

Western Blackmail Will Get Nowhere

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Report

Blame game after asylum seekers perish at sea

TEHRAN - Soon after at least 27 people, including a number of pregnant women and three children drowned to death trying to cross the Channel in an inflatable dinghy; instead of focusing on the root cause of this problem, British and French leaders have traded accusations on who is to blame for what is the deadliest incident since the current migration crisis to Europe began.

Thirty-four people were reported to have been on the boat when it sank on Wednesday, leading to the International Organization for Migration labelling it as the biggest single loss of life in the Channel since the IOM began collecting data in 2014. Two of the survivors are in intensive care.

The Channel is known to have very strong currents and human traffickers typically overload the dinghies, leaving desperate families barely afloat and at the mercy of the waves as they try to cross from one country to another via the sea. One Afghan refugee says he paid 2,500 euros for a place in a dinghy.

The British prime minister has set out a five-point plan on how to handle the crisis which includes a renewal of calls for France to agree to joint patrols by the two country's police forces along the French side of the Channel coast (this is something Paris has previously rejected citing concerns about the implications for France's national sovereignty)

and denounced France over Wednesday's incident saying it highlighted how efforts by French authorities to patrol their beaches "haven't been enough." ▶ Page 5

Iran FM urges the West to enter Vienna talks with 'new and constructive' approach

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdullahian told European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Friday that the West must enter the Vienna talks with a "new and constructive approach."

Talking to Borrell on the phone, Amir Abdullahian said if the other sides are ready to commit themselves to their obligations under the 2015 nuclear agreement and lift sanction "it will be possible to achieve a good and even immediate agreement."

The telephone call between Amir Abdullahian and the EU's chief diplomat came four days before diplomats from Iran, China, Russia, Germany, Britain and France and the U.S. resume talks in Vienna to explore ways to lift sanctions on Iran.

The United States is participating in the talks indirectly. Iran has said it won't negotiate directly with the U.S. until Washington returns to the JCPOA.

Borrell's deputy Enrique Mora acts as coordinator of the talks in Vienna.

The talks to revive the nuclear deal, officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), will be resumed on Monday after a five-month delay due to the presidential election in Iran in which a new government came to power in Iran.

Talks to restore the JCPOA started in April and six rounds of talks were held until June 20. ▶ Page 2



One year later: Iran emerges stronger

TEHRAN — On November 27, 2020, Israeli spies assassinated a high-profile Iranian nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, thinking it would slow down Iran's progress. Evidence show that the Israelis have got it completely wrong.

The assassination against Mohsen

Fakhrizadeh took place in the Abe-Sard region of Damavand County, about 40 kilometers northeast of Tehran.

The terrorists blasted a pickup - a Nissan sedan - laden with explosives on the way of the car carrying Fakhrizadeh and then started shooting at his car and security guards.

Fars reported that three to four terrorists were killed in the armed clash.

Fakhrizadeh was the only scientist whose name had been mentioned by the former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2018. He said, "Remember the name, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh." ▶ Page 2

Iran-ECO trade grows over 48% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iran's trade with the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) exceeded \$9.233 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22) to register a 48.5 percent increase year on year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

According to Rouhollah Latfi, the volume of

trade with the mentioned countries also increased by 43 percent in comparison to the previous year's same seven months, IRNA reported.

As reported, during the mentioned period Iran traded over 20,327,839 tons of commodities with ECO member countries including Turkey, Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.



Iran plans to develop space industry

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi has highlighted the importance of developing the national space industry, calling on the related organizations to join hands in this regard.

In the first meeting of the Supreme Council of Space on Friday, Raisi emphasized the need for more proper policy-making and drawing a roadmap for the development of the country's space industry, IRIB reported. ▶ Page 7

Mining operations brought to halt near millennia-old petroglyph site

TEHRAN - Mining operations have recently been brought to a halt near Teymareh due to help protect millennia-old petroglyphs, which are scattered across the archaeological site in the Zagros mountain range, central Iran.

"A ban has been enforced on mining activities in the neighboring lands of Tey-

march petroglyph site [which is located in Khomein, Markazi province].... And the legal bar was reached through the efforts of the provincial directorate of the cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts," Khomein's tourism chief Ali Mashhadi announced on Wednesday.

"We will not allow any mine to operate in

the registered and historical areas," he said.

"Violators will be dealt with by the judicial system," the official noted.

The official said that the boundaries and properties of the Teymareh site, which have been registered in its regions of Dash-Darreh and Tangeh-Gharqab so far, spans over 1700 hectares. ▶ Page 6

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Interview

Saudis no longer have impunity to strike Yemen: Yemeni expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A Yemeni political activist says that the Saudis no longer have a free hand to strike civil targets as Yemen retaliates.

"At the beginning of this war Yemen didn't have the retaliatory capability and so the Saudis and their allies had a free hand to hit with impunity schools, hospitals and even funerals gatherings and markets. Now impunity has ended," Munir A. Saeed tells the Tehran Times.

"But the reality is that a big number penetrate and hit the intended Saudi target," the former president of TAWQ, a nonpartisan democratic movement that includes members of various Yemeni political groups, adds.

American officials reiterate at all occasions that Washington is committed to supporting Riyadh against Yemeni missiles and drones. But it seems that Saudi's heavy investment to buy American weapons has proven futile when it comes to intercepting Yemeni low-cost missiles and drones.

Emphasizing that the only viable option for the Saudis is to end the war on Yemen, Saeed notes, "This is why I say that Saudi investment in expensive foreign weapons having not brought desired results for the Saudis."

Following is the text of the interview:

What are the latest developments in Maarib? Do you expect Houthi forces to take over the reins of Maarib?

Maarib is the make or break for all the warring factions. While it might bring an end to the shooting war, it will still have to be followed by intense negotiations to find a workable lasting solution. And that is not going to be easy. Ansarallah (erroneously called Houthi) have an upper hand, not just in Maarib, but in the entire northern part of the country. The only thing that is preventing their complete takeover of Maarib is the Saudi airstrikes in support of the Islah-controlled Hadi group. ▶ Page 5

Foreign Ministry official highlights Iran's transit opportunities

TEHRAN - The Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy said late on Thursday that Iran enjoys transit advantage over neighboring countries, noting that there have been talks about transit of goods from Central Asia and the Caucasus to southern Iran and vice versa.

For example, Mehdi Safari said, the North-South corridor connects Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Oman Sea in southern Iran.

Safari also noted, "Iran's transport minister and the ministers of transport of these countries had talks in this regard and made agreements to activate this corridor and these ▶ Page 2

Iran FM urges the West to enter Vienna talks with ‘new and constructive’ approach

Amir Abdollahian tells EU's Borrell that there must be serious guarantee that U.S. will not quit JCPOA again



From page 1 ► The U.S. abandoned the nuclear deal in May 2018 and returned previous sanctions lifted under the agreement and imposed new ones. The European sides - especially Britain, France and Germany known as E3 - also acted passively in the face of U.S. sanctions and failed to fulfill their commitments based on the JCPOA.

Amir Abdollahian said despite the behavior of the U.S. and three European countries toward the JCPOA “we will enter the Vienna talks with good will and seriousness and seek good and verifiable agreement.”

Iran’s chief diplomat added, “A return to the JCPOA must actually be based on commitment to all its contents and terms.”

Amir Abdollahian went on to say that it is clear that six rounds of talks in Vienna failed to achieve a desirable result in revitalizing the agreement and therefore the Iranian negotiating team pay attention to all issues that must be resolved.

He reiterated Tehran’s position that “there must be serious and enough guarantee that the U.S., which cannot be trusted, will not withdraw the JCPOA again.”

Pointing to the contradictory approach of

the Americans in a way that their words don’t conform with their actions, the foreign minister said, “Since the White House, concurrent with an announcement that it is ready to return to the JCPOA, has slapped sanctions on Iranian individuals and companies in two stages in the recent weeks, all should witness a strong will and serious move for complete cancellation of sanctions.”

For his part, Borrell said he as the coordinator of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA believes that “detailed and intensive” talks should be held on the remaining issues and removal of sanctions. Borrell also said there is a possibility that all sides can return to the “original JCPOA”.

Borrell added, “The only way to lift sanctions is to revive the JCPOA and in that way Iran will gain its rights and the international community will also be assured of the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear program.”

The European chief diplomat also expressed wish that all sides would enter the talks in Vienna with a “strong determination” and “positive and pragmatic” approach and negotiate on unresolved issues and removal of sanctions.

VP: SCO has proven successful in regional cooperation

TEHRAN — First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber said in the 20th Meeting of SCO Council of Prime Ministers held online on Thursday that the bloc was a successful example of strategic regional cooperation and in line with promotion of multilateralism in international arena.

Iran was officially accepted into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on September 17 during the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the organization.

Iran’s membership in this organization, in addition to political achievements, will also offer a wide range of economic opportunities to the Islamic Republic’s businessmen.

Mokhber appreciated the member states for accepting Iran’s request for full membership and said that Iran was ready to complete its membership process in the shortest time possible.

He said that Iran, as a responsible member of the regional and global community, enjoys many capabilities, including sustainable security and stability, rich energy resources, geographical continuity and national integration, extended historical and cultural ties with the SCO member states, and a rich culture that prevents growth of extremism.

The first vice president also referred to Iran’s transportation advantages due to adjacency with the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf in the south which allows the member states to get connected to global markets.

As a policy announced by President Ebrahim Raisi, Mokhber said, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches a lot of importance to strengthening ties with countries in the region, especially to facilitate transportation from China, South Asia and Southeast Asia to Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Russia.

He singled out Afghanistan, saying that without paying attention to security grounds and challenges, the planning for facilitation of investment and expansion of economic cooperation to reach sustainable development and security wouldn’t be possible.

Mokhber mentioned several economic mechanisms devised by the SCO, including Interbank Consortium, Business Council, Development Bank and Energy Club, and said that Iran welcomed all these mechanisms and was ready to activate all its capacity to realize the goals



of the mechanisms.

SCO membership to facilitate Iran’s foreign trade: TPO head

Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Alireza Peyman Pak, stressed on November 14 that Iran should take advantage of this opportunity to develop its economic relations, noting that the country’s diplomatic apparatus can benefit from the conditions of membership in the SCO to reduce tariffs, establish banking relations, and make the best use of transportation, logistics and energy transfer.

“Membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization alone will not ensure development, but creates the conditions for us to expand our relations through bilateral and multilateral treaties,” the official said.

“There is the necessary synergy between the authorities in charge of developing relations with the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and in this regard, a policy council has been formed with the presence of all the mentioned authorities to use treaties such as SCO and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) under the supervision of the High Export Council,” he explained.

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

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance. It is the world’s largest regional organization in geographic scope and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent, 40 percent of the world population, and more than 20 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).

Karaj centrifuge-producing plant is not subject to Safeguards Agreement: Iran

From page 1 ► The comments by Kamalvandi came two days after International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Rafael Grossi visited Tehran for talks with AEOL chief Mohammad Eslami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. The visit took place as Iran and the parties who signed the 2015 nuclear deal are set to resume talks on September 29 to discuss ways to lift illegal sanctions on Iran.

“We produce centrifuges there. They say Iran is producing advanced centrifuges in the Karaj facility. Yes, we do not shy away from this fact,” Kamalvandi said, Press TV reported.

He added, “Thanks God, we are able to produce such centrifuges at a high capacity, and we do not get permission from anyone for this.”

The nuclear spokesman also criticized the IAEA over its prejudiced approach toward Iran’s civilian nuclear program, saying the United Nations’ nuclear agency is under the influence of certain Western countries.

While in Tehran Grossi said he sought common grounds to “deepen mutual cooperation” between the IAEA and Iran, describing the Tehran talks as “very constructive.”

The United States is first and foremost responsible for the situation surrounding the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In May 2018, former U.S. president

Donald Trump quit the nuclear deal and returned sanctions lifted under the pact and added new ones. Trump did this despite the fact that Iran was fully honoring its commitments under the JCPOA.

Trump even introduced a total oil embargo against Iran under his “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

When Trump officially abandoned the JCPOA in May 2018, his top diplomat Mike Pompeo said the U.S. will impose

“the strongest sanctions in history” on Iran. Also in November 2018, John Bolton, who was the White House national security advisor at the time, said, “It’s our intention to squeeze them (Iranians) very hard... until the pips squeak.”

Through this action the U.S. violated UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that has confirmed the JCPOA.

Seeing no action on the part of the European parties to the nuclear pact, Germany, France and Britain (European trio or E3) in particular and the European Union in general, to compensate Iran for the illegal sanctions in May 2019 Iran said its strategic patience is over and started to gradually remove some bans on its nuclear activities in accordance to paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which



has provided “a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.”

Now that the nuclear talks are set to be resumed on Monday after a five-month hiatus due to the June presidential election in Iran in which a new government come to power, officials in Tehran have called on the IAEA to refrain from politicizing technical matters that could derail the talks to revive the JCPOA.

Kamalvandi says Iran does not “get permission from anyone” to produce advanced centrifuges.

“It is a fact that the IAEA has not treated Iran as it should,” Kamalvandi said. “We have been constantly pointing this out and issued warnings.”

Nevertheless, he said, Iran has continued to strive and secure its rights and reveal that the claims by the West that Iran was seeking to produce nuclear weapons are unsubstantiated.

“Of course, they ultimately want to say, ‘because Iran is looking for a nuclear weapon, it must not acquire a nuclear weapon,’” he said, adding that Tehran, despite knowing that the IAEA is under the influence of big powers, will not stop its cooperation with it.

In an escalation just a few days before the resumption of the nuclear

talks in Vienna, the U.S. threatened on Thursday to confront Iran at the IAEA next month if it does not cooperate more with the IAEA.

“If Iran’s non-cooperation is not immediately remedied ... the Board will have no choice but to reconvene in extraordinary session before the end of this year in order to address the crisis,” U.S. chargé d’affaires in Vienna Louis Bono said at an IAEA Board of Governors meeting.

Bono claimed that Iran “has still not provided the necessary cooperation, even after extensive attempts by the [IAEA] director general to develop a constructive relationship with Iran’s new leadership.”

He said the U.S. was “deeply disappointed that Iran refused to take the opportunity presented by (Grossi’s) visit to make progress on the long list of urgent outstanding issues before the Agency.”

On Thursday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh lamented that ahead of the Vienna talks the United States and the European troika “issue bogus statements, add sanctions, conjure distorted narratives and keep mum on Israel’s threats” to launch military strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Khatibzadeh added that Iran has formed “a high-level negotiating team and calls for a quick good deal and full implementation of the JCPOA” based on UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

One year later: Iran emerges stronger

From page 1 ► Experts then inferred this act as a direct threat against Fakhrizadeh’s life.

Israeli media had announced that the plan for the assassination had failed last year. They also claimed that the name of Fakhrizadeh had been released to Israeli spy agency Mossad by the United Nations.

Then Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted, “Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators.”

“Iran calls on int’l community—and especially EU—to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror,” the former foreign minister asserted.

The former head of Israel’s Mossad spy agency gave the most direct acknowledgement on June 10 that the Tel Aviv regime was behind the recent sabotage attacks on Iran’s nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz and assassinating nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

When asked about sabotage in the Natanz facility, the

interviewer asked Yossi Cohen where he’d take them if they could go there, and he said, “to the cellar,” where “the centrifuges used to spin.”

“It doesn’t look like it used to look,” he added.

Cohen was the person who presented Fakhrizadeh’s assassination plan to former U.S. president Donald Trump and former CIA chief Gina Haspel.

A report by the New York Times indicated that Trump personally gave green light to the operation.

Fakhrizadeh’s assassination was not Israel’s sole attempt to shut off or delay Iran’s peaceful nuclear program. In 2021, Israelis launched two cyberattacks on the Natanz enrichment facility, as well as a sabotage attack by a drone on the Tesa centrifuge manufacturing site in Karaj.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOL), who spoke on national TV on November 25, said Iran now possesses 30 kilograms of %20 enriched uranium.

The sabotage attempts have perturbed a majority

of Israeli politicians. Some MPs in Israel have been unsettled over these attempts, saying that the sabotage acts will only strengthen Iran. The division among the Israelis is growing bigger and bigger every day. Some politicians believe that by making such strikes on Iran, Israel will lose the United States, and its regional and European allies and should stop such acts.

Their judgment is based on Iran’s behavior since last year. Since the assassination of Fakhrizadeh, Iran has been able to actively increase its remedial measures, which started in 2019 in response to the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran now possesses institutionalized nuclear knowledge that cannot be stopped by eliminating a person or two. Iran continued advancing its peaceful nuclear program, and it is now stronger than last year. It’s hard for the Israelis to digest the bitter truth, but this is how Iran is.

Raisi to fly to Turkmenistan

TEHRAN— Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi will leave Tehran on Saturday to participate in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Raisi has been invited by Turkmenistan’s President Gurbanguly

Berdimuhamedow, and will head a high-ranking political and economic delegation to Ashgabat.

He will also have bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the ECO summit.

It is expected that Raisi and

Azerbaijan’s leader, Ilham Aliyev would have a meeting to strengthen bilateral relations.

When asked about a possible meeting between President Raisi and Aliyev at his weekly press briefing on November 22, Saeed Khatibzadeh, Iranian Foreign

Ministry spokesman did not rule out the possibility of such meeting.

“The meeting between Mr. Aliyev and Dr. Raisi is normal in this diplomatic framework, but you should ask the President’s Office,” he added.

Foreign Ministry official highlights Iran’s transit opportunities

The ground is prepared to export \$5b technical, engineering services, Mehdi Safari says

From page 1 ► countries can send their goods to other countries through Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman and vice versa.

These countries can export their goods to the desired destinations via various transportation mechanisms, such as trucks, ships and railways.

Referring to a Kyrgyz official’s visit to Iran in this regard, he said that the Kyrgyz official and the accompanying delegation went to the Iranian ports and found a place to store their goods, and soon mutual travels by rail and truck will increase by %50.

30/40 percent increase in export and import to and from Iraq

According to Fars, the deputy foreign minister also spoke about cooperation with the Caucasus countries in the last two months, saying, “Following the problems we had with Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, decisions were made regarding our transportation facilities as well as transportation of export goods through the Caspian Sea and the work is now being done smoothly.”

Safari added that Iranian exports and imports from

neighboring countries, especially in East and the West, have grown very well.

He cited Iraq as an example, saying that the trade level with Iraq has increased by 30 to 40 percent.

“We hope this rate will increase to 70% by the end of the year,” the diplomat added.

The former ambassador to Russia also touched on issues about the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, saying, “We had close cooperation with the Ministries of Agriculture and Industry about the Commonwealth of Independent States countries and delegations negotiated the barriers holding back export due to quarantine and other customs issues. We talked to our counterparts in these two ministries and the problems have been solved and we had an increase in exports to Central Asia, Iraq and Pakistan, during which we saw a 30 to 40 percent increase in exports over the past two months, and we hope our exports to neighboring countries will increase to 50% by the end of the year.”

The current Iranian year will end on March 20, 2022.

He also talked about the country’s capabilities in the

field of exporting technical and engineering services, saying that Iran has held many meetings regarding the export of technical and engineering services, especially with neighboring countries, with particular importance attached to the neighboring countries in West and Central Asia.

The career diplomat said there is a very good atmosphere to achieve this goal.

“We were able to get good projects in the field of dams and roads, steel factories, and so on,” he explained.

The Iranian diplomat noted that in Iraq, new projects were undertaken in the two northern parts of the country in building dams and stadiums.

“Of course, there were obstacles in the field of providing guarantees, which we are trying to remove through the Ministry of Industry and the banks and the central bank. It has been solved to some extent, and for larger projects, we are looking to solve this problem completely,” Safari noted.

He also reminded that Iran’s assessment is to export technical and engineering services up to four and five billion dollars to neighboring and African countries.

Western blackmail will get nowhere

TEHRAN – While Iran makes preparations for achieving a ‘good agreement’ through good faith, the United States and its European allies ramp up their pressures in what seems to be diplomatic blackmail.

The recent visit by the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog chief to Iran appears to have provided Washinton and other European capitals with diplomatic ammunitions to ratchet up their hostile rhetoric against Iran at a time when the heavily-sanctioned country struggles to show goodwill ahead of Vienna talks that are due to be held on November 29.

During his visit to Tehran, Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), met with Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

By his own account, Grossi said he held “very constructive” talks in Tehran, though the talks did not result in an agreement, as was the case with his last two visits to Iran.

But Grossi’s remarks didn’t convince Washington and its European allies to make room for further talks between Iran and the IAEA, though conversations between the two sides were underway even after Grossi left Tehran for Vienna.

Shortly after Grossi’s departure, the U.S., the E3 – France, Germany, and the UK-, and the European Union started to issue threatening statements



against Tehran.

U.S. Special envoy for Iran Rob Malley was among the first to use threatening rhetoric again Iran while the country was busy negotiating with Grossi.

“If they start getting too close, too close for comfort, then of course we will not be prepared to sit idly by,” Malley told National Public Radio. He then appeared to threaten Iran with non-diplomatic efforts.

“If they choose not to go back into the deal, then obviously we’re going to have to see other efforts – diplomatic and otherwise – to try to address Iran’s nuclear ambitions,” he added.

The remarks came on the heels of Malley’s trip to the Persian Gulf Arab states where he appeared to dangle a carrot of “opportunities for regional economic & diplomatic ties” between Iran and some oil-rich Arab states in the Persian Gulf. But the carrot

was brushed aside by Iran. Iranian officials seem to have not taken the U.S. incentive seriously. And now they did prove right given the U.S. rehash of hostile rhetoric and blackmail.

The E3 also jumped on the bandwagon. They delivered a joint statement to the IAEA addressing Iran’s implementation of its nuclear commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In their statement, they took an alarmist approach toward Iran’s nuclear program, accusing it of pursuing nuclear weapons. “Research & Development (R&D) with both natural and enriched uranium metal lack any plausible civilian justification in Iran,” the E3 claimed.

The EU also had its own mild share of pressure on Iran. Following a phone conversation with Amir Abdollahian, EU Foreign Policy chief Josep Borrell

underlined the need for cooperation with the IAEA.

“Spoke to @Amirabdollahian ahead of Vienna talks. More urgent than ever to bring #JCPOA back on track. We have a real possibility ahead, and need to swiftly conclude discussions on all open issues with pragmatism, realism and good faith. Full cooperation with @iaeaorg is key,” Borrell said on Twitter.

The West’s mounting pressures on Iran come when Iran is underlining that a “good” and “swift” agreement is possible. After more than five months, Iran agreed to return to Vienna, notwithstanding Western pressures.

The Americans and Europeans, however, seek to pocket more concessions from Iran despite their non-compliance with the JCPOA. And they want to do so by leveling magnified accusations against Iran. But they will most likely fail as Iran has proven time and again that it does not respond to pressure.

The spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, has summed up the West’s approach to Vienna talks on Twitter, “Ahead of #ViennaTalks, US/E3: – Issue bogus statements – Add sanctions – Conjure distorted narratives – Keep mum on Israel’s threats. Iran: – Forms high-level nego team – Calls for quick good deal & full implementation of JCPOA/2231 – Holds regional consultations.”

Iran chief negotiator calls for removal of all U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN – Iran’s top negotiator in the Vienna talks, due to be held later this month, has called on the United States to remove all the sanctions it imposed on Tehran, warning that not doing so would doom the talks.

Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran who will lead the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, outlined conditions for the talks to succeed. He stressed that any progress on U.S. return to the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), must be preceded by the scrapping of all American sanctions, and a guarantee that a future administration in Washington will not once again renege on the agreement as former U.S. President Donald Trump had done.

In remarks to The Independent, Bagheri Kani complained that the Biden administration was repeating some of the mistakes of its predecessor and continuing with the “failed policy” of “maximum pressure” on Tehran, which has caused “political bewilderment.”

Bagheri Kani told The Independent, “The removal of all JCPOA related sanctions such as the sanctions imposed within the framework of ‘maximum pressure’ campaign is the necessary condition for success of the negotiations.”

“Demanding guarantees from the other party not to exit the deal, not to impose and enforce new sanctions, and not to reinstate and reapply the previous sanctions is aimed at neutralizing the possibility that political chaos in the United States could have an impact on its international behavior.”

The remarks came a few days before the Vienna talks kick off after a five-month hiatus.

The chief Iranian negotiator said the Biden administration is following in the footsteps of its predecessor in terms of clinging to sanctions policy against Iran.

“Regrettably, the failed policy of pursuing the maximum pressure campaign, which began in the Trump administration, remains in the agenda of the Biden administration,” Bagheri Kani said, adding, “President Biden needs to remove the sanctions in order to relieve

himself of what we see as political bewilderment and the pursuit of failed and inhumane policies of the Trump administration.”

While failing to advance talks on the nuclear issue, the Biden administration’s actions on another major foreign policy concern, retreating from Afghanistan, had damaged its credibility in the West Asia region and helped Iran’s relations with countries in the region, Bagheri Kani maintained.

“The U.S. escape from Afghanistan demonstrated yet another instance where the United States is not a reliable partner for anyone. We are in close, constant and intense dialogue with countries of the region”, he said.

Bagheri Kani had also visited a number of other European capitals to talk about the JCPOA. Tehran holds that the European signatories to the deal have not done enough to defend it against U.S. sanctions.

He said, “Europeans should make amends for their non-compliance regarding the JCPOA through implementing practical steps to remove the sanctions. We measure the stances of other countries considering our own interests; and their contact and interaction with the United States is not a matter of discussion for us. A country that has a seat at a negotiating table must be able to pursue independent policies, otherwise, why should it be at the table?”

The Iranians, going into the Vienna talks, have complained about the unconstructive statements and actions coming from the U.S. and its European allies.

The spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, voiced these complaints on Twitter. He said Iran has done a series of constructive measures ahead of Vienna talks but these measures were not reciprocated by the West.

“Ahead of #ViennaTalks, US/E3: – Issue bogus statements – Add sanctions – Conjure distorted narratives – Keep mum on Israel’s threats. Iran: – Forms high-level nego team – Calls for quick good deal & full implementation of JCPOA/2231 – Holds regional consultations,” the spokesman said.

SPORTS

Iran beat Bahrain at 2023 FIBA World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran started the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers with an 82-66 win over debutant Bahrain on Friday in Tehran’s Azadi Hall.



Mohammad Jamshidi led Iran with 21 points, while Ahmed Salman Ramadhan Haji scored 17 points for Bahrain.

Iran will travel to Manama to meet Bahrain three days later in Group D.

Syria and Kazakhstan are also in the group.

The next edition of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 will take place from Aug. 25 to Sept. 10, 2023 in Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines with seven nations from Asia and Oceania qualifying for the 32-country field.

The 2023 FIBA World Cup will serve as qualification for the 2024 Summer Olympics, where the top two teams from each of the Americas and Europe, and the top team from each of Africa, Asia and Oceania, will qualify alongside the tournament’s host France.

Beiranvand wins Guinness record for world’s longest throw

TEHRAN – Iran international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand entered the Guinness Book of World Records on Thursday for “the world’s longest throw”.

The 29-year-old goalie set the record during a FIFA World Cup qualifying match against South Korea at the Azadi stadium on Oct. 11, 2016.

Iran, headed by Carlos Queiroz, qualified for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Beiranvand threw the ball as far as 61 m 26mm.

He currently plays in Portuguese club Boavista on loan from Belgian club Royal Antwerp.

Iran to compete at 2021 Tbilisi World Para Powerlifting

TEHRAN – Iran Para powerlifting team left Tehran on Thursday to compete at the 2021 Tbilisi World Para Powerlifting Championships.

The competition in Tbilisi starts on Saturday, November 27 with a one-day Junior Worlds followed by the World Senior Championships from November 28 to December 6.

China topped the medals tally at Nur-Sultan 2019 with seven golds ahead of Iran and Nigeria with three each.

A total of 475 powerlifters from 72 countries are set to compete in Georgia. This represents a 16 per cent growth compared to Nur-Sultan 2019.

Tbilisi 2021 will see 18 Tokyo Paralympic champions in action, five of them from China.

Iran Team:

Alireza Izadi (56kg), Yousef Yousefi, Mohsen Bakhtiar (59kg), Amir Jafari, Ali Seyfi (65kg), Nader Moradi (72kg), Rouhollah Rostami (80kg), Hamed Solhipour (97kg), Saman Razi, Ali Akbar Gharibshahi (107kg) and Mehdi Sayyadi, Ahmad Aminzadeh (+107kg) will represent Iran in the competition.

Four women lifters to represent Iran at 2021 World Weightlifting

TEHRAN – Four women weightlifters will represent Iran at the 2021 World Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The competition is scheduled to be held from December 7 to 17 December in Tashkent.

Iranian women weightlifters competed in the 2019 World Weightlifting Championships in Pattaya, Thailand for the first time.

Elnaz Bajelani (76kg), Elham Hosseini (81kg), Yekta Jamali (87kg) and Fatemeh Yousefi (+87kg) will represent Iran in the competition.

Iran’s Asaseh takes a bronze at World Taekwondo Women’s Open

TEHRAN – Iran’s Kosar Asaseh won a bronze medal at the first edition of the World Taekwondo Women’s Open Championships.

She was defeated against Czech Republic’s Petra Stolbova in the under-62kg division semifinals.

The World Taekwondo Women’s Open Championships were held from Nov. 25 to 27 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Winning athletes secured 40.0 ranking points with second and third place took 24 and 14.4 ranking points respectively.

Iran’s Rostami seeks a seat at World Para Powerlifting Athlete Liaison

TEHRAN – Iranian Para powerlifter Touhollah Rostami is among the candidates for the Athlete Liaison election at the Tbilisi 2021 World Championships.

The Athlete Liaison will serve a four-year term (2022-2025) on the Sport Technical Committee (STC) liaising between the athletes and the World Para Powerlifting Management Team.

The mission of the Athlete Liaison is to represent the views of the whole Para powerlifting athlete community, including all impairment types, looking for equal gender representation and making sure that athletes’ voices are heard within World Para Powerlifting. Paralympic.org wrote.

The election will take place online from November 26 to December 4 via the World Para Powerlifting Athlete Liaison website.

The four candidates are: Ali Jawad (Great Britain), Sherif Osman (Egypt), Rouhollah Rostami (Iran) and Sedic Roussel Watchou Kouokam (Hungary).

Iran to play Australia at Asian Beach Volleyball Championship final

TEHRAN – Iran A beach volleyball team advanced to the final match of the 2021 Asian Beach Volleyball Championship final on Friday.

Iran A team of Bahman and Abolhassan Khakizadeh defeated Kazakhstan 2-0 (21-12, 21-14) in the competition semi-finals.

Australia also beat Qatar 2-0 (21-16, 21-19) to book a place in the final.

Iran will play Australia in the final match on Saturday, while Qatar meet Kazakhstan in the third-place match.

This championship was scheduled to be held in July 2020 in China, but was postponed twice, until finally approved to be held in Thailand according to the applicable measures of COVID-19 preventive.

Iran, Armenia FMs hold phone talks

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan have held a phone conversation in which they discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues.

They exchanged views on the phone over different issues including bilateral ties, economic cooperation, the Joint Economic Commission of the two countries, the ECO summit, and regional and international developments, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Amir Abdollahian described the Iran-Armenia relations as strong and progressing and called for the expansion of ties in different fields.

He expressed satisfaction with the growing trend in ties between Tehran and Yerevan over the recent months and underlined the importance of expanding cooperation in political, economic and other fields. Iran’s foreign minister declared Iranian companies are ready to boost their activities in Armenia, expressing hope that the Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Armenia will convene as soon as possible.

In the telephone conversation, the top Iranian diplomat underscored the Islamic Republic’s policy to not accept any change in the borders of regional countries. Amir Abdollahian also voiced concern over the recent hostilities in the Caucasus region and urged restraint and respect for the territorial integrity of regional countries.

The Armenian foreign minister also referred to the proposed roadmap in relations between Iran and Armenia which was emphasized during his recent visit to Tehran. Mirzoyan said Yerevan is ready to hold the Joint Economic Commission and expand trade ties with Tehran.

Foreign Minister Mirzoyan appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran’s policy to respect the territorial integrity of countries and described it as important. Mirzoyan stressed Armenia’s resolve to boost relations in all fields with Iran and renewed his invitation to Amir Abdollahian to visit Armenia.

The Armenian foreign ministry also issued a statement on the call, briefly touching on the issues discussed by the two ministers. It

said Amir Abdollahian and Mirzoyan “discussed issues of mutual interest related to regional security.”

The Armenian statement said, “Minister Mirzoyan presented in detail to his counterpart the situation resulting from the recent aggression of the Azerbaijani armed forces against Armenia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. He added that Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia is a serious threat to the efforts aimed at establishing security and stability in the region.”

Mirzoyan highly appreciated Iran’s position on territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of Armenia, according to the statement.

It concluded, “The Foreign Ministers of the two countries also touched upon a number of issues of multifaceted cooperation between Armenia and Iran, expressing readiness to make efforts for further deepening the relations. They emphasized the importance of high-level reciprocal visits. The interlocutors exchanged views on expanding the contacts in the fields of trade, economy, infrastructure and energy. Implementation of directed work aimed at the multilateral agreement on the establishment of the ‘Persian Gulf-Black Sea’ international transport corridor was also emphasized.”

Iran has long called for respect of international borders in the south Caucasus region amid continued border tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Iran also called on the two countries to settle their decades-long disputes through dialogue.

In mid-November, the spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, issued a statement expressing concerns over border clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Khatibzadeh has expressed concern over new military clashes in the border regions of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and called on the two countries to exercise restraint and refrain from expanding and escalating the conflict.

Khatibzadeh stressed the need for countries to respect internationally recognized borders and called on the two sides to resolve their differences through dialog and peaceful means.

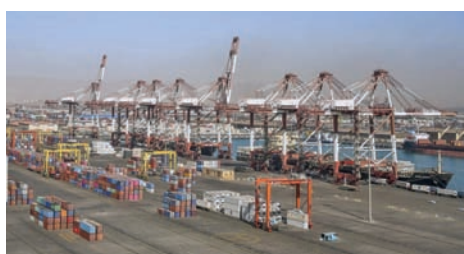
Iran-ECO trade grows over 48% in 7 months yr/yr

From page 1 ► As reported, the Islamic Republic's export to ECO members increased by 58 percent and 60 percent compared to the figures for the previous year in terms of weight and value, respectively.

Meanwhile, the country imported 2,887,222 tons of goods valued at over \$3.302 billion from the ECO member countries, with Turkey, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan being the top sources of imported goods.

The value of Iranian imports from the ECO union also increased by 31 percent compared to the previous year's same time span, the official said.

According to Latifi, more than 23.723 million tons of goods worth \$11.71 billion were traded between Iran and the ECO member countries during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), of which the share of exports was 18.419 million tons of goods worth \$6.890



billion and the share of imports from these countries was 5.312 million tons worth \$4.819 billion.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 43 percent during the first seven months of the current as compared to the same period of time in the past year, Latifi had previously announced.

The Economic Cooperation Organization or ECO is an Asian political and economic inter-governmental organization that was founded in 1985 in Tehran by the leaders of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Iran eyes boosting trade ties with Turkmenistan

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari has said the Islamic Republic is keen on supporting the expansion of trade ties with Turkmenistan.

Safari made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Businessmen operating in Turkmenistan at the place of Iran's embassy in Ashgabat, on Friday, IRNA reported.

Elaborating on economic objectives and programs of President Ebrahim Raisi's administration, Safari noted that President Raisi has prioritized the policy of maximum interaction with neighboring countries and is determined to promote foreign trade, especially in the non-oil sector.

According to the deputy minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with other governmental entities has started com-

pling integrated programs in order to resolve problems and obstacles in the way of foreign trade.

"Fortunately, good efforts have been done in particular in the transportation sector, exporting technical and engineering services as well as export of non-oil products," he said.

Referring to the efforts made to resolve problems with Turkmenistan on gas export, Safari said Iran will back traders of both countries to improve mutual trade.

He further noted that officials of Central Asian states in Tehran underlined the need for expanding economic and trade ties with Iran.

Further in the meeting, the Iranian ambassador to Ashgabat as well as tradesmen participating in the meeting discussed ways to expand economic relations with Turkmenistan.

Export from Bushehr province rises 77% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of export from Bushehr province in the southwest of Iran rose 77 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, according to a provincial official.

Behrouz Qareh-Beygi, the director-general of the customs department of the province, announced that 15.186 million tons of products worth over \$5.418 billion were exported from the province in the seven-month period.

The export also shows seven-percent rise in terms of weight as compared to the same time span of the previous year, he noted.

The official named petrochemicals, gas condensate, minerals, fishery and vegetables as the main exported items and China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Brazil and Qatar as some of the 48 export destinations of these products during the first seven months

of this year.

Qareh-Beygi further announced that 273,000 tons of products worth \$711 million were imported to Bushehr province in the seven-month period, indicating 15 percent rise in terms of value, while seven percent drop in terms of weight.

He mentioned fabrics, restaurant cooking machines, LED modules, parts and spare parts for motorcycles and cars, bananas, tea, rice, pumps and water pumps as the main imported products and China, UAE, Thailand, Germany, the Philippines, India, Turkey and Russia as some of the 36 countries from which the products were imported.

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.

said on November 14.

According to the official, supply and demand should be the only determining factor for setting the price for a share.

"We need to move away from imperative policies so that companies can be profitable in the long-term," he said.

Over the past 15 months, continuous fluctuations in the Iranian stock market have led shareholders, experts, and scholars to believe that the government should not interfere in the stock market, saying the government's pre-ordered and unrealistic pricing of some state-owned shares is the main reason for the capital market's current downward trend.

The government has been claiming that the decisions made for this market are not aimed at interfering in stock exchange transactions or di-

recting the market, but are efforts for reducing the bubble created in the market and to prevent further decline of the stock market index.

Despite the skepticism, after the supportive measures taken by the government, the stock market has been gradually getting back on track and experts believe that the market is regaining people's trust.

Also, in a meeting with the representatives of over 30 major companies active in the capital market, on November 1, to exchange ideas for resolving issues and developing the economy, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan 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.

Permanent exhibition of Iranian knowledge-based products to be held in Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN - A permanent exhibition and export center of Iranian knowledge-based products will be held in Bishkek as a trade center between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, IRNA reported on Thursday.

The exhibition will be held by Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF) as part of a program for supporting the country's knowledge-based companies and startups activities in foreign markets.

The mentioned program is aimed at developing the export market of knowledge-based companies by holding permanent exhibitions in foreign countries and also by helping them participate in prestigious international

exhibitions.

The exhibition is a one-year opportunity for knowledge-based companies to promote their products in the Kyrgyzstan and Eurasian markets, in order to find new customers, use production capacities, establish joint ventures, and receive export services from foreign brokers.

Showcasing the products, marketing of products in Kyrgyzstan, market monitoring and initial price analysis of similar products and pricing consulting, holding meetings and business negotiations with Kyrgyz companies, consulting on obtaining certificates and product standards in



this country, facilitating foreign exchange transfers, consulting the transportation of goods and products to the target country are among the services provided for the companies participating in this one-year exhibition.

Earlier this month, a high-ranking Kyrgyz delegation headed by the country's Economy and Commerce Minister Daniyar Amangeldiev visited Tehran to hold talks with Iranian officials and discuss expanding economic ties.

During his visit to Tehran, Amangeldiev met with Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi.

In the meeting with Khandouzi,

the Kyrgyz minister underlined the need to develop economic and trade relations between the two countries. He pointed to Kyrgyzstan and Iran's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and underlined the union's capacity to develop trade relations between the two countries.

Khandouzi for his part referred to the determination of the Iranian government for developing relations with neighboring countries as well as the countries in the region and emphasized the need to create the necessary facilities to promote and improve the activities of businessmen and traders of the two countries.

Inflation expected to be curbed next fiscal year: PBO head

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Budget and Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) has said considering the recent data provided by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) the inflation is expected to be curbed in the next Iranian calendar year (begins in March 2022).

"No Money creation has taken place in the last three months, and a recent report by the Statistics Center of Iran shows that inflation is declining, these are indications that the inflation could be curbed by the next year," Masoud Mir-Kazemi said on Wednesday.

Referring to the current economic problems, the PBO head stated: "The problem of people today is livelihood, business situation, household income, and inflation, and solving problems in these areas is one of the tasks of the Planning

and Budget Organization. Over the three-month, since the 13th government took office, PBO's priority has been economic stability to restore confidence in the economy."

SCI, in its latest report published on November 23, had put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on October 22, which marks the end of the eighth Iranian calendar month Aban, at 44.4 percent, falling one percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the seventh month.

The entity also put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 35.7 percent in the eighth month of this year, saying that the point-to-point inflation rate has also dropped by 3.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the preceding month.

Vacancy Announcement



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Iran Office is seeking to fill the following vacant position of Program & Administration Officer with good management and communication skills. JICA is an executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), and have been supporting the socio-economic development of Iran. JICA's work is not limited to office work in air-conditioned rooms, but also emphasizes working in the site actively by visiting and exchanging opinions with the counterparts and people. We are looking for a person who has strong motivation to contribute to the people of Iran and for the friendship with Japan.

Position: Program and Administration Officer

Main Responsibilities:

- Managing smooth/productive/efficient communication and coordination with related Ministries/Organizations of government of Iran.
- Managing on-going and future projects in following sectors: Infrastructure, Employment development, Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment Management
- Minimum Required Knowledge and Experience:**
 - Job History: More than 10 years working experience, including more than 5 years Job experience on general administration or project management and operation with government of Iran, or in international organizations in Iran, or in foreign companies in Iran.
 - Working Experience: Experience of coordination with government of Iran
 - Education: Minimum of Undergraduate (Bachelor) Degree
 - Languages: Fluency in both written and spoken Persian and English
 - Other requirements: Must have basic standard PC skills (Microsoft WORD, EXCEL, PowerPoint etc.). Must have good character and cooperate with others. Must be able to handle multiple tasks.

Preferable Knowledge and Experience:

- Master Degree
- Working history with government of Iran is preferable.
- Deep knowledge and analytical skill on internal and international development issues and economics
- General knowledge about JICA and Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) is preferable.

Expected Salary:

Salary will be determined by the experience of the candidates.

How to apply:

All interested applicants should submit following document by Email: ia_oso_rep@jica.go.jp

1. CV in English
2. 1 page Essay in English "Why do you want to work in JICA and How can you contribute to JICA with your experience, knowledge, and skill"

*Title of the Email should be "Application for Vacancy Announcement- Your last and first Name"

Closing Date of CV Submission: **15 December 2021**, ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED
6th Fl., No.114 Kajabadi St., Africa Blvd., Tehran -IRAN www.jica.go.jp/english

TSE's main index drops 1.1% in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 16,000 points (1.1 percent) to 1.394 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said the government is following new strategies to avoid pre-ordered pricing in the stock market in the long term.

"The government's policy, in the long run, is to avoid pre-ordered pricing. This policy has been repeatedly stressed by the president and the government's economic team and has been placed on the government's agenda," Majid Eshqi

Blame game after asylum seekers perish at sea

From page 1 ► Boris Johnson says, “we’ve had difficulties persuading some of our partners, particularly the French, to do things in a way that we think the situation deserves.”

According to Elysee, in an earlier phone call with Johnson, French president Emmanuel Macron stressed “the shared responsibility” of France and the UK, and told Johnson he expected full cooperation and that the situation would not be used “for political purposes.” The French government accuses Britain of a lack of action against traffickers and businesses that employ undocumented refugees.

However, in response to Johnson’s public letter, France has told the British Home Secretary, Priti Patel, she was “no longer invited” to Paris for emergency talks among regional countries to discuss the crisis. Macron has also attacked Johnson saying: “I spoke two days ago with Prime Minister Johnson in a serious way... I am surprised by methods when they are not serious. We do not communicate from one leader to another on these issues by tweets and letters that we make public. We are not whistleblowers.” A French government spokesman then accused Johnson of saying different things in his conversation with Macron and in the letter; adding: “We are sick of double-speak.”

Some analysts say Johnson’s letter was directed more towards his own Conservative party, some of whom have started to question his leadership following a recently strange speech Johnson gave that went viral. The UK insists the letter was sincere and meant for constructive action.

The issue of asylum seekers has been used regularly by leaders, on both sides, for political reasons such as pushing for an anti-migration policy during an election season to win more votes among a public that has seen waves of refugees coming in seeking asylum.

The French interior minister, Gerald Darmanin, called on the UK to coordinate saying “the response must come from Great Britain.” He says 34 people are believed to have been on the rubber dinghy before it sank and it was not clear what country the victims originally came from. Four suspected traffickers have been arrested, two of whom later appeared in court, he said. A local prosecutor says 17 men, seven women and three presumed minors are known to have died. Efforts to identify the victims were underway.



French media reports have cited the mayor of Calais, Natacha Bouchart, as saying it was the British who are to blame and called on Johnson to “face up to his responsibilities.” She has been quoted as saying “the British government is to blame. I believe that Boris Johnson has, for the past year-and-a-half, cynically chosen to blame France.”

The British parliament has held a debate that focused on “the numbers of migrants arriving in the United Kingdom illegally by boat.” Addressing Parliament, the British Home Secretary did not suggest any changes to the British immigration system. Instead, she did not rule out tough new tactics to push the boats back to France.

Refugee charities are calling on the British government to work on saving lives instead by opening safe routes for asylum seekers to apply to come to the UK without taking to the sea. The chief executive of the UK Refugee Council, Enver Solomon said: “How many tragedies like this must we see before the government fundamentally changes its approach.”

“Every day, people are forced to flee their homes through no fault of their own. Now is the time to end the cruel and ineffective tactic of seeking to punish or push away those who try and find safety in our country.”

An emergency search took place at about 2 pm on Wednesday when a fishing boat sounded the alarm after spotting several people at sea off the coast of France. Charles Devos, a regional manager of the lifeboat association in Calais, says that when he arrived on the scene “it was a bit like the film Titanic when you saw all these people plunged into the water, drowning.”

Aid groups say that most refugees who come to Europe remain on the continent, but a minority tries to reach Britain because they speak English.

The number of asylum applications to Britain is relatively small in comparison with the numbers received by countries of similar size in Europe.

The latest deaths follow others reported in the Channel in recent weeks, amid a record number of people attempting the crossing. On 11 November, a total of 1,185 people arrived in England

by boat, the most in a single day. According to official figures, more than 25,700 people have made the dangerous journey to the UK in small boats this year. That is a staggering three times the total for the whole of 2020.

Essentially, nearly three times as many refugees have crossed by sea this year compared with last year. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has called for urgent action, saying an ever-increasing number of people are fleeing increasing poverty in countries such as Afghanistan.

It was widely expected that the number of crossings in the Channel to decrease in the winter. Instead, bigger boats have been used to bring people to the UK in greater numbers.

As the French and the British spar with each other, it’s worthy to note the chaotic U.S. led evacuation from Afghanistan and Washington later freezing the country’s assets has led to an alarming rise in poverty across the country. That in turn triggered a wave of exodus from Afghanistan.

But this is just one “migration” crisis in the longer chain of “migration” crises over the past several decades. Experts say what lies at the heart of these crises is Western powers militarily interfering or invading or occupying countries in West Asia and Africa. When you invade a country; technically there is no right to complain or level accusations for a crisis you initiated. Should the West leave other countries alone, pregnant women will not risk the lives of their unborn babies in a rubber dinghy trying to cross The Channel at the start of the winter season.

The same can be said with Migration caravans from Latin America trying to enter the United States. If there is spare money to invade a country why not invest that in countries where poverty was driven as a result of Western sanctions or war. Maybe that will stem the flow of “migrants” from even thinking about reaching the U.S. or Europe; a land where they are foreigners and get lost. Typically and logically, “migrants” would rather just sit at home, drink the tea of their own choice; if the issue is given real honest reflection.

recover property allegedly confiscated by Nazi German occupiers and retained by post-war communist rulers.

Lapid has called the law “antisemitic and immoral” and recalled Israel’s charge d’affaires to Warsaw for consultations for “an indefinite period of time”. Poland responded by accusing Israel of “baseless and irresponsible” behavior.

Warsaw defends the law, saying it will bolster legal certainty in the property market.

The Holocaust remains a highly sensitive issue among the Poles and has already triggered heated exchanges and diplomatic confrontations between Warsaw and the Tel Aviv regime several times in the past.

(Source: Press TV)

Saudis no longer have impunity to strike Yemen: Yemeni expert

‘Now Yemenis have the ability to retaliate’

From page 1 ► Are you optimistic about the possibility of any compromise between the two sides of the war?

There are more than two sides to this fighting. Internally alone you have 4 sides, Islah, Ansarallah, Hadi group (aka “legitimate government”, but controlled by Islah) and Southern Transitional Council; each with their own militias. Add to that the Saudi-led military intervention and their Western arms suppliers. If the foreign players seriously detach themselves then I am cautiously optimistic about Yemen’s prospects. We may not find the perfect solution but some acceptance of new realities on the ground can lead to pragmatic compromises.

Remember that all of Yemen’s civil wars lasted a few weeks only. The only wars that lasted years are the 1962–1970 with the Saudi-Egyptian military intervention and the current war continuing more than 6 years with the Saudi-led military intervention. The common denominator in both these long wars is foreign involvement.

I believe there are two regional players best positioned to play a leading regional role to bring all Yemeni parties to the table; Iran and the UAE.

Let’s face the reality: as matters stand today Hadi and his so-called “legitimate” government have not only become redundant in the lives of Yemenis but are in fact spoilers for any possible negotiated solution. They have no role in Yemen’s political future and continuing engagement with them only delays serious solutions.

In the end, Yemenis must negotiate a new formula for their country’s political structure that takes into account the needs of all Yemeni regions within a newly devised nation. The old idea of a full merger failed and brought us to this pass. We must think of a new structure.

The reality is that Iran and the UAE have strong relations with and influence on both South and North Yemen and they can play a major role in calling for a roundtable and helping Yemen recover.

Do you think Saudis can counter Yemeni missiles?

A small cost-benefit calculation will show you that Saudi investment in expensive foreign weapons has not brought desired results.

Think about this: it cost Yemen 500 to 3,000 dollars to make and deploy a drone or missile against Saudis. It cost 3 million dollars for the Saudis to defend against an incoming Yemeni drone or missile.

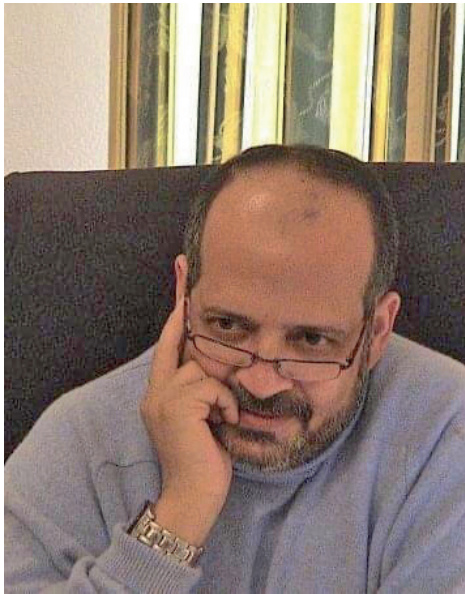
At this rate, even if every Yemeni device is destroyed by Saudis American-made Patriot missiles, it’s still a bargain for Yemen.

But the reality is that a big number penetrate and hit the intended Saudi target. At the beginning of this war, Yemen didn’t have the retaliatory capability and so the Saudis and their allies had a free hand to hit with impunity schools, hospitals and even funeral gatherings and markets. Now impunity has ended.

This is why I say that Saudi investment in expensive foreign weapons has not brought desired results for the Saudis. The only viable option for the Saudis is to end the war on Yemen and allow Yemenis to resolve their own problems.

What are the main advantages of Yemeni forces over the Saudi army?

Yemenis are defending their families and their land. The Saudi army is



attacking with no clear purpose. The mindset, commitment and dedication are incomparable. The results so far prove that.

Besides, Yemenis on the battlefield are used to very little to sustain them. The country is being attacked and it has very limited resources. Its soldiers must rely on booty from the defeated enemy. So, winning one battle is a matter of survival for them to fight the next battle. The amount of American and other Western-made weapons sold in the Yemeni market today are proof of how many Yemeni fighters are captured from the Saudis. Also, the ground battles are fought in Yemeni territory or in territory although controlled by Saudis in fact is Yemeni and in which Yemen has a lot of popular support, like Najran and Jizan.

Moreover, throughout their history of having defeated many foreign invaders and Yemenis’ obstinate militant tradition, they have become not just battle-tested but also soldiers armed and ready.

How do you see the role of the U.S. and Israel in the Saudi-led war on Yemen?

I don’t think we can find solutions by looking at parts of the region isolated or separate from the remaining.

Even if we are able to find a workable formula in Yemen, it is highly unlikely that we will be allowed to exercise full sovereignty over Yemeni territory. And those who will prevent us are players regionally and internationally. Clearly, we all need to rethink the meaning and perimeters of sovereignty in post-Arab wars.

Our regional goal, of course, must be to control our own regional security arrangements. We have three native major powers at play regionally; the Arab world, Iran and Turkey. However, the weak link that incapacitates the regional security arrangement is the Arab side which lacks cohesiveness and the ability to stand up to foreign interference. This is what causes our regional problems and weakness.

Yemen is part of that weak structure. On the one hand, we need stability in our bottleneck waterways; both in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab Al Mandab.

And on the other side, we have the question: who should provide this security? The logical answer is: we must provide it. However, given the weakness of one party to regional security, are we able to be secured and give security? We do not want the U.S. and the Zionist regime to interfere with our region or its security arrangements. But, are we able to stop them from imposing a fait accompli on us?

Poland downgrades ties with Israel amid tensions over restitution law

Poland has downgraded its diplomatic relation with Israel, saying it has no plans to appoint a new ambassador to the occupied territories, amid tensions over a Polish legislation that sets a limit for restitution claims for properties allegedly seized during World War II.

Last August, Poland’s Foreign Ministry recalled its ambassador to the Israeli-occupied territories, Marek Magierowski.

The ministry decided that its envoy, who was in his home country on vacation, was not to return to Tel Aviv in response to “unjustified actions” of Israel, including the unfounded decision to lower the level of diplomatic relations to the charge d’affaires level and



“unacceptable statements” by the regime’s minister of foreign affairs Yair Lapid.

Magierowski has since been appointed as ambassador to Washington.

Ministry spokesman Lukasz Jasina told The Associated Press on Thursday that “there are no plans at the moment

to propose a new person for the position of ambassador” to the Israeli-occupied territories.

Relations between Warsaw and Tel Aviv soured after Polish President Andrzej Duda last summer signed into law a measure that sets a 30-year limit on the ability of Jews to

Ancient fibers, animal remains discovered by Iranian, German archaeologists



TEHRAN – A team of Iranian and German archaeologists has discovered ancient fibers and animal remains while digging into an old salt mine in west-central Iran.

Co-led by senior archaeologist Iranian Abolfazl Aali and his German fellow Thomas Stöllner, the team aims to gain further strong evidence about the history of mining at Chehrabad salt mine, particularly in the Achaemenid (c. 550 – 330 BC) and Sassanid (224–651 CE) eras, according to the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT).

“We discovered some animal remains and straw in a Sassanid-era tunnel... it seems that the beasts of burden were brought to those places to carry salt out of the mine,” CHTN quoted Aali as saying on Thursday.

In the current excavations, which is the fifth season, a considerable amount of wool fabrics, woods, straws, animal remains have been discovered so far, the provincial tourism chief, Amir Arjmand, said during his visit to the mine on Tuesday.

An extensive excavation to the deeper parts of the Chehrabad salt mine is scheduled to be carried out for next spring, Arjmand said.

According to Aali, results of previous excavations suggest that Chehrabad has been the subject of a long-term activity that started from the Achaemenid era continuing in different periods including Sassanid, Seljuk, Safavid, Qajar, and Pahlavi periods.

What was a catastrophe for the ancient miners has become a sensation for science. Sporting a long white beard, iron knives, and a single gold earring, the first salt mummy was discovered in 1993. He is estimated to be trapped in the mine in ca. 300 CE. In 2004 another mummy was discovered only 50 feet away, followed by another in 2005 and a “teenage” boy mummy later that year.

“Several miners known today as salt men

were trapped, killed, and buried inside the mine in various periods including the Achaemenid, the beginning and end of the Sassanid era, as well as Qajar and Pahlavi periods,” the archaeologist explained.

“Collapses occurred in Chehrabad mine and its extraction tunnels mostly due to the lack of integration of salt veins, earthquakes, and non-observance of safety issues.”

Currently, a special exhibition featuring Iranian and German studies in the realm of ancient mining is underway at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

It puts the spotlight on the appropriation of humans to mineral resources and the development of the history of human experiences and achievements in mining, which led to the development of technologies, the formation of professions, trade, and specialization of industries.

“Highlights of Ancient Mining from Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum” and “Death by Salt” are highlights of the event, which will be running through January 14, 2022.

Iranian, German archaeologists in search of clues about Achaemenid, Sassanid miners

According to Jebrael Nokandeh, the director of the National Museum, the museum and the German Mining Museum in Bochum have made considerable cooperation in line with an agreement they signed in 2017, based on which the two institutions are set to hold exhibitions of each other's historical and cultural artifacts related to the subject of ancient mining.

It is worth mentioning that similar loan exhibitions featuring ancient mining and relevant documents were already staged in Iran and Germany.

Last year, a team of experts from the two countries started a project for purifying, cleansing, and restoring garments and personal belongings of the mummies which were first found in the salt mine in 1993.

TEHRAN – In addition to a mandatory negative PCR test certificate, international travelers visiting Iran should buy coronavirus insurance, a tourism official announced on Thursday.

“Foreign tourists must buy coronavirus insurance from authorized companies when entering the country, and if they suffer from the pandemic in Iran, they will be provided with a place and treatment for 14 days,” Esmail Barat said, IRNA reported.

In addition to providing proof of vaccination or a negative PCR, inbound passengers must have coronavirus insurance, which differs from the routine insurance coverage purchased by all tourists before the coronavirus era, the official explained.

Home to countless cultural and natural travel destinations, Iran achieved good growth in attracting foreign tourists over the past couple of years but the epidemic shut down its tourism, as in many other countries, Barat said.

Iranian Tour Operators Director Ebrahim Pourfaraj said earlier this month that the restoration of tourism flow to the country is very important for Iranian tour



operators and travel insiders. “At the moment, we are not thinking about revenues, but we are looking for the beginning of the tourist flow to the country and renew our links [with international fellows],” Pourfaraj said.

His comments came after months of steep recession triggered by massive coronavirus restrictions which led many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators towards bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

As mentioned by Pourfaraj, Iran has made its best to maintain contact with global tourism markets and companies that worked with Iran in the past, especially since virtual communication and meetings have thrived.

“Following the resumption of the tourist visa, visitors from Russia and France have traveled to Iran and we are currently expecting a smaller number of tourists in Iran due to the current situation in the world,” he explained.

Last November, the World Tour-

ism Organization announced that international tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight months of 2020 when compared to 2019, highlighting the severe impact of COVID-19 as the main factor.

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.

Mining operations brought to halt near millennia-old petroglyph site

From page 1 ► Earlier this year, Mashhadi announced that Iran seeks a possible UNESCO tag for Teymareh petroglyphs, adding “Similar petroglyphs, which have been discovered in the provinces of Isfahan and Lorestan, can be included in the dossier for a collective registration.”

Teymareh is home to numerous petroglyphs estimated to be carved in a period spanning from 40,000 to 4,000 years ago, providing insights into past eras and cultures both by tools utilized for carving and themes being carved.

Last year, a prehistorical petroglyph, which bears Pahlavi script written by ordinary people of the time, was found during an archaeological survey in the Teymareh region of central Iran. “This is the sixth petroglyph, engraved with Pahlavi script, which has so far been found in the highlands of Teymareh. And the petroglyph is estimated to date back to 2,200 years ago,” according to Iranian archaeologist Mohammad Nasserifard.

In March 2020, a team of entomologists and archaeologists concluded that a previously-founded petroglyph showcases a six-limbed creature with the head and arms of a praying mantis. The rare 14-centimeter rock carving was first spotted in the Teymareh rock art site during

surveys between 2017 and 2018, but could not be identified due to its unusual shape.

International experts Jan Brouwer and Gus van Veen have examined the Teymareh site estimating its carvings were made 40,000–4,000 years ago. Prehistoric rock art provides insights into past eras and cultures as archaeologists classify the tools for the carvings by specific eras. Incising tools include flint, metal, or thigh bones of hunted prey.

Teymareh is home to numerous petroglyphs estimated to date from 40,000 to 4,000 years ago.

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Human Evolution, suggests that Neanderthals were roaming over the Iranian Zagros mountain range sometimes between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

Until the late 20th century, Neanderthals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans. However, more recent discoveries about this well-preserved fossil Eurasian population have revealed an overlap between living and archaic humans.

Neanderthals lived before and during the last Ice Age of the Pleistocene in some of the most unforgiving environments ever inhabited by humans. They developed a successful culture, with a complex stone tool technology, that was



based on hunting, with some scavenging and local plant collection. Their survival during tens of thousands of years of the last glaciation is a remarkable testament to human adaptation.

Zagros mountain range in southwestern Iran, extending northwest-southeast from the border areas of eastern Turkey and northern Iraq to the Strait of Hormuz, is about 990 miles (1,600 km) long and more than 150 miles (240 km) wide. It forms the extreme western boundary of the Iranian plateau, though its foothills to the north and west extend into adjacent countries.

According to Britannica, the oldest rocks in the Zagros range date to Precambrian time (that is, before 541 million years ago), and the Paleozoic Era rocks date to between 541 million and 252 million years ago are found at or near the highest peaks.

Iran set to showcase attractions at Fitur 2022

TEHRAN – The Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) has been tasked with organizing the Iran pavilion at Fitur 2022 to promote tourism attractions, handicrafts, and traditions of the country at the prestigious Spain fair.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister has tasked TACI with providing the ground for those involved in the tourism industry, including travel agencies, hotels, airlines to take part in the event, ILNA reported.

The Madrid Tourism Fair is the global meeting point for professionals in the sector and the leading fair for receptive and issuing markets in Latin America. It is also the biggest event in Spain around the tourism business, with more than 250,000 attendees from all over the world, as well as in terms of innovation and the promotion of new tourism segments, technological

leadership in tourism management, and knowledge transfer tools.

According to its organizers, this annual event represents an economic impact of 330 million euros, with the consequent direct impact on the recovery of tourism and the invigoration of sectors linked to tourism in Madrid.

The Islamic Republic 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. 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. The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20).

Wood museum to be established in Kermanshah

TEHRAN – A museum dedicated to woodworks by local artisans is planned to be established in the western province of Kermanshah, a local tourism official has announced.

The museum will be launched in collaboration with the private sector and craftspeople from the province, Akram Tahmasebi said on Wednesday.

There are notable wood sculptors and artists in Kermanshah province who are well-known

throughout the country and abroad, the official added.

Establishing a wood museum in this area is an opportunity for the entire population to become acquainted with the artists in this field and their monumental works, she noted.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, of which Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Rouyin to be weighed as national village of handicrafts

TEHRAN – North Khorasan province wants nationwide recognition for Rouyin to be named a national village of handicrafts, the deputy provincial tourism official has said.

“A comprehensive dossier has been prepared for the village, which is known as the first traditional textile village in the country, and it is hoped to be listed as a national village of handicrafts by the end of the current Iranian year 1400 (ends on March 21, 2022),” Mohammadreza Qahremanian announced on Friday.

200 weaving workshops across the village produce towels, Chador Shab, a kind of fabric with geometrical patterns, and other textiles, the official added.

As the highest producer of traditional textiles in the province, Rouyin manufactures more than 150,000 square meters of Chador Shab, towels, napkins, and shawls each year, he noted.

At present, 350 to 400 people work directly in producing, dyeing, and weaving, and selling Chador Shab, which has been inscribed on the list of UNESCO Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts, he ex-



plained.

Chador Shab is a kind of homemade colorful checkered cloth, which is used as an outer garment for women, mostly in the country's rural areas. Women wrap it around their waist during farming and working, they also use it for carrying their babies on their back.

Dating back to the Timurid-era (1370–1507), the village of Rouyin was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2008.

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.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of filigree”. And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts.

Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, howev-

200 foreign researchers recruited for scientific activities

TEHRAN – Some 200 foreign researchers have been selected and recruited to communicate with top Iranian scholars for scientific activities, deputy head of the Vice presidency for Science and Technology, has said.

The program of “cooperation with non-resident Iranian experts and entrepreneurs” was implemented in 2018 in line with achieving the long-term goals of the scientific vision of the country and exploiting the scientific reservoirs of top Iranian graduates.

It has been designed to exchange knowledge, experience, and technological ideas inside the international affairs and technological exchange center and with the cooperation of universities, science and technology parks, knowledge-based companies, and selected growth and innovation centers.

To date, more than 450 international professionals and entrepreneurs have been identified through this program, and over 200 applicants have been able to benefit from the “Special Residence” card, Mehr reported Seyed Ali Hosseini as saying on Friday.

Special residency is granted for a limited period of 3 to 10 years, depending on the scientific and professional background of the



applicants. By receiving special residency, applicants enjoy all citizenship rights in Iran except participation in elections, he explained.

So far, some 30 Afghans have received special residency cards, he added.

The primary objective of this plan is establishing an effective interaction between experts and top science and technology centers of the country in the form of supporting research and technology projects, such as post-doctoral, sabbaticals, visiting and selected professors, creating technological businesses and occupation in knowledge-based companies and holding specialized workshops and lectures.

Iranian elites return

Iran has also implemented a plan to return elites from the top 100 universities in the world. Through a national model, the facilities are provided for their return by creating technology parks, innovation centers, and factories.

The plan was able to bring back 2,000 Iranian students from around the world over a three-year period.

About 500 Iranian researchers have returned home over the past four years to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the country's universities, according to the vice presidency for science and technology.

With the support of the Nation-

al Elites Foundation and Science and Technology Vice Presidency, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled ‘cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elites’ in 2015.

The plan aims to attract Iranians abroad to share knowledge in different forms including postdoctoral research, research opportunity, and visiting fellows, in addition to being faculty members.

So far, it has attracted more than 500 prominent Iranian researchers living in other countries as faculty members of the country's top universities, which has had a significant impact on raising the quality of research, educational and international activities of universities.

Special residency is granted for a limited period of 3 to 10 years, depending on the scientific and professional background of the applicants.

We no longer import COVID vaccines: health minister

TEHRAN – Health Minister Bahram Eini-lahi has announced that from now on no coronavirus vaccines will be imported to the country, emphasizing that the priority is given to domestic products.

According to studies, domestically-produced vaccines are unique in terms of effectiveness and quality, Einiollahi noted, IRNA reported.

“We are proud of the domestic vaccine and as the research and production stages went well,” he added.

Referring to the capabilities of the scientists of the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture, he said that “We are proud of the scientists of Razi institute; it has a long history in vaccine production.

“The achievement of the researchers of this institute to develop a vaccine against coronavirus is one of the most important and latest achievements of the Institute, which has shown good and satisfactory results so far.

According to scientific studies, the vaccine provides over 90 percent immunity against the virus, and so far, more than 60,000 people in the country have received the jab through clinical studies,” he explained.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, Razi Cov Pars is the sec-

ond Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

The vaccine is protein-based, which employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies.

It is developed in 3 doses. The first two doses are injectable and the third dose is intranasal. The second dose of the vaccine will be injected into the volunteers 21 days later and the third dose will be inhaled 51 days later.

Homegrown vaccines

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

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVID-19 BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

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

Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically-developed COVID-19 vaccine, was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

Lately, the Food and Drug Administration



issued an emergency use license for two other domestic vaccines of Razi Cov Pars and Fakhra.

The Iranian-Australian Spikogen vaccine and Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, are other homegrown vaccines, which have received the emergency use license.

Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, former head of the Iranian Food and Drug Administration, said in June.

Meanwhile, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain said in September that the Organization was collecting the necessary information for the registration and certification of Iranian-made coronavirus vaccines.

Iran plans to develop space industry

From page 1 ► In the past, the space industry was the only manifestation of the power of nations, but today it is considered as one of the economic drivers and in the near future it will be part of the governance infrastructure in various fields of trade, economy, and security, he stated.

With the efforts of the profes-

sional and expert youth, good efforts have been made in the space industry, however, we are far from a real position in this field, he added.

Today, knowledge-based companies, as well as industry, trade, agriculture, and tourism sectors can use space services for their development and growth. Moreover, the space industry can be used to

overcome climate problems such as water scarcity, he said.

Raisi stressed the low-cost industrialization of the space industry and said that “All sectors active in this industry should work together, use each other's experiences and avoid parallel work, to realize the order of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei in order

to launch a satellite into an orbit of 36,000 km.

Of course, achieving this goal will take at least 10 years, but we are sure that with the help of experts and the support of the government, it will be sooner achieved, he added. Before the meeting, the president visited the latest achievements of the country's space industry.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

Some 56 percent of the total motorcycles in the country are running in only five provinces, Ali Mohammadi, a senior traffic police official has said.

Of all 32.9 million vehicles in the country, motorcycles amount to 11.6 million, accounting for 35 percent of the total vehicles moving in the country, he stated.

According to the statistics, 56 percent of motorcycles are plying the roads in 5 provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars and Khuzestan, he added.

There are 2 million motorcycles in Tehran, 1.3 million in Khorasan Razavi, 1.2 million in Isfahan, 916,000 in Fars, and 564,000 in Khuzestan, he also said.

The capital city of Tehran alone has the biggest share of motorcyclists constituting 21 percent of the estimated 56 percent, he noted, IRNA reported on Sunday.

۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند.

سرهنک علی محمدی روز یکشنبه افزود: از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند.

وی اظهار داشت: برابر آمارها تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند.

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: تهران بزرگ با حدود ۲ میلیون دستگاه موتورسیکلت، خراسان رضوی ۱.۳ میلیون دستگاه، اصفهان ۱.۲ میلیون دستگاه، فارس ۹۱۶ هزار دستگاه و خوزستان با ۵۶۴ هزار دستگاه موتورسیکلت بیشترین موتورسیکلت های کشور را به خود اختصاص دادند.

محمدی با بیان اینکه بیش از ۲۱ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور در تهران بزرگ تردد می کنند، اظهار داشت: تهران بیشترین سهم موتورسیکلت را در سطح کشور داراست.

SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 27, 2021

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Over 910,000 liters of smuggled oil products seized

TEHRAN – Over 910,000 liters of smuggled oil products worth more than 55 billion rials (nearly \$1.3 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been confiscated last week across the country, police chief Mohammad Reza Moghimi, said on Friday.

The plan included “several provincial and regional operations to combat smuggling of goods and currency, with priority given to controlling major fuel consumers, fuel tankers, fuel supply stations and manufacturing, industrial and agricultural companies”, which was implemented over the past week.

The discovered goods were handed over to the organization for the collection of smuggled fuel of the National Petrochemical Company, he added.

during the operations, 54 vehicles were seized and 120 smugglers were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities, he explained, IRNA reported.

On November 15, smuggled goods worth 400 billion rials (nearly \$9.5 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) were seized across the country.

\$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, has 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 Parliament'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.

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 was implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

Arctic Ocean started warming decades earlier than thought

The Arctic Ocean has been getting warmer by mixing with the Atlantic Ocean since the beginning of the 20th century, decades earlier than previously thought, suggests a new study that points to a possible flaw in the models currently used to project future climate change.

The Arctic Ocean began warming rapidly at the beginning of the last century by a process called Atlantification as warmer and saltier waters flowed in from the Atlantic, the researchers said.

While the process of turning the Arctic Ocean into a state resembling the Atlantic is one of the main drivers of warming in the region, instrumental records capable of monitoring this change, such as satellites, only go back about 40 years, they explained.

In the new study, published in the journal Science Advances on Wednesday, an international group of scientists reconstructed the recent history of ocean warming at the gateway to the Arctic Ocean in a region called the Fram Strait, between Greenland and Svalbard, the Independent reported.

They reconstructed the change in water column properties, such as temperature and

salinity over the past 800 years — looking for signature signs of Atlantification — by analysing the geochemical and ecological data from ocean sediments and marine microorganisms.

“When we looked at the whole 800-year timescale, our temperature and salinity records look pretty constant,” Tesi Tommaso, a co-lead author of the study from the Institute of Polar Sciences of the National Research Council in Bologna, Italy, said in a statement.

“But all of a sudden at the start of the 20th century, you get this marked change in temperature and salinity — it really sticks out,” Dr Tommaso said.

As the world's oceans are warming due to climate change, they say the Arctic Ocean — the smallest and shallowest of all — is warming at the fastest rate.

Recent studies have pointed out that the Arctic is warming three times more quickly than the planet as a whole with temperatures rising in the region by as much as 3 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This is causing ice in the polar region to melt, which in turn raises global sea levels and submerges low-lying parts of the world.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 26

New cases	4,384
New deaths	86
Total cases	6,102,056
Total deaths	129,462
New hospitalized patients	720
Patients in critical condition	3,372
Total recovered patients	5,841,870
Diagnostic tests conducted	38,331,546
Doses of vaccine injected	104,284,578

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly.
If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold; but
he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:53 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries

* Ehsan Arjmand is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Sareban Gallery.

The exhibit named “Suspension of the Body” will run until December 6 at the gallery located at 130 Hoveizeh St. off Sohrevardi St.

* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Maryam Tabatabai.

The exhibition entitled “In the Midst of Darkness” will be running until December 13 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.

* Sanam Sayehafkan is hanging her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit named “Labyrinth” will run until December 13 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

* Paintings by Shaqayeq Mehdi and Mohadeseh Eivazkhani are on display in an exhibition at Asr Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Duet II” will run until December 6 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.

Sculpture

* An exhibition of sculptures by Kusha Musavi is currently underway at Aran Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Static” will run until December 10 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

* Homa Gallery is showcasing a collection of sculptures by Alireza Astaneh in an exhibition named “Panic Room”.

The exhibit will run until December 7 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

Painting

* A collection of paintings by veteran Iranian filmmaker Masud Kimiai is on view in an exhibition at Golestan Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until December 8 at the gallery, which can be found at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.

* A collection of paintings by Pardis Shafieun is on display in an exhibition at Shokuh Gallery.

Entitled “Cold Season Memories”, the exhibit will run until December 7 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

* Paintings by Amir Shalmani are currently on view in an exhibition at Afrand Gallery.

The exhibit named “Tower” will be running until December 10 at the gallery located at 48 Jalal Hosseini St., Jahan Ara St. off Jalal Ale-Ahmad Highway.

* An exhibition of paintings by Samira Alborzkuh is currently underway at Shirin Gallery 2.

The exhibit titled “Handmade Virus” will continue until December 8 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

* A gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Hajar Rahgozar.

The exhibit named “Wadi” will run until December 6 at the gallery located at 7 Arshad Alley, Azodi St. off Karim Khan St.

* Argo Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Hamun Vaziri Moqaddam.

The showcase entitled “Unrealized Projects” will run until February 11, 2022, at the gallery located at 6 Behdasht Alley, Taqavi St. off Ferdowsi St.

Iranian docs honored at IDFA

TEHRAN – Iranian movies “Makeup Artist” and “Water, Wind, Dust, Bread” were honored at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) on Thursday.

“Makeup Artist” by Jafar Najafi won the FIPRESCI Award, the organizers announced on Friday.

“Water, Wind, Dust, Bread” by Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari received a special mention in the IDFA Competition for Youth Documentary.

“Makeup Artist”, the winner of the Award of Excellence at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in Japan, is about Mina, a makeup artist who is determined to realize her dreams. She not only refuses to succumb to her husband and mother-in-law’s fierce opposition but also paves her own path and pushes forward along it. Gradually, it looks as if the people and world around her are starting to change.

“Water, Wind, Dust, Bread” tells the story of 11-year-old Abolfazl who lives with his family in an oasis in the Iranian desert. He picks dates, tends to his family’s cows, does his homework, and has fun with his best friend Setayesh.

The camera quietly observes their friendship as they swing between the date palms or climb the windswept rocks around the oasis. Abolfazl’s mother bakes fresh bread, and tourists come to her guesthouse for the serene atmosphere.

But life in the oasis is not entirely idyllic. Although Abolfazl lives with a

A scene from the Iranian documentary “Makeup Artist” by Jafar Najafi

physical disability, it is Setayesh who faces an even bigger hurdle. She is one of the 40,000 children in Iran who don’t have a birth certificate, and as a result, she can’t go to school.

“Mr. Landsbergis” a co-production of Lithuania and Netherlands by Sergei Loznitsa won the IDFA Award for Best Film in the international section of the festival.

The IDFA Award for Best Directing in the International Competition went to Diem Ha Le for “Children of the Mist” from Vietnam.

“Handbook” a co-production of Germany and Belarus by Pavel Mozhar won the IDFA Award for Best Short Documentary, while a special mention in this section went to “Wolf Whispers” by Chloé Belloc from France.

“I Am Trying to Remember” by Iranian director Pegah Ahangarani had its world premiere in the short documentary section of the festival, while “Tonight’s Homework” by Ashkan Nejadi went on screen at Luminous Section.

In “I Am Trying to Remember”, Pegah talks about a man named Gholam, who is always present at her family gatherings. Gholam films these everyday scenes with his own camera. At the time, Pegah can’t imagine what the purpose of these films might be, but she’s happy to pose before the lens of this family friend, who she’s certainly very fond of.

It is as if Pegah, the film’s director, and chief protagonist, is reading from a children’s book; as if we are looking over her shoulder at Gholam’s films

of the family and the old photos. The large family radiates great warmth as we see them shoveling snow or just sitting around at home.

“Tonight’s Homework” has been made based on Abbas Kiarostami’s 1989 “Homework”.

In “Homework”, Kiarostami put questions to students at a public school: questions about homework, punishments, and dreams of the future. The result was a portrait of the generation that grew up during the Iran-Iraq war, trapped by uncertainty and a rigid upbringing.

Now, some 30 years later, directors Nejadi and Nematollahi repeat Kiarostami’s questions and come to the conclusion that the school system and society itself have changed dramatically. The gulf between rich and poor has grown far wider, and that has become evident in the schools. Parents, many of whom are illiterate, are unable to help their young ones, or otherwise too busy with their careers to supervise homework. Any sense of interest or guidance is absent.

Two now-adult subjects of Kiarostami’s film agree that there’s something fundamentally wrong with the way responsibilities get dumped on the shoulders of teachers. The only thing that’s unchanged is the way the children reply in the approved manner—yes, of course, they’ve done their homework.

The 34th edition of IDFA will be running in the Dutch capital until Sunday.

Where do Persian words for sky and earth come from?

By S. Fatemeh Musavi

If you also wonder where Persian words come from and what their literal meanings are, please read on!

Etymology of Persian words is not always very familiar to the public. In contrast, the roots of words in other languages, such as Arabic and English, are more accessible. For example, it is easy to recognize three content letters in Arabic and find other words of the same root accordingly. Take the Arabic *amil* “doer, agent.” It is easy to recognize the root *amal* “do,” as the content letters are *a-m-l*. In contrast, for Persian words such as *aseman* “sky,” and *zamin* “earth,” it is difficult to foresee a root. So, why is that?

Persian words are not formed according to some content letters, like in Arabic. Interestingly, what we may generally consider as the root of the words in Arabic may not be the real Arabic root of the word either. For instance, *mohandes* “engineer” may seem an originally Arabic word which shares a root with other words such as *hendese* “geometry,” *al-hondos* “geometrician,” and the like. However, it is well-documented that these words are derived from Middle Persian handazag “measurement” which is in New Persian *andaze* with the same meaning.

Etymology is a complicated science that dedicates itself to closely studying words and their structures, formations, and meanings in different languages throughout their existence. It considers loanwords, loan translations, the

coining of new words, and the first appearance of each word in the entire corpus of every language. Another helpful resource for studying the roots of words in languages is considering their cognates, i.e., their similarly formed counterparts, in other languages of the same language family.

Persian is a language belonging to the Iranian language family, which in turn is derived from Indo-Iranian languages, which are an eastern descendent of the greater family of Indo-European languages. Therefore, words in Iranian languages such as Persian, Avestan, Sogdian, and Bactrian, may have similarly formed counterparts in Indian languages such as Sanskrit, or in European languages such as Greek and Latin. For example, *istadan* “stand” in Persian is derived from the same Indo-European root from which the English “stand” is also derived.

In this example, one may realize that the Persian verb also has similar denotations as the English cognate. For instance, *istadan* in Persian means “stand” as well as “stay,” “resist,” and “stop.” In English, too, “stand” can mean “stay” and “stop.” Thus, in the sentence, “he stands against what they told him,” the verb “stand” means “resist.” One can also observe the same root in “constant,” which is derived from Latin. “Constant” contains the prefix con- “together,” the root -sta- “stand,” and the suffix -ent, which is a subjective adjective maker. In this word, -sta- is used in the sense of “stay (unchanged).”

Let’s go back to the Persian words that we mentioned in the title. As interesting as it might

sound, the Persian word for “sky” may have been derived from the root for “stone.” Apparently, ancient Iranians believed the sky was made of a huge stone. The Persian word for “earth” is an old word that literally meant “soil, land.” The same root is also attested in other languages of the same family with relevant phonetic alterations. For example, it is in Old Iranian *zma- and Sanskrit *jma-*. Among European languages, it is easily recognizable in Russian *zemlya*.

Unfortunately, the Persian Language did not have an etymological dictionary or reference for a long time. Only recently, Dr. Mohammad Hasandoust at the Persian Academy published a five-volume etymological dictionary for the Persian Language. It is still constrained and does not include all Persian words. Still, it comprises a significant new step in studying Persian and other Iranian languages.

Finding the roots of Persian words is very difficult for the experts. Persian comes from an extensive language family with very ancient roots. Older Iranian languages such as Old Persian and Avestan are among the oldest documented languages in the Indo-European family. A wide variety of middle and modern stages of the language also renders a remarkable corpus of Iranian languages. On the one hand, this is a complex situation as it would be challenging to get documented. While, on the other hand, it offers a priceless opportunity for a close study of language evolution.

S. Fatemeh Musavi has PhD in Ancient Languages and Cultures

“Maya” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “Maya” by prominent Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder has recently been published in Persian by Hermes Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Mehrdad Bazary, the 1999 novel tells the stories of John Spooke, an

English author who is grieving for his dead wife; Frank Andersen, a Norwegian evolutionary biologist estranged from his wife Vera; and an enigmatic Spanish couple, Ana and Jose, who are absorbed in their love for each other, who meet on the

Fijian island of Taveuni.

As the action moves from Fiji to Spain, from the present to the past, unfolding further stories within the stories, the novel reveals an astonishing richness and complexity.

Iran: Myths and legends

Part 15

Other inscriptions, by emphasizing Ahuramazda as creator, suggest he was a Zoroastrian: “A great god is Ahuramazda, who created this earth, who created yonder sky, who created man, who created happiness for man, who made Darius king.”

His conception of wrath as an evil spirit similarly appears Zoroastrian: “What is right, that is my desire. I am not a friend to the man who is a Lie-follower. I am not hot-tempered. What things develop in my anger, I hold firmly under control by my thinking power. I am firmly ruling over my own (impulses).”

At Susa he asserted “A great god is Ahuramazda, who makes excellence (frasham) in this earth, who makes man in this earth, who makes happiness for man.”

Xerxes similarly located his rule within mythology: “The man who has respect for that law which Ahuramazda has established, and worships Ahuramazda and Arta reverently, he both becomes happy while living and becomes blessed when dead.”

In short, the themes of Ahuramazda as the creator of the world and happiness for humanity, making the world frasha (the term used for one of the duties of Saoshyant), the demand for righteousness, and perception of evil as wrath and “the lie” seem Zoroastrian.

Scholarly opinion is divided on whether the Achaemenid monarchs were Zoroastrians. But Zoroastrians or not, the monarchs clearly contextualized their earthly rule in the mythical

cosmic battle between Truth and the lie and believed they were chosen by Ahuramazda.

There are various legends associated with the rise to power of the Achaemenids and the Sassanids. There was significant Greek interest in Cyrus and his establishment of the Persian empire.

The most widely quoted text is Herodotus’s Histories, others include Xenophon’s Cyropaedia, and Ctesias’s Persika. Herodotus was born in the early fifth century BCE in Asia Minor, so technically he lived under Persian rule, and presumably heard the legend of Cyrus’s birth from Persians.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued