.

The oldest layer, Hesar I, belongs to the Copper Age (Chalcolithic; after 3800 BC); it is about as old as Susa and resembles Sialk III, by which it appears to have been influenced, according to livius.org, a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

Hesar II, which starts in about 3600 BC, is marked by

the appearance of burnished grey pottery and the first objects made of bronze. Among the finds are long-shaped bottles. The next phase, Hesar III, began in about 2800 BC and saw nice metal work and grey pottery similar to Turan Tepe, which is on the other side of the Alborz mountain range. Some three centuries later, when Hesar IIIb ended, a part of the town was violently destroyed. The ruin that is now known as the "Burnt Building", situated in the western part of the hill, is the most recognizable remnant of this catastrophe. Archaeologists have found stone arrowheads and charred battle victims.

After this period, the site was abandoned and there was a hiatus for about five or six centuries. After about 1350 BC, people returned and settled on smaller mounds in the neighborhood of the ancient mound. If the main hill was occupied, those recent layers have eroded.

Iran exports medical equipment to 54 countries

TEHRAN – Iranian companies producing medical equipment export their products to 54 countries across the world, deputy health minister for medical equipment and supplies, has announced.

In the light of the coronavirus pandemic, the domestic knowledge-based companies were at the forefront of the fight by expanding production lines, making us highly independent, IRNA quoted Es'haq Ameri as saying on Tuesday.

In 2018, the National Medical Device Directorate reported that the Iranian medical equipment market was worth \$2.5 billion, 30 percent of which belonged to over 1,000 domestic firms.

On a global scale, 56 percent of

500,000 medical equipment items available in the world market have Iranian versions. In pharmaceuticals, around 70 percent of Iran's \$4.5 billion markets are domestic products and, in 2018, 97 percent of pharmaceuticals consumed in the country were manufactured locally.

In 2018, 67 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to produce drugs in Iran were made locally.

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equip-

ment for health centers across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Pharmaceutical import drops by 91%

The import of pharmaceuticals has declined in Iran by 91 percent, which shows the capability of the country's pharmaceutical industry, Mohammad Reza

Shanehsaz, former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said on October 11.

Today, all medicine used in the treatment of coronavirus are produced by domestic manufacturers, and if we wanted to import all the items, there would be a high exchange rate, he further stated, emphasizing that COVID-19 vaccine development indicates the pharmaceutical industry's capability.

With the support of the domestic pharmaceutical industry, we were able to reduce the total of preferred currencies and other currencies used in the country from \$4.2 billion to \$2.84 billion from 2017 to 2020, he emphasized.

Shanehsaz went on to say that the consumption of foreign exchange in raw materials increased by 2 percent, while medicine import decreased by 31 percent in value.

On a global scale, 56 percent of 500,000 medical equipment items available in the world market have Iranian versions.

Youth unemployment rate rises in summer

TEHRAN – The unemployment rate for people aged 18 to 35 has risen from 15.6 percent in spring to 17.6 percent in summer, according to a report released by the Statistical Center.

The jobless rate among of the same age group reached 31 percent in summer from 27.8 percent in spring, the report added.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men rose from 12.9 percent to 14.6 percent.

Last year, the unemployment rate of people aged 18 to 35 was estimated at 16.7 percent, with 27.9 percent related to women and 14.1 percent related to men.

Joblessness on the rise

The latest employment report released by the Statistical Center reflects the growing trend of unemployment in Iran.

This summer (June 22-September 22), the working population amounted to 62,976,422 people (all people between 15 and 65 years old), which shows that their number has increased by about 709,000 compared to last summer.

However, the active population accounted for 25,900,000 people, whose number has decreased by 0.7 percent compared to last summer.



Among the active population, more than 23.4

million people were employed, which has declined by 0.6 percent compared to last summer, a difference of more than 130,000 employees.

There were 2,496,086 unemployed people in the country during summer, showing an increase of 0.1 percent compared to last summer when the number of unemployed was 2,477,350. So, the unemployment rate has risen from 9.5 to 9.6 percent.

During the spring (March 21- June 21), the

active population was estimated at 25,967,000 people, the unemployed were about 2,291,604 people and the unemployment rate was 8.8 percent. Also, the number of employees was 23,676,000, demonstrating an increase of 713,000 people.

Overall, what has happened shows a decrease in the active population over the last two years.

Iran's unemployment rate has been above 10 percent for the last 10 years, and this rate is estimated to have peaked in 2014, when estimates reached 14 percent, according to Statista website.

Iran's unemployment rate has been above 10 percent for the last 10 years.

In times of a struggling economy, it is typically more difficult to create jobs and introduce people to the labor force.

Traffic-related deaths increased by 9.6% in 6 months

TEHRAN – Traffic-related accidents have claimed the lives of 8,644 Iranians during the first six months of this year (March 21-September 21), which shows an increase of 9.6 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the Legal Medicine Organization.

In other words, an average of 46.5 people a day die in traffic accidents in the country. Of the total casualties of the accidents, 6,946 were men and 1,698 were women, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

In the aforementioned period, the highest casualty rates were re-

lated to provinces of Fars, Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, respectively, and the lowest to Ilam, Qom, and Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad.

Some 159,924 people were injured in traffic accidents and referred to forensic medicine centers, which increased by 9.1 percent compared to the same period last year. Some 117,598 of the wounded were men and 42,326 were women.

Car crashes responsible for 1.3m deaths annually

According to the World Health Organization, every year the lives of approximately 1.3 million people

are cut short as a result of a road traffic crash. Between 20 and 50 million more people suffer non-fatal injuries, with many incurring a disability as a result of their injury.

Road traffic injuries cause considerable economic losses to in-

An average of 46.5 people a day die in traffic accidents in the country.

dividuals, their families, and to nations as a whole. Road traffic crashes cost most countries 3% of their gross domestic product.

More than half of all road traffic deaths are among vulnerable road users including, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists.

Some 93% of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low- and middle-income countries, even though these countries have approximately 60 percent of the world's vehicles.

Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29 years.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Lake Urmia water level keeps rising

The level of water at Lake Urmia is on the rise, as increased by a 1.7 billion cubic meters compared to the previous year, according to the studies conducted by the Lake Urmia restoration program committee.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level (1,274 meters) within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia restoration program's office in West Azarbaijan province, said the lake's level has reached 1,271 meters, adding the figure has increased by 68 centimeters compared to last year, according to the latest survey.

He said that the lake surface area has reached 2,828 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 689 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

روند صعودی تراز دریاچه ارومیه

تراز دریاچه ارومیه روند صعودی به خود گرفته است به طوری که حجم آب دریاچه در مقایسه با سال گذشته یک میلیارد و ۷۰۰ میلیون مترمکعب افزایش یافته است.

دریاچه ارومیه از اواسط دهه ۱۳۸۰ شروع به خشک شدن کرد و بنا بر آمار بین‌المللی تا سال ۲۰۱۵ میلادی حدود ۸۰ درصد از مساحت آن خشک شد.

این دریاچه در قالب طرح‌های احیا قرار است ظرف مدت ۱۰ سال از ۱۳۹۴ به تراز اکولوژیک خود (یکهزار و ۲۷۴ متر) برسد.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی با اشاره به ثبت تراز یکهزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۰ سانتی‌متری طبق آخرین پایش برای دریاچه ارومیه اظهار داشت ارتفاع دریاچه نسبت به سال گذشته ۶۸ سانتی‌متر بیشتر شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه مساحت دریاچه به ۲ هزار و ۸۲۸ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، بیان کرد این رقم نسبت به زمان مشابه سال گذشته ۶۸۹ کیلومتر مربع افزایش نشان می‌دهد.

\$309m of smuggled goods discovered nationwide

From page 1 ► accessories, cosmetics, clothes, along with all kinds of smuggled fuels and petroleum products, IRNA reported.

He went on to say that goods worth 1.3 trillion rials (around \$309 million) have been discovered, while 1,041 vehicles and 6,129 criminals were arrested during the implementation of the plan.

\$20-25 billion of smuggled goods annually

Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, Hassan Norouzi, a member of the Parliament, said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), \$12 billion was smuggled into Iran and \$900 million out of the country, according to the Headquarters for Combating the Smuggling of Commodities and Foreign Exchange.

According to some reports, over ten million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran on a daily basis, adding up to 3.65 billion liters every year. Other reports put the number higher. On December 19, 2018, a government spokesman said every day 11.5 million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran. Ali Adyani, a member of the Iranian Par-



liament's Energy Committee has quoted various sources as putting the figure at 10, 15, and even 20 million liters a day.

Mohammad Hassan Nejad, another member of the committee, says the smuggled fuel amounts to 22 million liters per day. With a 50 cent per liter profit, the total daily income adds up to 400 trillion rials annually or \$3.3 billion, nearly the same as the country's annual development budget.

Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country.

In addition to gasoline smuggling, other fuels such as kerosene and diesel are also smuggled; not in lesser quantities.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan has been implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

Wildfires, deforestation turn 10 UNESCO forests into carbon sources

Forests in at least 10 Unesco world heritage sites have become net sources of carbon since the turn of the millennium due to wildfires, deforestation and global heating, says a new report.

Protected areas such as Yosemite national park in the US, the Greater Blue Mountains area in Australia and the tropical rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia are among the sites that have emitted more carbon than they absorbed since 2001 as a result of human activities, according to research by the World Resources Institute, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Unesco. The analysis found more sites were expected to switch from sinks to sources of carbon in the coming decades.

Unesco sites still represent an enormous carbon bank – comprising a forested area twice the size of Germany, storing the carbon equivalent of Kuwait's recoverable oil reserves. But researchers said they were surprised and disturbed by the findings in the first scientific assessment of greenhouse gases the sites emitted and absorbed.

Tales Carvalho Resende, a Unesco project officer and report co-author said: "What is happening at a world heritage site level is only the tip of the iceberg. Even in what are supposed to be the best and most protected areas, they are currently under pressure from climate change," the Guardian reported.

From Dominica to Malaysia, extreme temperatures, land-clearing for agriculture and wildfires

have driven the increase in emissions at the 10 Unesco sites, which include Rio Plátano Biosphere Reserve in Honduras, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park in Canada and Uvs Nuur Basin in Russia and Mongolia.

Analysis of changes in carbon stores in forests on another 247 sites found 166 were net sinks, with the remaining 81 nearly neutral. Overall, the sites absorbed and stored 190m tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere each year, equivalent to roughly half of the UK's annual emissions from fossil fuels. But the analysis found human pressures on landscapes and the climate crisis were likely to continue to degrade sites, breaking up habitats, making them less resilient and biodiverse.

"One of the things that really got our attention was the impact of wildfires. Some sites flipped into sources because of one or two wildfires that were so intense they represented the annual emissions of many countries in the world," Carvalho Resende said. "It's a vicious cycle. With global warming, you have more fires. With more fires, there's more CO2. More CO2 means temperatures continue to increase."

The report authors said governments should focus on protecting nature to combat the biodiversity and climate crises – echoing a recent call by leading scientists – and also highlighted the importance of protecting indigenous rights to conserving forest ecosystems. At Cop26 in Glasgow, world leaders are expected to announce a commitment to halt and reverse deforestation.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 2

New cases	10,104
New deaths	160
Total cases	5,944,599
Total deaths	126,616
New hospitalized patients	1,344
Patients in critical condition	3,818
Total recovered patients	5,534,667
Diagnostic tests conducted	35,726,294
Doses of vaccine injected	89,255,211



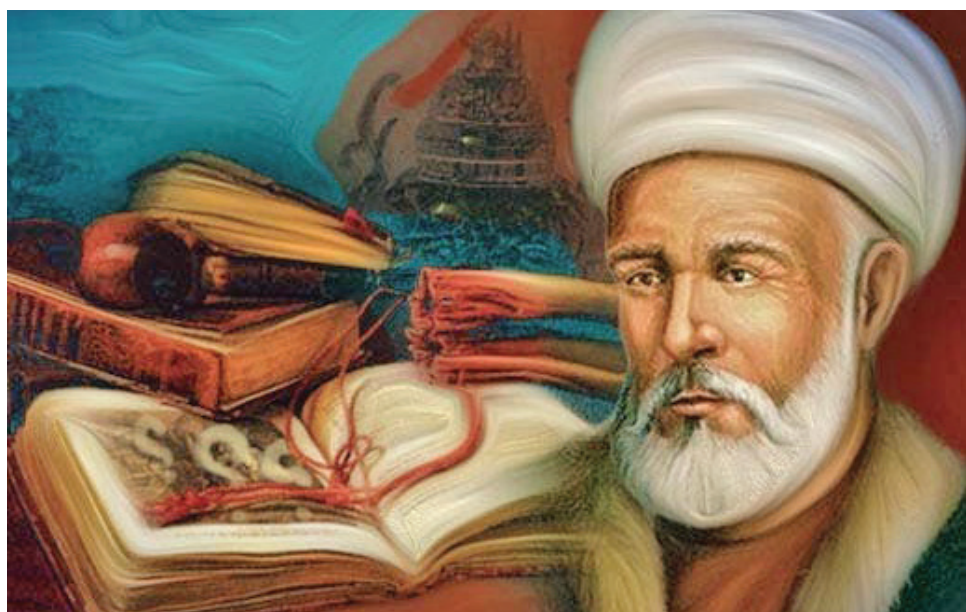
NOVEMBER 3, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Like your body your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:25 Dawn: 5:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:29 (tomorrow)

Persian music history: ca. 650 to 1370 CE



Abu Nasr Farabi described the different tunings of the Iranian instrument *tanbur*.

Part 2

When, in 1220, Bukhara and Samarqand were captured by Genghis Khan, Ferdows was taken over by the Mongol ruler, who is said to have saved the artists of the towns he seized.

During the rule of the Il-khans, the main musical activities shifted west, and the rulers became accustomed to Irano-Arab urban art and court music.

After capturing Baghdad in 1258, the Il-khan Hulegu (Hulagu) Khan (r. 1256-65) saved the life of the eminent musician and writer on music Safi ad-Din Ormavi (d. 1294), who had served al-Mostasem (r. 1242-58), the last Abbasid caliph.

Sams ad-Din Jovayni (d. 1284), Hulegu's saheb-e divan, made his own house a center of musical activities. He not only supported Ormavi, who dedicated to him his second book, *al-Resala al-sarafiya*, but also three of his pupils, Hasan Nai, Ali Setai, and Khajeh Zaytun, as well as other musicians such as Abu Bakr Tawrizi and Yahya Gharib Waseti (b. 1263).

With the exception of Ghazan Khan (r. 1295-1304), most of the Il-khanid rulers were fond of music. Abu Saeid Bahador Khan (r. 1316-35) even took lessons from his favored musician Kamal Tawrizi; he also played the lute and composed songs.

Another musician at his court, who still served under Musa Khan (r. 1336-7), was Nezam ad-Din ibn Hakim (d. ca. 1360), a pupil of Safi-ad-Din Ormavi in the second generation. Several of Ormavi's students had immigrated to places like Mardin, Hamat, Damascus, and Cairo.

Musical instruments

While pointing to the sound of instruments as an indicator of differences in musical taste, Abu Yusuf Kendi mentions that "the Iranians are not moved by the organ as the Indians or the Greeks are not moved by the pandore from Khorasan" (tonbur khorasani).

Long necked lutes (tanabir) were in favor "with the people from Ray, Tabarestan, and Deylam. The Persians prefer the tonbur to most other instruments". The Arabs, who spelled the Persian word *tanbur* as *tanbur*, were ravished by the sound of its two strings whose seven frets were said to match the number of days and planets.

Abu Nasr Farabi (d. 950) described the different tunings of the instrument. The poet Raei (early 8th cent.) called it "harsh-sounding," while in a verse by the Arab poet Du'l-Romma (d. 735) the instrument "raises its voice in intoxication, its melody containing what is foreign to the dialects of the Arabs".

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continue

Iranian writer's plays with animal characters published

TEHRAN – A collection of plays with animal characters penned by Naseh Kamgari for young adults has been published.

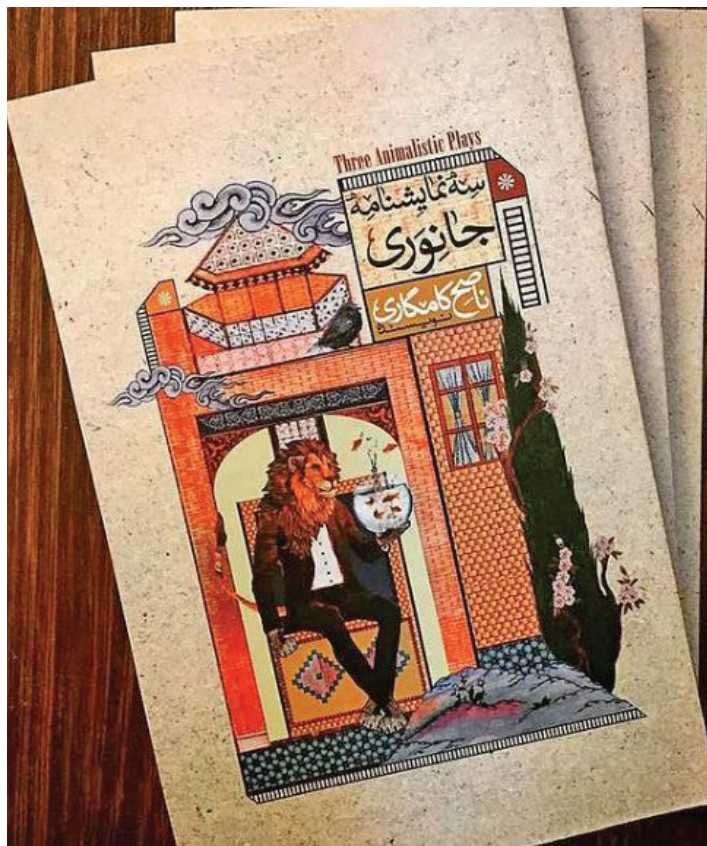
The collection "Three Animalistic Plays" includes the fantasy plays "A Lion That Roared", "The Little Pacifist Sparrow" and "Dew in the Ocean", all featuring elements from comic stories and musicals.

This is Kamgari's fourth collection, coming after his "Three Plays on One Set" published by Yekshanbeh this year.

The poetic language is common to all the plays in "Three Animalistic Plays".

"A Lion That Roared" has been written based on Shel Silverstein's 1963 story "Lafcadio: The Lion Who Shot Back".

This play is about two clowns who have migrated from their homeland traveling in Europe to vend some objects. To portray the story of their own lives, the clowns decide to perform a puppet show about a lion that has left the jungle to live in a sprawling city. Now, the lion has garnered a reputation and honors in the city, however, yet life is not satisfactory for him. The story ends with the lion's return to the



Copies of "Three Animalistic Plays" by Naseh Kamgari.

jungle and restoring his identity and past majesty. But the clowns' problem still remains.

"The Little Pacifist Sparrow" is a satire on some racist and class conflicts between two groups of characters, however, it also features some tragic and sad moments.

In "Dew in the Ocean", a monster and a fish embark on a long journey, during which a love relationship begins between them. The play is about exile and loyalty.

In "Three Animalistic Plays", Kamgari follows the genre of the classic, *Kelileh and Demneh*, which tells stories about animals.

The *Kelileh and Demneh*, also spelled *Kalila and Dimna*, is mainly a translation of an Indian book, *Penchatentra* written in Sanskrit and published some 1500 years ago.

The original translation was done from Sanskrit into Pahlavi (Middle Persian) by Barzueh. Ibn Moghaffaa translated it from Pahlavi to Arabic. Finally, Nasrollah Monshi translated it into Persian from Arabic.

"Three Animalistic Plays" has been published by Dayereye Sefid. Kamgari is also the author of the bestselling "The Ceiling of This Home Is Low".

"A Hero", "Hit the Road" to premiere in Southeastern Asia at Singapore festival

TEHRAN – Iranian movies "A Hero" and "Hit the Road" will have their Southeast Asian premiere at the 32nd Singapore International Film Festival.

"Hit the Road" will be screened in the official competition of the festival, which will take place from November 25 to December 5.

Directed by Panah Panahi, the film begins in the middle of nowhere, where an Iranian family makes a pit stop to bury the kid's phone to avoid surveillance. Through several pit stops and encounters, we explore this family's riotous dynamic and learn where their destination is.

"A Hero", Iran's submission to the 2022 Academy Awards directed by Asghar Farhadi, will be screened in Foreground, a new section that presents some of the cinematic highlights of the year.

Fourteen new works from established auteurs honored at international festivals or critically acclaimed will be reviewed in this category.

"A Hero" follows Rahim, a divorced father serving jail time due to his failure to pay a debt. He takes a two-day leave with great delight. Not only will he get to meet his family and lover, but he also has high hopes of leaving prison thanks to a bag of gold coins that his girlfriend has found. When the coins prove insufficient to negotiate a payment term with his creditor, Rahim decides to find the owner to return them. Little does he expect the ensuing fanfare that earns him widespread respect and a job offer.

But Rahim's optimistic outlook quickly dissipates amid rumors and suspicions of the veracity of his story. Mired in his seemingly harmless half-truths, Rahim has to navigate a moral maze that appears to have no escape.

This year's festival will open with screening "Dreaming", a short directed by Nelson Yeo from Singapore, and "Vengeance Is Mine, All Others Pay Cash", a co-production from Indonesia, Singapore and Germany.



Amir Jadidi acts in a scene from "A Hero" directed by Asghar Farhadi.

"Women Talking" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Canadian writer Miriam Toews' novel "Women Talking" has come to Iranian bookstores.

Avaj is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Somayyeh Jafarnejad.

One evening, eight Mennonite women climb into a hay loft to conduct a secret meeting. For the past two years, each of these women, and more than a hundred other girls in their colony, has been repeatedly violated in the night by demons coming to punish them for their sins.

Now that the women have learned they were in fact drugged and attacked by a group of men from their own community, they are determined to protect themselves and their daughters from future harm.

While the men of the colony are off in the city, attempting



Copies of the Persian translation of Miriam Toews' novel "Women Talking".

to raise enough money to bail out the rapists and bring them home, these women, all illiterate, without any knowledge of the world outside their community and unable even to speak the language of the country they live in, have very little time to make a choice: Should they stay in the only world they've ever known or should they

dare to escape?

Based on real events and told through the "minutes" of the women's all-female symposium, Toews's masterful novel uses wry, politically engaged humor to relate this tale of women claiming their own power to decide.

Toews is a writer of Mennonite descent. She grew up in Steinbach,

Manitoba and has lived in Montreal and London, before settling in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

She studied at the University of Manitoba and the University of King's College in Halifax, and has also worked as a freelance newspaper and radio journalist.

Her non-fiction book "Swing Low: A Life" was a memoir of her father, a victim of lifelong depression. Her 2004 novel "A Complicated Kindness" was her breakthrough work, spending over a year on the Canadian bestseller lists and winning the Governor General's Award for English Fiction.

The novel, about a teenage girl who longs to escape her small Russian Mennonite town and hang out with Lou Reed in the slums of New York City, was also nominated for the Giller Prize and was the winning title in the 2006 edition of Canada Reads.

Story of "Waking Nightmare" from Hello Neighbor game published in Persian



A poster for the Persian translation of Carly Anne West's book "Waking Nightmare".

TEHRAN – "Waking Nightmare" from the second pulse-pounding original story based on the hit video game Hello Neighbor has been

published in Persian.

Written by Carly Anne West, the book was originally published in 2018 by Scholastic Inc.

Rambod Khanlari is the translator of the book released by Saad Publications.

It's been four months since Nicky Roth has seen his best friend and neighbor, Aaron Peterson. Aaron's father, a reclusive theme park designer, told the town that Aaron and his sister Mya are living with a relative far away, but Nicky can't seem to accept it.

Plagued by terrifying nightmares of robotic mannequins, rotting theme parks, and a dark basement, Nicky teams up with his friends from school to find out what really happened to Aaron and Mya.

Together, they start piecing together a picture more disturbing than they could have imagined. The screams coming from the neighbor's house can't be ignored, and Nicky is determined to get to the bottom of where his friends went, and what, if anything, can be done to save them.

The book has been embellished throughout with black-and-white illustrations by Tim Heitz.

"Missing Pieces" is first part of Hello Neighbor. It is about Nicky Roth, who has always been a lonely kid. But that all changes when he and his family move to Raven Brooks and meet their eccentric neighbors, the Petersons.

Nicky befriends the Petersons' son, Aaron, bonding over their talents for tinkering. Soon the boys are inseparable and using their skills to pull pranks on the townspeople. But something about Aaron bothers Nicky – people seem almost afraid of him and his family.

Through snippets from Aaron and a lot of sleuthing in the town's archives, Nicky discovers a dark past haunting his neighbors, a streak of bad luck they can't seem to shake. Aaron thinks that's all behind them now, but Nicky has a feeling the Petersons are fated for another tragedy.

Carly Anne West is the author of the YA novels "The Murrings" and "The Bargaining". She holds an MFA in English and writing from Mills College.