

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Israel Hinders Rapprochement Between Iran and Persian Gulf States

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Report



### Yemeni leader: “our only path is victory”

Marking the first Friday of the holy Islamic month of Rajab, the leader of Yemen’s popular Ansarallah Movement, Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, says those waging war on his country have witnessed an “increase in anxiety and fear”.

Yemen’s armed forces have conducted three major military operations in as many weeks against the United Arab Emirates in response to Abu Dhabi’s support for militants fighting against the government forces.

The attacks forced UAE authorities to warn its own nationals against posting or circulating images of the damage from the attacks on social media amid fear it would scare away foreign investors and tourists, on which the UAE’s economy is highly dependent.

The Yemeni army spokesperson says the attacks struck targets deep inside the Emirates including Abu Dhabi International Airport and its commercial hub Dubai.

The leader of the popular revolution in Yemen, al-Houthi, says if the Saudi-led coalition “occupies a certain region [in Yemen] or their siege increases, this only increases our responsibility to confront them”, noting that “the more the enemy increases its injustice, criminality and attempts to occupy more of our land while expanding the blockade against us, the more our insight, awareness, morale, and faith will increase to defeat them”. ► Page 5



TEHRAN — On Thursday, President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. troops have conducted a military operation in northwest Syria, which led to the killing of Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, the so-called new Daesh leader.

As Biden and his staff were expecting a round of standing ovation for the “heroic” operation, the more details come out. It is becoming more obvious that Biden is carbon copying his friend and former boss, Barack Obama, when he announced in May 2011 that

the U.S. Special Force terminated Osama Bin Laden.

“Last night at my direction, U.S. military forces in the northwest Syria successfully undertook a counterterrorism” ► Page 2

### Oil market requires Iranian oil supply to balance: Oji

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has said the global oil market requires Iranian crude oil supply to meet the current demand and maintain balance, Shana reported.

“If world’s oil consumers are dissatisfied with the current oil prices and supply levels, I suggest a quick lifting of the U.S. sanctions against Iran,” Oji said on Wednesday after the 25th OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting.

“The global market needs the increase in Iranian oil supply and we are ready to boost our supply to world markets as soon as possible,” the official added.

According to the oil minister, OPEC+ have agreed, in their meeting, to increase their output by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) in March.

He noted that the OPEC+ has also emphasized constant and regular monitoring of the market developments and taking necessary measures to maintain the stability in the oil market.

“All member countries will continue their collective efforts to safeguard the achievements of this agreement,” Oji stressed. ► Page 4

### 65 universities of medical sciences among top institutions worldwide

TEHRAN – Sixty-five Iranian universities of medical sciences ranked among top universities in the world, according to Webometrics Ranking of World Universities for January 2022.

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, also known as Ranking Web of Universities, is a ranking system for the world’s universities based on a composite indicator that takes into account both the volume of the Web content (number of web pages and files) and the visibility and impact of these web publications according to the number of external inlinks (site citations) they received.

Started in 2004, the ranking is updated every January and July. In 2021, it provided Web indicators for more than 31,000 universities worldwide. Three universities of medical sciences of Tehran, Shahid Beheshti and Isfahan, have obtained the first to third ranks in the country, respectively. ► Page 7



**Officials pay respect to monotheistic martyrs**  
TEHRAN — The ceremony of flower-laying on the tombs of the martyrs of monotheistic religions was held on Thursday at the presence of state and military officials, leaders of monotheistic religions, members of the parliament and the families of monotheistic martyrs at the Assyrian cemetery.

### Khan-e Abbasian: 19th-century house of full aesthetic wonders

TEHRAN – Behind the town’s high mudbrick walls are tens of elegant traditional houses built by wealthy merchants, monuments to remind the importance of Kashan as a Qajar-era (1789–1925) commercial hub.

Constructed in the 19th century, Khan-e Abbasian is famed for its traditional architecture, delicate stucco, bas-reliefs, mirrorwork, glasswork,

and perfect symmetry.

Located in the delightful oasis city of Kashan, the elegant house has six courtyards, many arcade chambers on five floors with a total area of 7,000 square meters.

There is so much to see in this house. Every window, every corner, every floor is full of gorgeous artwork and history. It is popular among avid tour-

ists, who say that it takes at least an hour to explore all the halls and yards of this ‘castle’.

Furthermore, the high porticos and reception halls are ornamented with plaster reliefs and fine mirror work, but most of the notes are the exceptionally beautiful and detailed stained-glass windows, befitting of the house’s original owner. ► Page 6

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Interview



### U.S. is stuck with an 18th-century government in the 21st century: political scientist

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A professor at Princeton School of Public and International Affairs says that the U.S. political system is stuck in the 18th century.

“The U.S. is stuck with an 18th-century government in the 21st century,” Charles M. Cameron tells the Tehran Times.

“Perhaps the U.S. would be better off as a parliamentary democracy, as in Europe. Lots of political scientists believe this,” Cameron adds.

“But,” he notes, “it doesn’t make any difference in the end, because there is no way to get from here to there.”

Many independent observers in America warn about the future of democracy in light of struggles over the 2020 elections.

The damage done by Donald Trump and the Republicans would undermine faith in the election and integrity of the country.

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see the future of American democracy under the Biden-Trump struggle over 2020 elections?**

What lies ahead for American democracy? Like any other democracy, the U.S. works on formal law but also informal norms, for example, norms restricting the involvement of the military in domestic politics, norms limiting ballot fraud and electoral cheating, and norms requiring the losing side to accept its defeat at the polls. Almost all mainstream politicians in the U.S. accept those norms. Donald Trump does not. ► Page 5

### Statue of Kurdish writer Mastureh Ardalan awarded national heritage status

TEHRAN – A statue of Iranian Kurdish poet and historian Mastureh Ardalan in her hometown of Sanandaj has been granted National Tangible Heritage status.

This statue is located in Khandaq Blvd. leading to the Khosroabad neighborhood, where Mastureh lived during the first half of the 19th century, the Sanandaj Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department announced on Thursday.

The cement statue, which is about four meters tall, was created by renowned Kurdish sculptor Hadi Ziaeddini. The statue was unveiled on the boulevard on December 17, 2011.

Ziaeddini has also made another statue of Mastureh set up in Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Mastureh, who was also known as Mah Sharaf Khanum, was born in 1805 in the western Iranian city in Kordestan Province. She composed her poems under the pseudonym “Mastureh” of “Masture-ye Kordestan”. ► Page 8



## Danish court finds anti-Iran ASMLA members guilty of spying for Saudi Arabia, financing terror acts



A court in Denmark has found three members of the so-called the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahvaz (ASMLA) guilty of financing and supporting terrorist activity in Iran in collaboration with Saudi Arabian intelligence services as well as espionage.

Danish news wire Ritzau reported on Friday that the three men were convicted of endorsing attacks against Iran and also supporting the so-called Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group, Press TV reported.

The report said he defendants face prison sentences of up to 12 years for numerous offences, including providing information about Danish and foreign organizations and individuals to the Saudi Arabian intelligence service.

All three men were arrested two years ago and have been in custody ever since.

They also face potential deportation, and one also risks having his Danish citizenship revoked.

The development came only two days after the third trial session of ringleader of the ASMLA terror outfit, where the prosecutor presented evidence disclosing his ties with Riyadh and Tel Aviv regimes.

Habib Farajollah Chaab, also known as Habib Asyud, appeared in court on Wednesday.

## “Operation Propaganda” completed

From page 1 ► operation to protect the American people and our Allies, and make the world a safer place. Thanks to the skill and bravery of our Armed Forces, we have taken off the battlefield Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi—the leader of ISIS. All Americans have returned safely from the operation. I will deliver remarks to the American people later this morning. May God protect our troops,” Biden said according to a White House statement released on Thursday.

CNN reported on Friday that the operation was planned months before.

“...after months of planning..., which included the (making of) model of the building housing the top ISIS leader (the model was) brought by military leaders into the Situation Room in December. He (Biden) engaged in a “constant give and take” with his military commanders,” CNN claimed.

The report added that it was months ago that the U.S. had learned the Daesh leader was living there, running his terror operation through the network of couriers. When Biden was briefed by operational commanders in December, he ordered the Pentagon to take precautions to minimize civilian deaths -- a difficult proposition for a target who appeared to intentionally surround himself with children and families as protection.

As the report goes on, we become more and more aware that this is nothing but a psycho-op, and a propaganda operation. It doesn't seem far-fetched at all to expect another “Zero Dark Thirty” conquering the Hollywood in the coming months.

“Thanks to the bravery of our troops, this horrible terrorist leader is no more,” Biden said. “Knowing that terrorist had chosen to surround himself with families, including children, we made a choice to pursue a Special Forces raid at a much a greater risk to our own people rather than targeting him with an airstrike.”

According to CNN, five days before Christmas, Biden sat down with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), Gen. Frank McKenzie, and others to work through in painstaking detail how an operation to capture Qurayshi would work and what risks it would entail. The operation was fraught with risk because of the civilians who occupied the same building as the Daesh leader.

Al-Qurayshi died in the village of Atme, just 14 kilometers away from where his predecessor, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed during a similar U.S. raid in October 2019.

Daesh founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in Barisha, Syria – 5 kilometers away from the Turkish border. Both areas are controlled by pro-Turkish rebels, which the U.S. had previously armed.

At least a dozen people, including six children, were killed along with Qurayshi, according to local first responders. The Pentagon said that three

At the hearing, Amin Vaziri, the prosecutor's representative, said Chaab is accused of corruption on earth through forming, managing and heading the ASMLA, as well as planning and carrying out terrorist operations, and destroying public property.

“Members of this terrorist group visited Saudi Arabia annually under the guise of Hajj to carry out the plans dictated by the Saudi intelligence agency. These plans included actions against innocent citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he added.

Vaziri also displayed the picture of a meeting between the Saudi culture minister and an ASMLA member, who was arrested in the Netherlands for terrorist acts and sentenced to four years in prison. He further showed the photo of an invitation sent to the militant by the Saudi king.

Another picture showed a meeting between the ASMLA spokesman and the Saudi king.

Additionally, the prosecutor's representative pointed to the ties between the ASMLA and Israel's Mossad spy agency.

He also presented written documents that showed Chaab had dealings with former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The SMLA has been pushing to separate the southwestern province of Khuzestan — home to the country's Arab population — from the rest of Iran through engaging in an armed conflict against the Iranian government.

In September 2018, it claimed responsibility for an attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, Khuzestan's provincial capital, which killed 25 people, including members of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and civilian bystanders, and injured 70 others.

members of his family were killed when Qurayshi detonated an explosive device on the top floor of the building, along with a child who was killed on the floor below in circumstances that remained unclear.

Without reference to the raid, UNICEF confirmed at least six children were killed in Atme overnight.

Department of Defense spokesperson John Kirby said late on Thursday that the Pentagon is willing to review the raid in Syria to make sure U.S. forces did not cause civilians deaths.

Kirby added the Pentagon has “strong, strong indications” that civilian deaths in the raid were not caused by U.S. forces.

This is the second raid conducted in Biden's tenure that has involved the death of the civilians.

In an August 29 drone strike in Kabul, ten people were killed, including seven children.

The Pentagon defended the strike at first, claiming it had killed an ISIS-K operative planning an imminent attack on U.S. forces during the final days of the evacuation U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

Approximately three weeks after the strike, the military acknowledged it was a tragic mistake that had killed 10 innocent civilians. A subsequent Air Force review of the circumstances around the strike found “no violation of law, including the law of war.”

It is important to note that in August 2016, Donald Trump claimed that Barack Obama “is the founder of ISIS,” along with Hillary Clinton. Then he repeated it over and over again.

“ISIS is honoring President Obama,” Trump said at a Florida rally.

“He is the founder of ISIS. He is the founder of ISIS. He's the founder. He founded ISIS, and I would say the co-founder would be crooked Hillary Clinton.”

A propaganda operation like that was highly needed so that Biden would restore his reputation among the American people. His rating is now standing at 41%.

The national poll, conducted Feb. 2-3, found that 41% of U.S. adults approved of Biden's performance in office, while 56% disapproved and the rest were not sure. The prior week's poll had put Biden at a 45% approval rating and 50% disapproval.

Democrats are increasingly worried that dissatisfaction with Biden's presidency could cost them their congressional majorities. If Republicans take control of either the U.S. House of Representatives or Senate, Biden's legislative agenda could be doomed.

Biden's popularity remains above the lowest levels seen by his predecessor, Donald Trump, whose approval rating sank to as low as 33% in December 2017.

At such critical conditions, Biden sought to pull a page out of Obama's playbook: play the “propaganda operation” card, and pray to God that the Americans would be fooled.

TEHRAN — Major General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC), said on Thursday evening that the enemies of Islam were united in defeating the Islamic Revolution but now they are retreating.

General Salami made the remarks at a ceremony commemorating 373 martyrs and military officers of Golpayegan.

At the beginning of his speech, Salami remembered Grand Ayatollah Safi Golpayegani who passed away on Tuesday, saying that the grand ayatollah and many scholars were longtime companions of Imam Khomeini and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Stating that Golpayegan is a city of pious people, he said, “Besides great scholars, there are thinkers, scientists, eminent professors, wise elites and teachers who teach us literature, ethics, knowledge, faith, prayer, etc.”

Referring to memories of the Sacred Defense era and the role of the Golpayegani warriors, Salami said that he grew up in this city and he has many memories of the Sacred Defense with the comrades from this region.

“This city and its people are an honor for us and greetings to these great and valorous people,” he noted.

### Enemies were together to defeat the Islamic Revolution

The top general said that the enemies were united against Iran in spite of differences and enmities among themselves.

“The system of hegemony that was in the hands of the arrogant powers could not accept that a great Iran has appeared in the global community and wants to achieve independence, Islam and freedom. The enemies knew this model and this pattern, if repeated, would cover the entire geography of arrogance and defeat them.”

He reiterated that what has happened today, after 43 years since the Islamic Revolution, in an important component of the Islamic world.

The senior commander added that Iran has endured many difficulties, saying that the main determiners of a country's destiny are those who stand against the enemy.

# IRGC chief: Enemy has retreated



The history of Islam is known by the “sword of the commanders”, so there is no way other than becoming stronger because the enemy tries to involve Iran in war in various fields, he pointed out.

He asserted that the conspiracy of the enemy was a comprehensive one and is still ongoing. “The enemies are trying to prevent the Iranian nation from standing tall and proud, and basically in the logic of the enemies, Muslims should remain a backward generation of the international community. They want a generation of consumers who cannot think freely.”

The enemy wants the Muslims to follow their economic model and to grow as much as they want in science and their military formation be designed according to the macro policy of the great powers, Salami outlined.

Explaining the reason for the enemies' opposition to the Islamic Iran, Salami said that the foes became powerful through economic domination and political position, as well as the attractive market and economic lure of the Islamic world, and now they are not willing to lose this domination,

“Therefore, we need to become so powerful that they cannot resist us,” the IRGC chief remarked.

### Even U.S. can't withstand such heavy sanctions

Noting that Iran has withstood the maximum pressure of the Americans and its Arab and European allies for 43 years, the

IRGC chief added, “Today, the enemies have realized the power of the Islamic Republic in the region and are retreating. The art of Iran was to drain the enemy's energy within 43 years and impose defeat on the great American empire.”

He added that the economic sanctions were a powerful global plan, adding that no country, not even the United States, can withstand this type of sanctions that they have imposed on Iran.

“The measures and wisdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the patience of the nation and their economic fight gradually reduced the dangerous effects of this conspiracy, and today we have overcome the dangers of sanctions and reduced their effects,” he added.

### Enemies admit disgraceful failure in face of Iran

Elsewhere in his speech, the commander referred to the failure of the “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran, saying that the enemies announced that they have failed miserably in implementing the policy of maximum pressure and “this is nothing but victory.”

He added, “The enemy wanted to paint a picture of Iran in which it liked in various fields and claimed that the Iranians are paralyzed, they stand against the system and they cannot continue, but now, time has passed and while they used all tools of aggression to humiliate Iran, the youth and children of this

country humiliated them.”

Exemplifying the authority of Iran, Salami said that the Iranian people have seen the manifestations of the glory of their youth, like their battle to seize the oil vessel.

The major general was referring to an operation by the IRGC Navy in which they reclaimed a cargo of oil that U.S. forces had stolen from a tanker carrying Iranian oil in the Sea of Oman in early November 2021.

“The example of the oil vessel seizure is one of the examples where you saw how the youth of this country humiliated the enemy with confidence, or the marines who surrendered to our forces without any resistance when they entered the Iranian waters. These are examples of the authority and zeal of the children of this land,” he stated.

### Wherever we became self-sufficient, the doors of sanctions were closed

In another part of his speech, Salami expressed examples of the power of Iran.

“Today the establishment is cohesive and the youth of this country are able to hit a ship on the sea kilometers away with high accuracy. The missiles are so many that the enemy is seriously afraid, and construction cycles are in motion, and the Khatam al-Anbiya construction headquarters alone is carrying out nearly 400 major national projects, and none of them are closed,” the major general explained.

Referring to the third element of power in Iran, Salami said Iran is the only country that hasn't allowed great powers to determine its fate.

He added, “An American general said that until today we were looking to increase the power to defeat Iran, but today we are looking to increase the power so that we do not fight Iran. When the enemy praises our power, you should know that (our power) is real...”

Salami stressed that people will not fall into the enemy's trap which is done through psychological operations and young people should be careful.

Salami concluded his remarks by stating that the enemy is insidious and even in retreat it seeks to strike but “we must be united and be careful not to echo his voice.”

## Diplomatic efforts continue in Vienna

TEHRAN — As the Vienna talks have reached a sensitive stage, talks between the diplomats are going on.

The American top negotiator met with the Arab countries' ambassadors in Vienna on Friday.

“Good conversation today with representatives from the GCC, Egypt, and Jordan about our ongoing negotiations for a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA. As negotiations reach a conclusion in the coming weeks, we will continue to consult closely with our regional partners,” Robert Malley tweeted on Friday.

Meanwhile, Jong Kun Choi, South Korea's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs met with Malley on Friday.

“Spoke with @USEnvoyIran about where the negotiation to revive #JCPOA is headed & discussed ways to smoothen things. @mofa\_kr supports diplomatic efforts by @Bagheri\_Kani, @enriquemora, @Amb\_Ulyanov, & #E3 in #Vienna from #Seoul!” Choi tweeted on Friday.

The heads of delegations of Iran and the P4+1 countries are planning to return to Vienna soon. Before returning to the Austrian capital, Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani briefed the members of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on the latest developments in the Vienna talks.

After the briefing, Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, the spokesman for the Committee, said time is ripe for reaching a good and win-win deal on the condition that the West shows seriousness and goodwill.

Speaking to the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA), the spokesman gave some details about the Tuesday meeting that the Committee members held with Baqeri Kani.

During the session, the spokesman said,



a report on the Vienna negotiations was presented and questions by the lawmakers were answered.

According to Meshkini, Bagheri Kani assessed the negotiations process positively and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is participating in the talks with goodwill and seriousness.

Bagheri also pointed out that Iran and the U.S. have not held any direct talks so far, according to the MP.

Meshkini said that the Committee concluded from the session that basically the results of direct negotiations with the U.S. are not clear.

“Although there are signs of progress in the Vienna talks, still there are outstanding issues that need to be negotiated and dealt with,” he said.

Iran is entitled to enjoy full sanctions removal but the other side has so far accepted partial removal of sanctions, the lawmaker added.

Meshkini noted there are indications that the current conditions for a good and win-win deal have been provided on the condition that the West shows seriousness and goodwill.

The remarks came days before the return of Bagheri Kani and other delegations' heads

to Vienna, meaning that Iran is making clear that making further progress in Vienna or conclusion of the talks rest on seriousness and flexibility on the part of the U.S.

The heads of the negotiating teams in Vienna had returned home a few days ago for consultations. However, the talks are moving ahead at expert level, a further indication that the return of chief negotiators was meant to conduct political consultations in capitals.

European Union coordinator Enrique Mora has confirmed that. “The 8th round of the #ViennaTalks #JCPOA, which started 27 December, so far the longest, takes a break. Participants will go back to capital for consultations and instructions to come back next week. Political decisions are needed now. Safe travels to all participants,” Mora tweeted on Friday.

The short hiatus came amid assessments that the talks have reached their final stage. Russian ambassador to international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov has pointed to such assessments.

“The participants in the #ViennaTalks on #JCPOA will take a break, not very long, for consultations in the capitals. The negotiations have reached advanced stage when political decisions are needed. The 8th round is expected to resume next week,” Ulyanov tweeted on January 29.

The conclusion that the talks are in the final stage is also shared by the Americans, with the difference that the Americans use the final-stage assessment to force Iran to make concessions.

A senior U.S. State Department official has resorted to such a tactic. In a special briefing on Monday, the U.S. official claimed that the talks are in the final stretch and that Iran needed to make a decision.



# Israel hinders rapprochement between Iran and Persian Gulf states

TEHRAN – In the wake of recent missile attacks launched by the Sanaa-based forces against the United Arab Emirates, diplomatic efforts have been done to de-escalate tensions in the region. But Israel's hurry to jump in dampened hopes for a rapid thaw.

A string of missile and drone attacks against the UAE over the last few weeks significantly has flamed tensions in the already boiling region of the Persian Gulf. The attacks came were claimed by the Sanaa-based government, a move that grabbed global headlines as the UAE had not come under attack for a long time.

The Yemeni government said its attacks were launched in retaliation for the UAE's involvement in the fighting in the Shabwa and Marib governorates of Yemen. With backing from the UAE, a Yemeni militant group known as the Giants Brigades made remarkable advances in Shabwa and then Marib.

Yemen's Ansarullah movement warned the UAE to stop backing the Brigades. When the UAE paid no heed to Ansarullah's warning, the movement struck targets deep inside the UAE. Overall, Sanaa launched three missile and drone attacks against the UAE, with the third attack coming after the Brigades announced the end of their offensive and undertook redeployment of forces to areas far away from the conflict zone.

Also, the third attack took place during a visit by Israeli President Isaac Herzog to the UAE. The visit was intended to show unity with the



UAE on the part of Israel. Despite warnings from Israel's security apparatus about potential attacks during the trip, President Herzog pressed ahead with the scheduled visit with great fanfare. Back in Israel, officials were keen to overplay their sympathy with the UAE in the wake of the attacks despite the fact that Israel has refused to provide the UAE with air defense systems such as the so-called Iron Dome.

Sensing an opportunity to further strengthen their position in the strategically important Persian Gulf region, the Israelis doubled down on their efforts to cement Israel's ties with some of the Persian Gulf's Arab states, knowing that Israel's influence in this region would certainly strain the Arab states' relations with Iran. At the end of the day, Israel and Iran are just like oil and water- they just don't mix together at least in the Persian Gulf's troubled waters.

Iran has warned against Israel

gaining a foothold in the region for a long time, particularly after the UAE and Bahrain embarked on a normalizing path with Israel in 2020.

At the same time, Iran sought to patch up its relations with Arab states across the Persian Gulf. Five rounds of talks between Tehran and Riyadh and a remarkable visit by UAE National Security Advisor Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Tehran bear witness to Iran's efforts in this regard.

But these efforts face growing challenges given the UAE and Bahrain's willingness to open the way for military and security cooperation with Israel. Despite Iran's repeated warnings, Abu Dhabi and Manama continue to give Israel a foothold in the region. For instance, Bahrain signed a defense agreement with Israel on Thursday that was billed in the media as "sending a message toward arch-enemy Iran."

The agreement was struck during

a visit by Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz to Manama, where he met with Bahraini Defense Minister Abdullah Bin Hassan al-Noaimi.

The agreement was hailed by Israeli media as signaling to Iran that "the alliance against it is growing and public."

The Arab state's signing of an agreement of military nature comes against a backdrop of continued Iranian warnings about the negative impact of Israel on security in the Persian Gulf.

During his Thursday phone call with Emirati counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian warned that "the presence of the Zionist regime in the region poses a threat to all countries and the region."

The Iranian foreign minister called for efforts to prevent the crisis-creating elements from gaining a foothold in the region.

The Israel issue also was the main theme in the December meeting between Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi with Sheikh Tahnoun. "There should be no obstacle in the relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and the UAE, and these relations must not be influenced by the outsiders," Ayatollah Raisi told the visiting Emirati official. "The Zionists [Israelis] in the region are pursuing their sinister goals and wherever they can find a foothold, they will turn it into a tool for expansionism; therefore, regional countries should be careful."

Amir Abdollahian underlined that Iran and Saudi Arabia are two important countries of the region and the Muslim world, adding that the role of big Muslim countries in helping resolve the problems of the Islamic Ummah is very effective. He expressed hope that dialog and cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh will be conducive to ending the problems of the region and the Islamic world.

For his part, Ibrahim Taha welcomed the reopening and active participation of the diplomatic mission of the Islamic Republic in the organization. He described Iran's role as a founding and active member of the OIC as very important and effective. Ibrahim Taha noted that the organization will not be able to solve the problems of the Islamic world without the active participation and cooperation of all Islamic countries, saying, "We call on all our brothers and members to fully support this organization."

The OIC chief further supported talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, stressing that the emergence of problems between Islamic countries is unfortunate and annoying, and that the organization invites Muslim and brotherly countries to peace and dialog.

At the end of the conversation, Iran's top diplomat invited Hussein Ibrahim Taha to visit Iran, and the OIC chief welcomed the invitation.

The conversation between Amir Abdollahian and Ibrahim Taha came after Iran resumed diplomatic representation at the OIC after six years. Three Iranian diplomats arrived in the Saudi city of Jeddah, the seat of the OIC, in January to represent Iran in the Islamic organization.

The activities of the Iranian representative office in Jeddah stopped in early 2016, following the severing of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, after demonstrators attacked Saudi Arabia's embassy in Tehran and its consulate in the city of Mashhad in northeastern Iran.

In December, Amir Abdollahian announced that Saudi Arabia has agreed to issue visas to three of Iran's diplomats who work as diplomats residing at the headquarters of the OIC.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said that Saudi Arabia issued visas to three Iranian diplomats, while the Kingdom confirmed the issuance of visas as part of the normal procedure for representatives of member states of the organization residing in Jeddah.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in mid-January that Iran was ready to reopen Tehran's embassy in Riyadh, underlining that reopening embassies depends on a Saudi will.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, Khatibzadeh said Iran was now focused on resumption of its diplomatic activities in the Jeddah-based OIC.

"The focus is on starting the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah, and our diplomats obtained visas to conduct this feasibility study," he said.

## Iran FM holds phone calls with foreign counterparts, OIC chief

TEHRAN – The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and Iraq as well as Secretary General of the OIC Hussein Ibrahim Taha have received phone calls from Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Amir Abdollahian held talks late on Wednesday with his Emirati counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the phone over bilateral and regional issues.

Amir Abdollahian described ties between the two countries as positive and progressing, saying good meetings and consultations have happened between the officials of the two countries, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

Referring to the Yemen crisis, the Iranian foreign minister said, "We believe that the continuation of the war and the escalation of hostilities do not serve the interests of either side or the region."

Amir Abdollahian also said the presence of the Zionist regime in the region poses a threat to all countries and the region.

The Iranian foreign minister called for efforts to prevent the crisis-creating elements from gaining a foothold in the region.

The UAE foreign minister said Abu Dhabi is serious about expanding ties with Tehran and believes that the continuation of talks between the two countries over different issues is necessary.

On Yemen's political crisis, the top Emirati diplomat said, "We are trying to encourage all Yemeni sides to find a political solution with the support of the United Nations."

### Iran FM wishes Iraqi counterpart excellent health

In a telephone conversation on Thursday, Amir Abdollahian spoke with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Mohammed Hussein about the latest developments in relations between the two countries, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest, and joint efforts.

At the beginning of the conversation, the top Iranian diplomat greeted his Iraqi counterpart and expressed satisfaction with his recovery from the coronavirus disease, and wished him excellent health.

In this telephone conversation, the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq briefly reviewed the excellent relations between the two neighboring and brotherly countries.

They also held consultations and exchanged views regarding the developments in the region, including Yemen, and the need to try to end the war in this country which causes insecurity and instability in the whole region.

In another part of the conversation, while discussing the Vienna talks, the Iraqi foreign minister stressed the importance of continuing the Tehran-Riyadh dialog and its positive effects on deepening and consolidating stability and security in the entire region.

Amir Abdollahian and Hussein also emphasized

the continuation of bilateral consultations in order to advance the interests of the two countries and all other regional countries and nations.

### Amir Abdollahian and Japanese counterpart exchange views on bilateral ties

In the phone conversation with his Japanese counterpart Hayashi Yoshimasa on Thursday morning, the two sides traded views on bilateral relations as well as issues of mutual interest on the regional and international levels.

They also discussed the need to expand mutual cooperation on different fronts and held consultations on the process of nuclear talks in Vienna intended to lift illegal sanctions against Iran.

During the conversation, the top Japanese diplomat termed Tehran-Tokyo relations as historic and very important.

He expressed support for the Vienna negotiations aimed at lifting anti-Iran sanctions and reaching a nuclear deal, and highlighted the necessity of all parties to the talks adopting necessary measures in line with fulfilling their commitments, and of taking the current opportunity to reach an agreement.

He also underscored that ideal grounds exist for promotion of economic ties between Iran and Japan if the current obstacles are removed, inviting his Iranian counterpart to visit Tokyo.

Amir Abdollahian, in turn, welcomed the expansion of cooperation with Japan in different fields.

Iran's foreign minister also welcomed his Japanese counterpart's invitation to visit that country, expressing hope he would visit Tokyo the first chance he gets and meet Japanese officials in order to discuss the all-out expansion of relations with Tokyo as an old friend of Tehran.

Amir Abdollahian also thanked Japan for expressing its readiness to help the Vienna talks move forward, saying Iran stands ready to reach a good, lasting and reliable agreement.

### Amir Abdollahian voices hope cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh contribute to ending regional problems

Amir Abdollahian held talks on Thursday with OIC Secretary General Hussein Ibrahim Taha about the problems faced by the Muslim world and the Islamic Ummah, the trend of bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation between Iran and the organization, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

Amir Abdollahian and Ibrahim Taha also discussed the reopening of Iran's diplomatic mission at the OIC and some regional issues.

The Iranian foreign minister thanked the OIC secretary general's efforts to reopen Iran's diplomatic mission at the secretariat of the organization in Jeddah. He referred to some problems of the Muslim world and described Ibrahim Taha's role as the secretary general of the OIC in resolving those problems as very effective.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 5, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Football expert says a tough job ahead of Iran in 2022 World Cup

From Page 1 ► The most central point about Iran's national team under Dragan Skocic was that rivalry between Team Melli's players is huge, and the level of difference is slight.

The question arises, what should we expect from the national team in the World Cup? In my opinion, we should not be irrational and should not expect that our team must qualify for the knockout stage.

FIFA's planning for the World Cup is in favor of the European teams than Asian teams, and this makes things more difficult for teams like Iran, who need more time to coordinate players compared to a top European team.

### Esteghlal beat Havadar: IPL

TEHRAN – Iran Professional League (IPL) leaders Esteghlal football team defeated Havadar 2-1 on Friday.

In the match held in Karaj's Enghelab Stadium, Rudy Gestede gave the visiting team a lead in the 11th minute but with five minutes left until the halftime, Mohammadjavad Mohammadi levelled the score.

Substitute Amir Arsalan Motahari scored the winner in the 84th minute.

Esteghlal were reduced to 10 men in the 88th minute after the team's defender Siavash Yazdani was shown his second yellow card.

Esteghlal lead the table with 38 points, three points ahead of Persepolis.

### Iran's sitting volleyball nominated for Best Team Performance

TEHRAN - Tokyo Paralympic Games gold medal winners Iran's sitting volleyball team have been nominated for the Best Team Performance at the Asian Awards 2021.

The upcoming Asian Awards 2021 were organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC).

The team will have to compete with China men's goalball team, Japan men's wheelchair basketball team and Korea mixed boccia team for winning the accolade.

Iranian powerlifter Ruhollah Rostami, who won a gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, and Hashemiyeh Motaghian, the first ever Iranian female Para athlete to win a gold medal in athletic in the Paralympic Games, have been previously nominated for the Best Male and Best Female awards, respectively.

### Dual meet between Iran, U.S. wrestling teams called off

TEHRAN – An exhibition match between Iran and the U.S. wrestling teams was called off, the Iranian wrestling federation announced.

The U.S. state department has not granted visa to head of Iran wrestling federation Alireza Dabir and five other team's members, the federation said.

The Iranian and the U.S. wrestling teams were supposed to take part in an exhibition meet in Arlington, Texas on Feb. 12.

Dabir has said the U.S. government has not issued visa due to non-sporting reasons and invited the U.S. wrestling team to travel to Iran for the match.

### Persepolis complete signing of Ahmad Gohari

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club completed signing of Sanat Naft goalkeeper Ahmad Gohari.

The 26-year-old custodian has signed for Persepolis on an 18-month contract for an undisclosed fee.

Gohari has joined Persepolis as replacement of Bozhidar Radosevic who left the team months ago due to his unpaid salary.

Gohari has already played for Iranian football teams Naft Tehran, Saipa, Pars Jonoubi and Naft Masjed Soleyman.

He was also a member of Iran U17 and U19 teams.

### Hull City coach Arveladze impressed by Sayyadmanesh

TEHRAN – Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, who only joined Hull City on Monday after making a move from Turkish giant Fenerbahce, has impressed Hull City head coach Shota Arveladze in training at Cottingham this week, particularly with the way he's settled in.

The City will host Preston North End at the MKM Stadium in front of a bumper home crowd on Saturday afternoon, looking to make it four straight wins for just the second time this season, and the highly-rated youngster may be primed for a home debut.

"I'm surprised at the way he has adapted so soon," Arveladze told Hull Live, before going on to reaffirm his impression that the Tigers dressing room is a welcoming one.

"His English is good enough and from the first session he seemed very active with the boys but I have to mention this group is (has lots of) great lads, they've welcome him well, nobody has made him feel different or like the new boy," he said.

"I saw him after training standing talking to the boys, doing some extra work. That's great to see. This is what we expect from our side to quickly help these type of boys adapt.

"I'll definitely take him if tomorrow's session goes well. I hope to use him in the next game, definitely."

### Akbarian chosen to officiate Iran's Super Cup

TEHRAN – Mohammad Reza Akbarian was chosen as referee of Iran's Super Cup match between Persepolis and Foolad football teams.

The match will be held on Monday in Sirjan, southern province of Kerman.

Akbarian will be assisted by Hassan Zahiri and Saeid Alinejadian in this match.

The Iranian Super Cup is an Iranian association football trophy awarded to the winners of the match between the Iran Professional League (IPL) season champions and the winners of Hazfi Cup. It is similar to numerous other Super Cup tournaments held in other countries.

Persepolis have won the title in the last four editions.

### Uzbek midfielder Amanov linked with Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Esteghlal have reportedly set their sight on signing Uzbekistan midfielder Azizbek Amanov.

The 24-year-old player currently plays for PFC Lokomotiv Tashkent.

Amanov has been also linked with a move to Emirati and Russian teams.

He has represented Uzbekistan national football team three times, Tasnim news agency reported.

The Blues are chasing to win the trophy after nine seasons.



## Oil market requires Iranian oil supply to balance: Oji



From page 1 ► On the current condition of the oil market, the official said recent statistics show that the global oil market is moving towards balance and stability despite concerns over the outbreak of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, thanks to the improved economic indicators in the world, particularly in leading oil-consuming countries, as well as the appropriate OPEC+ member states' compliance with the pact which reached 122 percent in November 2021.

OPEC+ member states are also pleased

with the current condition and all producers try to maintain the existing stability in the oil market, he added.

On the forecast of some international institutions about the oil prices rising to \$100 a barrel, he said, "Basically, OPEC's objective is not to determine prices in the oil market. Global oil prices are determined by a set of supply-demand indicators and all OPEC+ member countries seek a fair price for producers, consumers, and the global economy. OPEC+ producers are satisfied with the relative stability in the market and will continue their efforts and commitment to maintain and strengthen it."

"However, if the world's consumers, especially major economies, are dissatisfied with the current oil prices and supply levels and see it against their interests, I suggest that they lift the U.S. unilateral and cruel sanctions against Iran as soon as possible and make the ground for Iran to return to the global oil market with maximum capacity," he noted.

## Over 420 companies to participate in Iran Plast expo

TEHRAN – More than 420 domestic and foreign companies are going to participate in Iran's 15th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) which is going to be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during February 7-10, Shana reported.

According to Head of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shah-Mirzaei, the exhibition will be held in full compliance with health protocols and safety instructions.

"Iran Plast Exhibition is a great and unique opportunity that showcases the petrochemical industry's latest achievements and presents the most up-to-date capabilities of the polymer, plastics, and related industries," Shah-Mirzaei said.

Mentioning the current situation of Iran's petrochemical industry, the NPC head said: "The production capacity of the country's 68 major petrochemical production complexes is about 90 million tons; [these complexes] register 65 million tons of production every year of which 30



million tons is exported, 10 million tons are used by domestic consumers and 25 million tons is used as feed."

As one of the petrochemical industry's biggest events in West Asia, Iran Plast covers four commodity groups including raw materials, machinery and equipment, and final products, semi-finished products as well as services.

The exhibition is a platform to make connections between the petrochemical industry and enterprises, while flourishing downstream industries.

## 100% of Iran's population to access natural gas through national network in 2 years

TEHRAN – The managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has said all of the country's rural and urban population will have access to natural gas through the national gas network within the next two years, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a ceremony for the inauguration of a project for gas supply to three cities and 185 villages in northern Mazandaran Province on Thursday, Majid Chegeni said currently over 98 percent of the urban population, as well as 90 percent of the country's rural

population, have access to natural gas through the national network.

According to the official, currently, only a few cities and about 7,000 villages across the country have not been supplied with gas through the pipeline network.

"Currently, 1,260 cities and more than 35,000 villages in the country enjoy natural gas through the national network," Chegeni said.

Back in July 2021, NIGC announced that over the past eight years some 400 trillion rials (about \$145 billion) has been invested in the

development of the national gas network in Iran.

The development of gas supply has been realized by using the resources provided from saving liquid fuel and also by increasing the country's natural gas production capacity.

Earlier in April 2021, the former NIGC Head Hassan Montazer Torbati had said that 96 percent of the country's population enjoy natural gas through pipelines.

Emphasizing the need to pay attention to the stability of the

# Annual non-oil export hoped to hit \$45b by late March: TPO head

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) expressed hope that the country's value of annual non-oil export will reach \$45 billion in the present Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Emphasizing the determination of the current government and the president to take effective action in the national interest, Alireza Peyman-Pak said, "We have put a new focus on knowledge management in terms of exports, and with these measures, we hope to achieve a record \$45 billion in non-oil exports by the end of this year."

This government's export goal is to reach the figure of \$70 billion, that needs to improve and expand capacities and infrastructure such as logistics and customs, the official added.

The latest report on Iran's non-oil trade indicates that the value of non-oil exports has risen 38 percent during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As announced by Alireza Moghadasi, the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported over 100 million tons of non-oil products worth \$38.763 billion in the mentioned period.

According to the official, the



weight of exports in the mentioned period also grew by seven percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year's same 10 months.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, and Turkey during the said 10 months.

The IRICA head further announced that the Islamic Republic imported 33 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$41.473 billion in the mentioned period, with a 34-percent growth in value and a 17-percent rise in weight, year on year.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China, Turkey, Germany, and Switzerland, he stated.

## Non-oil export stands at \$34.5b in past year

According to the official, out of the total non-oil goods imported into the country in the first 10 months of this year, 25 million tons worth \$15 billion were basic goods, which indicates an increase of 26 percent in weight and 56 percent in value, year on year.

Moghadasi noted that currently about five million tons of commodities are stored at the country's customs for which the clearance procedures will be carried out soon.

"There are 160 customs active in the country, and this number is increasing with the creation of new free zones and economic areas," he added.

IRICA has previously announced that the value of Iran's non-oil

trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

IRICA former Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi had put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure showed a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal, and oilseeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

## 390 development projects to be inaugurated in industrial parks, zones

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has said that 390 infrastructure development projects are going to be inaugurated in the country's industrial parks and zones during the current year's Ten-Day-Dawn celebrations (February 1-11).

According to Ali Rasoulzadeh, the projects for the construction of 50 new units will also begin in the said period.

Every year, during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, which mark the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, numerous infrastructure projects are inaugurated or commenced to mark the development of the country after the revolution.

Over the past two years, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and industrial parks has been put atop agenda by the



government and especially the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, since SMEs account for nearly 50 percent of Iran's total industrial sector and more than 20 percent of the country's non-oil exports are done by such units.

As the main body in dealing with the promotion of SMEs in the country, ISIPO has been implementing several programs for realizing

the mentioned goals and to pave the way for the development of the mentioned sector.

Back in June 2021, Rasoulzadeh had announced the details of a comprehensive plan comprising of 100 different programs for developing the country's SMEs and industrial parks in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

The mentioned plan is mainly focused on developing the infrastructure needed for the promotion of industrial parks and consequently the SMEs in such parks.

According to the official, the plan has been prepared with the current year's budget allocated for the Industry Ministry in consideration, so all the programs in this package must be implemented with precision and in line with financial criteria set by the ministry.

## PMO, Secretariat of Free Zones High Council to ink co-op MOU soon

TEHRAN – Representatives of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) and the Secretariat of Free Zones High Council in a meeting on Thursday discussed ways of expanding mutual cooperation, the PMO portal reported.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the need for the economic development of the country's port areas and announced that they would sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in this regard in the near future.

In this specialized meeting, in addition to discussing and exchanging views on common issues between the two bodies, the duties of the Ports and Maritime Organization and the Secretariat of

the Supreme Council of Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones were outlined.

The meeting was attended by Jalil Eslami, the PMO deputy head for ports and economic affairs, as well as Ahmad Jamal, the deputy of the Secretariat of Free Zones High Council.

Speaking at the event, Eslami noted that free zones can have an impact on the prosperity of port areas because of their advantages, adding: "The approach of the Ports and Maritime Organization is that the function of the country's ports should not be limited to only unloading and loading of goods, while to use the hinterland of the ports for value-added activities in the production, industrial and service sectors."

## One million smart electricity meters installed for big-scale consumers

TEHRAN – One million smart electricity meters have been installed for large-scale consumers across the country, IIRB reported quoting an official with Iran's Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir).

Pointing out that the purpose of installing these meters is to make the consumption of subscribers visible, Hadi Modaeq, the director-general of Tavanir's office of smartening and modern technology, said the centers that were equipped with smart meters have accounted for more than 50 percent of the country's electricity consumption.

Installation of smart meters does not mean blackouts in high-consumption units such as industrial sectors, but creating conditions to see the power consumption of large subscribers allows the proper distribution

of electricity in a way that will minimize the possibility of restrictions, he further explained.

Iran has been facing some serious challenges regarding electricity supply over the past decade mainly due to the temperature rising and decrease of rainfalls.

Some other factors, such as high illegal cryptocurrency mining, have even worsened the situation in the country this year, as the citizens suffered a lot from the constant power outages, while it also caused serious damages to the activities of industries.

Although every year nearly 3,000 MW is added to the country's power generation capacity, the reduction in the rainfalls and the decline in the water storage behind the dams has reduced the electricity generation offsetting the added capacity.

## Loading, unloading of goods increases 20% at Imam Khomeini port

TEHRAN- Loading and unloading of goods rose 20 percent at Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Adel Deris, the director-general of Khuzestan province's Ports and Maritime Department, said 39.33 million tons of oil products and non-oil commodities were loaded and unloaded at the port in the ten-month period.

The official further announced that 19,239 million tons of products were unloaded at Imam Khomeini port in the first ten months of this year, which was 19 percent more than the figure for the same period of time in the past year.

He added that 20,091 million tons of commodities were loaded at the port in the mentioned ten-month period, indicating 21 percent growth year on year.

As previously announced in a report by Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 20

percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period in the previous year.

Loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 127.631 million tons in the mentioned period, while the figure stood at 106.453 million tons in the past year's same time span.

During the said ten months, unloading and loading operations in the container sector reached 1.78 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), 18 percent more than 1.503 million TEUs in the first ten months of the previous year, the report said.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities,



there.

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

According to the Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in the previous calendar year (ended in March 2021).

The total capacity of the country's ports is expected to reach 280 million tons by the end of the current fiscal year.



# U.S. is stuck with an 18th-century government in the 21st century: political scientist

*“Trump is a brilliant demagogue”*

From page 1 ▶ In this sense, he resembles fringe candidates from the far right and far left in Europe and the U.S. in the 1930s – except he has no political ideology or program except personal aggrandizement. Four more years of a Trump presidency risks permanent damage to the norms that have sustained American democracy for 200 years. That is quite a disturbing prospect.

**Do you expect Trump to come back in 2024 and win the election this time?**

Donald Trump is definitely running for the presidency again. Quietly, many top Republicans are unhappy about this. They find him a repulsive figure and a weak candidate. But his hold over Republican voters is so strong that he will probably win the nomination, absent unforeseen circumstances. What happens then is anyone's guess, but something like a re-play of the 2020 election is likely.

**To what extent the American public is aware of poli-**



**tics? Many say that American people do not care about politics, especially foreign policy.**

Most Americans are oriented more toward family, work, their community, and church, synagogue, or mosque rather than politics. But, a relatively small number are highly interested and involved, and they have a dispro-

portionate impact on the political parties and candidate selection. The situation is particularly extreme on foreign policy.

**Do you expect the collapse of American democracy due to Republicans' behaviors and decisions to restrict freedom and voting opportunities?**

The collapse of American de-

mocracy is a low probability event – not zero, but close to it. But the U.S. could become a much more authoritarian place than it has been. With respect to Trump, the sole mitigating factor has been his sheer political incompetence. He is a brilliant demagogue, but otherwise just as bad at running a government as he is in running a business – this is a guy who went bankrupt eight times. If he were as clever and skillful as, say, Richard Nixon, he would still be president.

**Don't you think a two-party system is old-fashioned and the U.S. needs to update its election system, especially the electoral colleges that are controversial?**

Perhaps the U.S. would be better off as a parliamentary democracy, as in Europe. Lots of political scientists believe this. But it doesn't make any difference in the end, because there is no way to get from here to there. The U.S. is stuck with an 18th-century government in the 21st century!

## Yemeni leader: “our only path is victory”

From page 1 ▶ In a televised speech al-Houthi explained how the religion of Islam arrived in Yemen during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad and how the faith of those on the front line has helped Yemen resist seven years of “aggression”, that this is one of the main components that has brought back the country's dignity recently and how it also brought back pride to the people of Yemen.

Some analysts have alluded to this, saying despite the coalition waging war on Yemen enjoys foreign-backed mainstream media propaganda being on their side, the supply of weapons to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars, the most advanced weapon systems, the support of the West in the United Nations Security Council being one the side of the Saudi-led

coalition, the Yemenis have God on their side and this is sufficient enough for the country not to be defeated.

The revolution leader stressed that “the Yemeni people are victorious in every sense of the word” pointing out that “the reality is being witnessed and in the future, events will become clearer. The enemy today has increased anxiety and fear and at the same time increases its brutality, aggression, and siege”.

He spoke about life in Yemen and how the Yemeni people deal with hardships and threats as something that will ultimately lead to success if the Yemeni people face this era of hardship using their faith saying “faith is a virtue and a blessing from God”.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi says [the war on Yemen] can be used as an opportunity for the Yemeni nation to be free and sovereign despite the hardship it endures and noted the “future” of this struggle will bring prosperity and eternal happiness.

The popular revolutionary leader, referring to the forces waging war on Yemen, says they have been “shaken [by the resisting forces] despite their different warfare methods including military, economic siege, and media warfare”.

He noted that “as long as our people are steadfast, [the nation] will avoid defeat and be victorious”.

Touching on some advances recently made by militants aligned with the Saudi-led coalition in the country's Shabwa province, al-Houthi says during the coming period the militant's campaign of “will fail just like it failed in many provinces in the last despite the military, media and economic aggression that was used”

The leader of Ansarallah described the



“Saudi-Emirati alliance” as a “bad, spiteful and arrogant enemy,” noting that what it is doing “by killing children, women and detainees only enhances the belief that we are on the right path against a criminal enemy.”

Malik al-Houthi also stressed that the Emiratis will end up as the losers by resorting to an escalation in tensions and “submitting to American-British-Israeli orders”, reminding Abu

Dhabi that “our people today are emerging victorious in every sense of the word”.

During his speech al-Houthi also said that since the beginning of the aggression, the UAE “has been a major tool for America, Israel, and Britain”, recalling the failures of the UAE in the previous stages of the war.

Several years ago, Abu Dhabi announced it was withdrawing from the Saudi-led coalition saying it saw no military solution to the conflict. The announcement came after the Emirates were targeted by Yemeni forces in response to their support for the war on Yemen.

The Yemeni leader says that “the Americans, the Israelis and the British pushed the Emiratis to return to the war and implicated it”, stressing that the UAE was the loser by resuming to an unjustified escalation.

Al-Houthi highlighted that the UAE tries to satisfy the Americans, court the Zionists, and get close to the British, but says “whoever imagines that by appeasing America, Britain, and Israel has become in a position of victory, then he is mistaken, and his inevitable fate is nothing but defeat”.

He added, “We say with confidence... those who sided with America, Britain, and Israel will be punished by the sons of our nation”.

The Ansarallah movement has stated on more than one occasion that the war on Yemen only serves the Israeli regime with the goal of dividing the region.

However, al-Houthi declared that “the greater the crimes (of the Saudi-led coalition), the greater our level of solidarity will be with the people of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, Iraq and Iran, and with all the free people of the world.”

The Leader of the popular revolution also stressed that “our enemies are fighting us with the aim of controlling us completely, and as a result, we suffer,” but noted that “our position embodies freedom and dignity, and we will never accept our enemies' control over us”.

He says the enemies of Yemen are many “and they arrived in our land with their massive armies”, something “they was witnessed by the faithful Yemeni nation which did not hesitate in front of all the advanced military hardware”.

He says this “[Yemen's success on the battlefield] was because the people put their trust in God and this increased their hopes further. The greater the aggression became, the greater the Yemeni's faith in God became”

He adds “our fight for independence is reflected in other nations battle for freedom. And because we put all our faith in God for our freedom, this infuriated our enemies and this is why they used everything they had and brought so much [military hardware] that they have to use against us, to control our people, independence and land again”.

“As a result, we do suffer, but we are in front of a position. An honorable position. The position of the faithful, the patient, the steadfastness our nation has shown, the position of dignity and everything this word means”.

He says “we will never allow our enemies to take our sovereignty from us again. Nothing now can take away our responsibility and duty [to carry on the struggle].

Al-Houthi concluded his speech by saying “our steadfastness in confronting the aggressors, whatever level they choose to escalate [the war], is a moral, ethical and humanitarian commitment”.

He stressed that “the siege, tyranny and the crimes of the enemies such as the ongoing massacres and crimes against humanity will be the reason for their defeat... and the injustice against our people who have proved their patience, giving and bearing their responsibility as well as putting their trust in God will be the reason for our inevitable victory.”

tion would place responsibility for the starvation of Yemenis squarely on the shoulders of the U.S. The move could even bolster the Houthis' credibility, which they seek to establish on the basis of defending Yemen against Saudi, Emirati, and American aggression.

Wisely unwilling, so far, to reverse his position on the designation of the Houthis, Biden has turned instead to increasing the U.S. military's role in defending the UAE. Yet by doing so, the president has put more U.S. military personnel and assets into harm's way. Although air defenses have thus far been able to prevent the majority of Houthi drones and missiles fired at the UAE and at Saudi Arabia from causing more significant casualties, these systems are not perfect.

If a U.S. service-member is killed by a Houthi attack, would Biden escalate to a full-blown war against the

Houthis? This would directly contradict Biden's stated intent to withdraw from unnecessary conflicts in West Asia such as Afghanistan, and refocus the U.S. military's attention on more pressing security threats. For the Biden administration, such threats include China and Russia, although arguably climate change and COVID-19 more directly threaten Americans' security and way of life.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration appears to have concluded that in order to combat the perceived threat of China's expansion, the U.S. must maintain and even enhance relations with American security partners in West Asia. As a result, the preferences of Saudi Arabia and the UAE are more likely to dictate U.S. policy than American interests, embroiling the U.S. more firmly in a region where most Americans are eager to avoid unnecessary military engagement following two de-

## Israel stumbling block of Iran-U.S. rapprochement: professor

By Mohamamd Mazhari

TEHRAN - Shireen Tahmaasb Hunter, a professor of political science at Georgetown University, says that Israel and its supporters in the U.S. have played key roles in preventing rapprochement between the U.S. and Iran.

“Israel and its supporters in the U.S. have played key roles in preventing U.S.-Iran reconciliation,” Hunter tells the Tehran Times.

“They have even contributed to the worsening of these relations. For example in 1996 Israel's supporters played a key role in the passage of the Iran-Libya sanctions act,” she adds.

While the American officials are signaling that the Vienna talks are on the cusp of restoring point, there are still questions that cast a shadow on the possible agreement under unsolved problems between Tehran and Washington.

Tehran and Washington are at odds when it comes to regional policies in which Israel is the most prominent obstacle.

“Israel even played a key role in convincing President Trump to leave the JCPOA. In future, too, Israel will try to stop U.S.-Iran reconciliation,” Hunter asserts.

Following is the text of the interview:

**Biden administration officials said on Monday the United States and its European allies appear on the cusp of restoring the Iran nuclear deal. Many were pessimistic about the Vienna talks. What is your take?**

Being close to agreement does not necessarily mean that agreement would be reached. Judging by statements of both Iran's and the 4+1 officials some difficult issues requiring difficult political issues remain. So the question is would the parties be able to make such difficult decisions? Let's hope that they will.

**What are the expected fruits of a revived nuclear deal for Iran, the region and the world in its entirety?**

The most important benefits for Iran are the following: the vast reduction in the risk of any military conflict with the U.S.; the elimination of any Israeli excuse for attacking Iran and; the infusion of much needed financial resources into the Iranian economy.

At the regional level, the revival of the JCPOA is likely to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation by reassuring Iran's neighbors that Tehran is not moving towards making nuclear weapons. At the global level, too, the JCPOA's revival could help non-proliferation goals.

**What are the implications of reviving the Iran nuclear deal when it comes to the tense Iran-U.S. relationship? Can it be a prelude to improve relations or just a tactic to alleviate tensions? Apparently they have a long road ahead.**

The revival of the JCPOA will eliminate one source of tension in U.S.-Iran relations. However, there are other issues which prevent better relations between Washington and Tehran, especially the issue of Iran's regional policies, most notably its hostility towards Israel and support for groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas. But perhaps the most



significant barrier is Iran's unwillingness to talk directly to the U.S. Exchange of messages is not enough, especially that messengers might have their own interest in preventing Tehran-Washington reconciliation.

**What is the role of Israel in preventing any steps to break the ice between Iran and the U.S.?**

Israel and its supporters in the U.S. have played key roles in preventing U.S.-Iran reconciliation. They have even contributed to the worsening of these relations. For example in 1996 Israel's supporters played a key role in the passage of the Iran-Libya sanctions act.

The same was true of later sanctions imposed on Iran. Israel even played a key role in convincing President Trump to leave the JCPOA. In future, too, Israel will try to stop U.S.-Iran reconciliation. The only way to prevent such Israeli actions is for Iran: first to talk directly to the U.S. and second; to reduce its anti-Israel hostility and possibly reach some form of understanding, even if tacit.

**Some critics say a revival of the nuclear deal won't help Iran to reconstruct its economy given that there is no guarantee that the next U.S. administration will stay in the pact. They also say international companies would not dare to enter business dealings with Iran while there is a kind of uncertainty over fate of the JCPOA. What is your comment?**

Iran's economic problems have many roots, and the sanctions, although very important, are not the only cause of these problems. However, the lack of capital since 2008 and especially, after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA has been a major factor in Iran's economic downturn. The revival of the JCPOA will reduce this capital crunch. As for the unwillingness of companies to come to Iran, other factors, including cultural restrictions, also play a role.

Of course, the possibility that the U.S. might again leave the JCPOA also acts as a restraining factor. To solve this problem, the only way for Iran is to reach some form of compromise with the United States and end the four decades old estrangement. This does not mean having close relations with Washington.

Only non-hostile relations. Such reconciliation will also improve Iran's bargaining position vis a vis its neighbors and other regional players, and even toward Russia and China. All these countries have used U.S.-Iran estrangement and Iran's international isolation to take unfair advantage of Tehran.

## Sending warship, fighter jets to UAE, Biden digs deeper into Yemen fight

*For a president who pledged to start reducing the U.S. footprint in West Asia, he sure is doing his best to stay hooked*

On Wednesday, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that the United States would send the USS Cole, a guided missile destroyer, as well as 5th Generation fighter aircraft, to assist in shooting down missiles and drones fired at the UAE by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

The announcement comes as the Biden administration considers whether or not to re-designate the Houthis a foreign terrorist organization after Houthi missiles killed three people in Abu Dhabi on January 17, and additional attacks aimed at the U.S. Air Force base al-Dhafra were deflected by U.S. Patriot anti-missile defenses on January 24.

The Biden administration has stated its commitment to assisting the UAE, as well as Saudi Arabia, to defend against Houthi attacks. The UAE, as well as Saudi Arabia, would like the U.S. to do this by re-designating the Houthis as

terrorists. Sending additional U.S. military assets to assist the UAE instead may reflect Biden's unwillingness to re-impose the terrorist designation.

The Houthis' designation was one of the final acts of the out-going Trump administration. It drew significant criticism from humanitarian organizations, diplomats, and some members of Congress, based on the devastating humanitarian impact of preventing the distribution of aid to Yemenis living under Houthi control. Lifting it was one of Biden's first decisions as president.

Yet with Houthi attacks now threatening U.S. troops stationed at al-Dhafra, Biden may reimpose the designation, although it is not clear if that would deter the Houthis. What is clear is that 25 million of Yemen's 30 million inhabitants would lose access not only to food aid, but to any semblance of a functioning economy. The designa-



Travel insiders from Iraqi Kurdistan, Iran discuss ways to deepen tourism ties



TEHRAN – In an effort to deepen tourism ties, travel insiders and tour operators from Iraqi Kurdistan attended several meetings with their Iranian counterparts, CHTN reported on Friday.

Last week, the delegation traveled to Iran to attend the 15th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition and participated in several meetings on the sidelines of the event.

Meetings were held to discuss how to boost reciprocal tourism, especially medical tourism in the western provinces of Iran for potential Iraqi health tourists.

In addition to meetings with Iranian travel insiders, the delegation also had B2B meetings with counterparts from Pakistan and Iraq to promote tourism.

Centuries-old tree in eastern Iran made national heritage

TEHRAN –A 600-year-old pistacia tree in Qaenat county, eastern South Khorasan province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list, a local tourism official has said.

At a distance, this tree shows its greatness, strength, and stability, as well as its almost symmetrical crown, Zahra Rezaei explained on Friday.

At 51 meters above the ground, the trunk is divided into sub-branches, and its largest branch has a circumference of 40.2 centimeters, the official noted.

This tree has a diameter of 6.5 meters and a height of 8 meters and the knots and twists on its trunk

Last week, Mehr reported that some 147m foreign nationals visited Iran from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021) to January 1, a span most of which was subject to severe travel bans due to coronavirus.

Of the number, 635, 862 foreign nationals arrived in Iran as of mid-October when the Islamic Republic started issuance of tourist visas after a 20-month hiatus, the report added.

Citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021.

Last September, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced that by the order of President Ebrahim Raisi the issuance of tourist visas and the flow of foreign tourists from land and air borders will be resumed from the month of Aban (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) following 19 months of suspension.

Some experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in the Iranian calendar year 1404.

indicate that it is an old tree, she mentioned.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

The province is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Niavaran holds exhibits to mark 1979 Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN – Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center has held exhibitions of museum works to mark the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which is known as Fajr Ten-Day celebrations (this year from February 1 to 11), Mehr reported on Friday.

One of the exhibitions is dedicated to contemporary paintings by Iranian modernist artists including Bahman Mohasses, Iran Darudi, Parvaneh Etemadi, and Sadeq Tabrizi.

A collection of historical coins, dating back to the Timurid-era (1370–1507) and Qajar-era (1789–1925) are also on display.

In the photo exhibition ‘Niavaran in February 1979’, a collection of photographs shows the atmosphere of Niavaran Palace during the early days following the victory of the Revolution.

The center has also organized one-day tours describing the history and narratives of the Niavaran palace complex, from the Qajar period onwards.

The Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, covering an area of about eleven hectares, is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.



The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty ordered for a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad Shahi Pavilion is one of the highlights of the complex.

The main palace of the complex was originally erected for royal ceremonies and gatherings. However, it later turned into the resident of the second king of Pahlavi king, Mohammad Reza Shah, and his family. With an area of 9,000 square meters, the palace is entirely adorned with magnificent plasterwork, mirrorwork, and tilework. Its architecture boasts a blend of pre and post-Islamic art.

Discover special king of Iranian embroidery

TEHRAN – For centuries, Monjugh-Douzi, which is a special skill of Iranian embroidery, has been applied to ornate clothing, head wears, money bags, decorative tableaux, pencil holders, cases of stamps or brushes, bags, covers of boxes or utensils, belts, necklaces, anklets,

coasters to name a few.

The know-how of this delicate handicraft has been passed down from generation to generation from ancient times.

There are some historical documents and evidence that prove this art was quite popular during the Achaemenid and Sassanid

eras. Back then tents, carpets, and garments were ornated by Monjughs, however, it was a custom specific to aristocrats.

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

According to Visit Iran, Monjugh-Duzi is the art of sewing Mojugh beads to fabrics. The first step is to pass the beads through yarn by using a needle and then, sew them to the fabric based on



the pattern. There are a lot of patterns and motifs that can be applied in Monjugh-Duzi such as “Gol o Morgh” (flower and bird),

Khan-e Abbasian: 19th-century house of full aesthetic wonders

From page 1 ▶ Its numerous subterranean courtyards are designed to enhance the sense of space by increasing in size and depth as the complex unfolds. For that reason and despite illusion, the multistorey buildings are no higher than neighboring properties in the old district.

Like many other traditional houses of the city, Abbasi House features a public part, which is called “birooni”, and a private living part “andarooni”, used mostly by women and servants. The living part of the house is divided into two parts – winter and summer residence; winter rooms are smaller and have less air circulation, which helps to keep the warm air inside while summer rooms are air-conditioned with wind towers and fountains.

Also, Abbasi House has several bigger halls, used for entertaining the guests. This way, visitors can observe the laundry room, kitchen, and praying room in the living part of the house and storage room and pavilion in the public part, as well as secret passageways, meant for evacuation in case of emergency.

On the second floor, there is an outstanding “Shahneshin”, a five-door traditional hall, called Mirror Hall – its ceiling is decorated with mirror mosaics that creates the feeling of a starry sky.

The interior is lavishly decorated with lattice, mosaic windows, stucco reliefs, and carvings. The courtyards have water pools that are provided with water through “qanats” – a network of canals, bringing water to the house.

The house includes two main entrances; one is situated at the south of the courtyard, comprised of two corridors, a vestibule (hashti), and a yard, which collectively leads the visitors through several successive twisting spaces to a corridor ending in various corners of the courtyard. The other one, located on the north and including an open passageway, a vestibule, and a corridor, takes two turns and leads to the northeastern platform in the courtyard.

The southeastern part holds a hall (talar) and two rooms (seh-



A view of Khan-e Abbasian, a 19th-century traditional house, and modern travel destination, in Kashan, central Iranian.

dari) on the first floor connected through sash doors and three rooms, one panj-dari and two seh-daris connected by two small porches (ayvancheh) on the second floor. On the upper mezzanine, there are two elongated spaces above the ayvans (porticos), lit from the courtyard through small apertures.

The southwestern part consists of a hall on the first floor, decorated with exquisite mirror work and yazdi-bandi. Above this room. There is a room (panj-dari), surrounded by two small porches (ayvancheh) which join each other to form a platform (soffeh) in front. The already-mentioned ayvanchehs are topped with other space. Also, the central arch of the panj-dari soars up above the roofline of this part.

The northeastern part echoes its opposite façade on the southwest while the rear rooms are completely different. The ground floor is located several steps below the courtyard. Above it, a seh-dari room is surrounded by two kafsh-kans. On the mezzanine, there are two neighboring halls (talars).

Howz-khaneh (pool house), with its domed roof and barrel vaults, is located on the western part. You can see one of the elegant domed ceilings with angled skylights smoothing the light and preventing the room from the excessive heat here. On the eastern part, there is a roofed space decorated with rasmi-bandi, opening to its adjacent room through a sash door.

Moreover, the house has two wind towers and two water-wells. The former reduces the temperature of the house during the hot days of the year and the latter provides the necessary water for the residents of the house.

Abbasi House is situated within the historic core of Kashan. It is close to Alavi St. and surrounded by other touristic spots. Within walking distance, one can reach Borujerdi House, Ameri House, Tabatabaei House, Toy Museum, Sultan Amir Ahmad Bathhouse, and other travel destinations. Moreover, the imposing Agha Bozorg Mosque and the vaulted Bazaar of Kashan are located within 15 minutes' walking.

Partly renovated and turned into a public museum, Abbasi House is protected by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Under travelers' eyes

Here is a selection of comments that visitors to the 19th-century house have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

'Nice ancient Kashan house'

This is a great example of 19th century Kashani house, located in front of the quite frankly more majestic Tabatabaei house. Visit this beautiful ancient house before the baths and the other ancient houses in Kashan. You will be forgiven for missing out on it if you only have a day or two in Kashan, as the Tabatabaei house is more impressive. Nonetheless, if you have time, it's

really worth the combined ticket to the houses. (Juanchijmc from Basel, Switzerland)

'Beautiful'

This is a very nice house. Combine it with the restaurant and with the coffee shop. We love this house. (Jan from Groningen, The Netherlands)

'Interesting'

I really was surprised about the well-prepared building.

The atmosphere is great and I can only recommend visiting it. (Thomas N from Innsbruck, Austria)

'Love it can stay hours here'

This is by far my favorite house in Kashan. It is very big, still in renovation. All these beautiful rooms, private garden, and area, the public area. The artwork on the walls and ceiling is so refined and honestly amazing. So many different ones based on the room or area used. They seem the same but once you pay attention you can see the differences. The sewage system and the water system are so intelligent. This is an amazing place. (Taffoolie from Paris)

'Delightful former private home in Kashan'

Walking down toward the lower floors that allow cool air to drop makes the environment more tolerable to enjoy.

The artwork is worth seeing, the original colors and skill must have been amazing.

The House once a family home worth visiting is delightful, as with everything in Iran the decor is all around don't forget to look up! (fussy011 from Northallerton, UK)

'Beautiful historical house'

The optical effect of numerous floors, but the house is at the same level as others, six buildings excavated from underground. (pretisan from Milano)

'Not so speical but quite big area'

Not so special but quite a big area that is good for visit esp that is under combo ticket housing. love the summer room that has 4 big seats to take rest & cooler the head. that is good. (iamface from East Sussex)

Horse breeding in northern Iran to be listed as national heritage

TEHRAN – Gilan is preparing to apply to the ministry of tourism for listing the traditional way of breeding Caspian Horses, which is traditionally practiced across the northern Iranian province, in the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Caspian Horses are one of the world's unique species, and listing them as national heritage will help preserve and protect them, provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani said on Friday, IRNA reported.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran depicts reliefs of this ancient horse, which is unique to the Gilan region and is over three thousand years of history, the official added.

“Remains of the animal have been found in archaeological excavations across the province,” he noted.

Moreover, one of the unique characteristics of this breed is its small size, which is known internationally as a Caspian horse, he mentioned.

Caspians are an ancient breed previously

thought to be extinct for over a thousand years. Most likely, this breed is the direct ancestor of the Oriental breeds and subsequently of all light horse breeds.

Caspians are extremely rare and were barely saved from extinction in 1965. Archaeozoologists are now studying the area to prove the connection between the modern Caspian and the tiny prehistoric horse of Persia.

Generally, Caspian horses stand between 100 and 120 cm tall, although better feeding conditions outside of Iran may result in taller animals. Their head is short and fine with a vaulted forehead, large eyes, and short ears. The body is slim with a graceful neck, sloping shoulders, straight back, good withers, and a high-set tail.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until



the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

“Gol o Buteh” (flower and bush), kinds of paisley, birds, animals, hunting grounds, geometric, trees, cypresses, arabesque, “Toranji” and “Sar Toranji”, “Sar Lachaki”, “Shamsehee”, “Bazubandi”, “Band Rumi”, “Shah Abbasi”, knots, patterns from Kelims, holy names, etc.

Monjughs are most commonly sewed to thick silk, satin, and other shiny fabrics in different colors, and in styles such as “Khati” or linear, “Tupor” where the motif is filled by Monjugh, “Bast-Duzi”,

“Cobareh-Duzi” and “Barjesteh-Duzi” or embossed. Sometimes it is used along with other embroideries like “Gheytan-Duzi” that is done by thick yarn, or with silk yarn, sequins, pearls, and filigree.

Small beads being sewed to clothing and other textiles, Monjughs became highly popular in the late 20th century, during the Qajar era. Some of the valuable and elaborate Monjugh-Duzi pieces of this era are kept in the Decorative Arts Museum of Iran and can be visited.



# Homegrown molecular kits detecting new Omicron strains

TEHRAN – A knowledge-based company developed a technological test kit to diagnose the new Omicron strains, IRNA reported on Friday.

Every new strain of the virus that enters the country, it is necessary to examine the efficiency of the kits, Mohammad Baqer Mahmoudi, CEO of the manufacturing company said.

These tests are done by downloading an atlas of virus mutations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and examining the location of the mutations, and the data obtained are compared with the kits produced to see if the kit can detect the mutations, he explained.

If this does not match, the kits will be designed based on these mutations, otherwise the generated kit will be used for new strains as well, he said, adding,



we have produced several diagnostic kits, one of which is related to virus extraction that met up to 90 percent of the country's needs.

Last year, as the first manufacturer of COVID-19 antigen-based diagnostic kits during the pandemic, the company was one of the top three manufacturers of

this kit in the world.

Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has announced the beginning of a new wave of coronavirus pandemic, as the number of infected people with the Omicron variant is surging.

The minister urged more caution against the disease and

said getting booster vaccinations could play a major role in preventing a fresh surge in the number of deaths and infections from the virus.

The daily number of hospitalization cases soared to 2,262 while nearly 2,085 patients were reported to be in intensive care wards in hospitals because of the disease on Friday.

The daily number of hospitalization cases soared to 2,262 while nearly 2,085 patients reported being in intensive care wards in hospitals.

## First Iranian satellite to orbit at 500 km

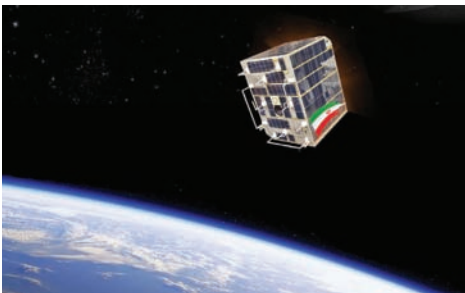
TEHRAN – Kosar satellite, designed and launched by 8 technological companies, is scheduled to be in a 500-kilometer orbit by the next [Iranian calendar] year (beginning on March 21).

This satellite weighs 30 kg and has a design life of 2 years, with spatial resolutions of 3.4 meters; and a near-infrared imaging resolution is 5.5 meters.

The frame rate is 6 per second and the near-infrared imaging rate produces 28 frames per second.

Unveiled on Thursday on National Space Technology Day, the satellite is undergoing the testing phase.

It is scheduled to be launched in the next year, which will be the first private-sector satellite to be placed in a 500-kilometer orbit.



Iran ranked 11th in space science world-wide

Iran is among the 10 countries with knowledge of space technology and is the 11th country in the world in terms of space science and the leading country in the region.

The country launched its first satellite, called Omid (literally meaning hope), on February 3, 2009, designated this day as "National Space Technology Day".

In 2012, a third domestically manufactured satellite, named Navid (literally meaning promise), was successfully put into orbit.

According to previous reports, the Iranian Space Agency has plans to launch a number of satellites including Pars-1, Pars-2, Zafar-2, and Nahid-2.

Pars-1 is supposed to take pictures of all parts of the country using a high-resolution 15-meter-camera and send its photos from a 500-kilometer distance to the earth stations using a high-powered telecommunication transceiver.

## Increased precipitation raises wildfire risk

TEHRAN – Given that heavy snow and rainfall saturated the country over the past few months, plant and vegetation cover has been expanded which seems to be vulnerable to temperature rise, so wildfire risk increases during this summer (starting on May 22).

Considering temperature increase during the summer, vegetation and plants will dry which enhances the possibility of massive fires, Amir Massoud Jalali, director of natural resources protection office of the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization said.

Moreover, vegetation has covered vast areas of Zagros forest in the southwestern part of the country, which easily ignites when temperature level gets higher and wildfire risk increases, he also lamented.

As the result of the rain, plants and vegetation have grown in vast areas of forests and rangelands which soon will be dried due to temperature rise and enhance the possibility of massive fires, he added.



To prevent the probable losses, we held some meetings and discussed ways to extinguish the fires instantly using the available equipment and facilities, he highlighted, noting, requirements and shortages also have been assessed and announced to responsible bodies in order to provide us with the necessary facilities.

Some 150,000 people are participating in training courses in the fields of fire prevention and control to help rangers of the Department of Environment as "nature protectors", which have been educated through training courses.

At present, we have purchased a monitoring system for all DOE departments to establish a monitoring center in all provinces to soon detect any wildfire, and negotiations are

underway to buy advanced equipment, he further explained.

**Budget to prevent wildfires up by 10-fold**

A total of 1 trillion rials (around \$3.6 million) has been allocated to preventing and extinguishing wildfires in the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (starting March 21), a 10-fold rise compared to the current year.

During the last two years, there has been no specific credit line for forest and pasture firefighting, but a special budget has been allotted in this regard for the next year, Masoud Mansour, head of the FRWMO said.

**Wildfire in natural areas decreases by 49%**

The occurrence of wildfire in natural areas has declined by 49 percent since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year compared to the same period last year, deputy commander of the protection unit of the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization has said.

This year, with the implemen-

tation of protective measures and increasing public participation and equipping protection units, the burnt areas in natural resources have decreased by 46 percent compared to the previous year, Ali Mohammadi Moghaddam said in December 2021.

Currently, 5,000 rangers are active to protect natural resources, however, one protection force is needed for every 2,000 hectares of forest and one protection force for every 10,000 hectares of pasture, which has not been achieved in the country due to lack of manpower.

According to Mohammadi Moghaddam, there are currently 135 million hectares of forests and pastures in the country, with one ranger per 6,000 hectares of forest, and one ranger per 30,000 hectares of pastures.

Wildfires are mostly caused by unintentional human error, said that over 90 percent of wildfires are ignited by humans unintentionally while setting fires in nature, smoking, and releasing plastic and glass containers.

## SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 5, 2022

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

## 65 universities of medical sciences among top institutions worldwide

From page 1 ► Currently, out of 65 medical universities in the country in this ranking system, 45 percent of which have improved ranks.

Harvard University, Stanford University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology are the top three ranking universities worldwide in Webometrics.

**Iranian universities among world's top ones**

Most recently, a total of 59 Iranian universities are listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

A total of 51 universities from Iran have been listed in the Islamic World University Rankings 2021 announced by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC).

Also, fifteen universities from Iran have been listed among the best institutions worldwide, by the U.S. News and World Report Best Global Universities rankings 2022.

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes



Meanwhile, 41 Iranian universities in engineering sciences and 12 universities in computer sciences have made a place among the top 1,188 universities in the world with the announcement of Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject.

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

The THE Education Young University Rankings 2021 listed 26 Iranian institutions among the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

Moreover, 34 Iranian universities and institutions were listed among the top 1,000 in the world, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021.

## Plant species under threat as climate crisis changes flowering patterns, study finds

Plant species are under threat as the climate crisis is causing flowering to happen a month earlier on average, according to a new study.

Researchers traced records dating back to the 18th century for hundreds of species and said their findings showing earlier flowering times were "truly alarming".

This comes with risks for plants, including the potential for them to be killed by late frost, lead author Professor Ulf Buntgen said.

A team lead by Cambridge University found trees, shrubs, herbs and climbers in the UK flowered a month earlier between 1987 and 2019 compared to the period between 1753 and 1886.

The period coincides with accelerating global warming caused by human activity.

Prof Buntgen, from Cambridge's Department of Geography, said late frost posed a potentially fatal risk to plants that flower too early, but an "even bigger risk" was "ecological mismatch".

"Plants, insects, birds and other wildlife have co-evolved to a point that they're synchronised in their development stages," he said.

"A certain plant flowers, it attracts a particular type of insect, which attracts a particular type of bird, and so on. But if one component responds faster than the others, there's a risk that they'll be out of synch, which can lead species to collapse if



they can't adapt quickly enough."

If global temperatures continue to increase at their current rate, spring in the UK could eventually start in February, he added.

In early January this year, flowers were seen in bloom that were not expected to be out until at least April following record-breaking heat. Daffodils, violets and irises were also out two or three weeks early.

The new research – published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society – looked at the first flowering dates of plants in locations from the Channel and Shetland Islands, and also from Northern Ireland to Suffolk.

Co-author Professor Tim Sparks from Cambridge's Department of Zoology, said: "Continued monitoring is necessary to ensure that we better understand the consequences of a changing climate."

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 4

New cases	36,908
New deaths	57
Total cases	6,520,707
Total deaths	132,681
New hospitalized patients	2,262
Patients in critical condition	2,085
Total recovered patients	6,130,566
Diagnostic tests conducted	45,202,592
Doses of vaccine injected	134,449,270

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

### بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود. ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.



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FEBRUARY 5, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18    Evening: 17:55    Dawn: 5:35 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 7:00 (tomorrow)

## What’s in Tehran art galleries



**Painting**  
\* An exhibition of paintings by Bahareh Babai is currently underway at Homa Gallery.

Entitled “Jigsaw Puzzle”, the exhibit will run until February 14 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

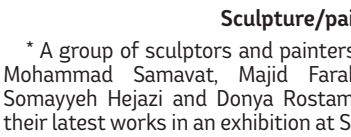
\* A collection of paintings by Nasrin Sarabandi is on view in an exhibition at Naqsh-e Jahan Gallery.

The exhibit named “Color Symphony” will be running until February 9 at the gallery located at 9 Ayatollah Mahmudi St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.



\* A collection of paintings by Maliheh Simi, Pegah Salimi, Mehdi Rahemi, Nastaran Rahmani, Laleh Shamsi, Nasrin Najafi and several other artists is currently on display in an exhibition at Hoom Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until February 14 at the gallery that can be found at No. 2, 4th Alley off Qaem-Maqam St.



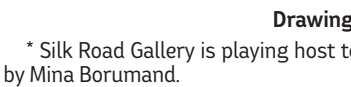
**Sculpture/painting**  
\* A group of sculptors and painters, including Hamoon Alipur, Mohammad Samavat, Majid Farahmand, Faramarz Khani, Somayyeh Hejazi and Donya Rostami, is currently showcasing their latest works in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery.

The exhibit named “Analyze” runs until February 16 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.



**Plasterwork**  
\* An exhibition of plasterworks by Sana Ahmadian, Mona Kashani and Mahbubeh Afshar is currently underway at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until February 9 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.



**Drawing**  
\* Silk Road Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of drawings by Mina Borumand.

The exhibit will run until March 6 at the gallery located at 103 Lavasani St. in the Kamranieh neighborhood.



**Multimedia**  
\* An exhibition of artworks in different media by Rakhshad Nurdeh, Behdad Najafi, Hassan Noruznia, Parisa Abbaszadeh, Ali Mazarei, Hamoon Hushyar and several other artists is underway at Rasul Mehr Gallery.

Najafi is also the curator of the exhibition, which will run until February 9 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.



\* Artists in various media, including Setareh Nejad, Mahsa Arabzadeh, Nima Sayyadan and Sahar Jafari, are showcasing their latest paintings in a joint exhibition at Mohsen Gallery.

The exhibit runs until February 13 at the gallery located at 42 East Mina Blvd., Naji St., off Zafar St.

\* Sohrab Hadi, Behruz Boluri, Behruz Qobadi, Hossein Feizabadi, Fatemeh Jafari and several other artists are currently displaying their latest artworks in various media in an exhibition at Ayrik Gallery.

The exhibition will run until February 9 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.

# Statue of Kurdish writer Mastureh Ardalan awarded national heritage status

From Page 1 ► Her father, Abolhassan Beig Qadiri, was a great man in his time, and she studied Kurdish, Arabic and Persian under his supervision.

Her husband, Khosro Khan Ardalan, was the ruler of the Ardalan court, but after the death of her husband, she was forced to move to the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah, where she died and was buried when she was only 43.

A new and unabridged edition of her book, “History of Ardalan”, which was first published over 170 years ago, was unveiled during a special ceremony at Khosroabad Historical Edifice in Sanandaj last summer.

“The significance of Mastureh is that she never limited herself to literacy, but she was seriously



A woman takes photos of a statue of Iranian Kurdish writer Mastureh Ardalan in the western Iranian city of Sanandaj on December 23, 2018. (ISNA/Farshid Ardalan)

seeking to learn about the current knowledge of that time when it was taboo for women to

acquire knowledge,” litterateur Jamal Ahmadi, who is an expert on Mastureh, told the Persian

service of IRNA.

“The most important topic about Mastureh is that she was composed her love poems for a worldly lover, which was against the social traditions at that time,” he added.

“Poetesses in Persian literature limited themselves to composing mystical works; in contemporary Persian literature, even Parvin Etesami didn’t dare to compose love poems; Forugh Farrokhzad and Simin Behbahani were the sole Iranian poetesses after Mastureh, who violated the taboo against composing love poems,” he noted.

Jamali said that Mastureh composed her love poems for Khosro Khan Ardalan from their exuberant teens to their happy marriage.

## “World’s Smile” by Marzieh Hushmand wins grand prix at Paralympic Art World Cup



“World’s Smile” by Iranian artist Marzieh Hushmand won the grand prix at the Paralympic Art World Cup 2021 in Nakama, Japan.

TEHRAN – The Paralympic Art World Cup 2021 has given its grand prix to Iranian artist Marzieh Hushmand for her painting “World’s Smile”.

The 2021 edition of the competition, which is organized in Nakama, Japan, for artists with disabilities, was held on the theme of “Smile”.

“World’s Smile” depicts a Black boy sitting on the globe creating bubbles with smiling faces.

“Vaccine” by Ali Bahrami from Iran also won the Kushino Nobumasa Award, while his compatriot Marzieh Baqeri-Chizeh received a Paralympic Award for her painting, “Embroidered Art”.

Hossein Divsalar, the Iranian cultural attaché in Tokyo, received the awards on behalf of the Iranian artists in a special ceremony attended by Nakama Mayor Kenji Fukuda and representatives of organizations sponsoring the competition, the Iranian Cultural Center in Tokyo announced on Thursday.

“Smile of Peace” by Tajiri Hajime and “The Joy of Life” by Yagi Hidetomo, both from Japan were

selected as runners-up.

The Persol Award went to “Dancing in the Rainbow” by Marium Kashif from the UAE, while “Shower of Smiles” by Mine Megumi from Japan won the Tokairika Award.

Indian artist Sonu Gupta was honored with Koei Tecmo Holdings Award for the painting “Smile” and the Kaltec Award was given to “Triumph of Mankind” by Japanese artist Ryoute Fujiyu.

The Park Hotel Tokyo Award went to “Mixture of Cultures” by Eduardo Boyd from Panama, and the Tao Keiichiro Award was presented to “Smiles in Various Landscapes” by Japanese artist Tsuchida Manabu.

“A Love Letter from Outer Space: Do You Love the Earth?” by Harumaru, “Who Will Make Me Smile?” by Katoh Takehiro, both from Japan” and “Smile” by Ansari and “Smile” by Chetan Pashilkar, both from India” won the Paralympic Awards.

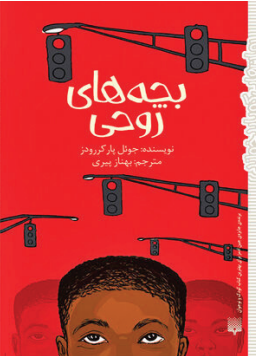
## “Ghost Boys” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “Ghost Boys” by American writer Jewell Parker Rhodes has been published in Persian by Peydayesh in Tehran.

Behnaz Piri is the translator of the book originally published in 2018.

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that’s been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that



A combination photo shows writer Jewell Parker Rhodes and the front cover of the Persian edition of her book “Ghost Boys”.

ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father’s actions.

Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today’s world, and how one boy grows to

understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

She has written six novels for adults, two writing guides and a memoir, but writing for children remained her dream.

She is the author of seven books for children including the New York Times bestseller “Black Brother, Black Brother”. Her other

## Hafez and “rendi”

Part 3

Opposed to the above, we find figures of counter-culture and disrepute, including beggars (gada, faqir, moflete), qalandars, and the characters who haunt the “ruins” (kharabat). These ruins are scenes of illicit pleasure, occupied by drinkers and drunkards, the wine seller and wine server (saqi), the Magian elder (pir-e moghan) and Magian ephebe (mogh-bacheh), and the beloved (shahed, delbar, ma’shuq, etc.).

Chief among the anti-establishment figures is the “rend”, an irreligious alter-ego to Hafez’s more reputable persona, a safety valve saving him from the sanctimonious self-righteousness that characterizes the religious authorities:

Hafez-am dar mahfel-i dordi-kesh-am dar majles-i/bengar in shukhi ke chun ba khalq san’at mi-konam

I’m a Quran-reciter in one circle and a dregs-drainer in another setting/See how witty it is, how I ply my craft with people!

**Malamati tendencies**

To what extent, then, is Hafez playing with us? Do we understand the “rends”, revelers, drunkards and other anti-

establishment, antinomian and pre-Islamic figures as literary types symbolic of the true spirituality beyond official, legalistic religion and sham piety? Or do the mythopoeitics of Hafez reflect a transformative realism which turns actual social outcasts and outlaws (as well as the Bohemian poet/artist) into folk rebels opposing political and theological conformity through a kind of libertine civil disobedience?

Those who see a higher form of mystical piety in Hafez typically appeal for their interpretation to the malamatiya, those who, recalling how the Prophet Muhammad (S) was reviled by his opponents, numbered themselves among those who “do not fear the blame of any blamer”.

The Malamati approach probably arose in Baghdad in response to the cooptation of the “sober” Sufism of Junayd and the like by the forms of traditional pietism, and seems to have been particularly strong in Khorasan, specifically Nishapur.

In malamati thought, self-satisfaction is regarded as the greatest pitfall in the spiritual quest (Hojwiri, p. 70); conversely, to be an object of blame helps one to

achieve sincerity. For the malamatiya, then, the appearance of immorality, or even the actual commission of illicit actions, guards one against the sin of pride or the potential corruption of religious office.

Hafez does use the word malamati several times, but in the rather ordinary meaning of “blame.” Drunkards and lovers are blamed for losing control of a public sober demeanor, but they have been condemned by fate to this disreputable behavior, as there can be no love without blame (ma ra’ayna hobban be-la malama).

He therefore tells the blamer (malamatgar) not to blame him, and reminds his own “Hafez” persona not to blame the rendan, among whom he counts himself. Only on one occasion can the words of Hafez be plausibly interpreted as suggesting group identity or ideology for those who endure malamati, but it is hardly conclusive:

Let’s be faithful and endure blame (malamat), and be happy/For in our brotherhood, it is blasphemy to take offense

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued