

# Erdogan's Unconstructive Messaging Toward Iran

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## Report

### Biden under fire for "theft" of Afghans' frozen assets

Afghans have staged protests against a decision by the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden to use \$3.5 billion dollars of their country's frozen assets to help settle lawsuits by the families of 9/11 victims.

This is while the U.S. will continue to maintain a strong economic blockade on Afghanistan and it's central bank making it very difficult to ease the mounting humanitarian crisis in the country.

The protesters say the money belongs to the Afghan people stressing they are the ones who should be compensated by the U.S. for 20 years of occupation, that brought about terror, destruction, poverty, and the killing of a countless number of civilians.

Demonstrators have also gathered outside Kabul's Eid Gah mosque making similar demands of reparations from the U.S.

Civil society activist Abdul Rahman had this message for the U.S. administration: "what about our Afghan people, who gave many sacrifices and thousands and thousands of losses of lives?"

Afghan activists have also pointed out that none of the hijackers that staged the 9/11 attacks were Afghan nationals and say they will never forget the destruction left behind by America.

Aid groups have condemned the move saying the money legally belongs to the Afghan people and nobody else is entitled to it.

Addressing a press conference in Kabul, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai slammed Biden's decision. He has called on Washington to immediately return the \$7 billion in frozen assets which he says "belong to no government, but to the people of Afghanistan".

### Five Iranian monuments win ICESCO heritage status

TEHRAN - Five Iranian monuments have joined the cultural heritage list of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), ISNA reported on Sunday.

The cultural landscape of Alamut Castle, Gonbad-e Alavian ("Alavian Dome"), Mausoleum of Sheikh Ahmad Jami, Bastam historical complex, and cultural landscape of Ma-souleh have been registered on the ICESCO's Islamic World Heritage List (IWHL).

The inscriptions were announced in a letter to Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami, the report added.

Headquartered in Rabat, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco, ICESCO is an international non-profit organization emanating from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, specializing in the fields of education, science, and culture.

#### Alamut Castle

Perched on top of a steep hill, Alamut Castle was once sheltering the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070-1124), the spiritual leader of a heretical Ismaili sect that spawned the word 'Assassins'.

Meaning "eagle's nest", Alamut is a geographic region in the western edge of the Alborz Mountain range, between the dry and barren plain of Qazvin in the south and the densely forested slopes of the Mazandaran province in the north.

Sabbah's rule over Alamut is shrouded in mystery and enigma; partly because most Ismaili records of the era were destroyed by the Mongols while the writings of their detractors survived.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pays a visit to an exhibition of Iranian-made knowledge-based products on October 8, 2019.

#### By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN - Knowledge-based companies are breaking U.S. monopoly by manufacturing sanctioned items to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of

foreign currency.

On February 6, the national media broke the news that the country has overcome a recent sanction-derived shortage of insulin pens challenging diabetic patients, with the transfer of

technology from a German company, through the efforts of a knowledge-based company.

Currently, over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country producing sanctioned items to reduce imports.

### Bank loans to economic sectors increase over 59%

TEHRAN- Iranian banking system has paid 22.964 quadrillion rials (over \$86.1 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), registering a 59.4-percent rise from the same period in the previous year, Mehr News Agency reported.

According to the data provided by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), working capital loans paid to different economic sectors in the mentioned 10 months were above 15.205 quadrillion rials (about \$57 billion), accounting for 66.3 percent of the total provided facilities.

During the said period, the country's mining and industry sector received over 5.502

quadrillion rials (about \$20.6 billion) in the form of working capital loans, accounting for 36.2 percent of the total such facilities.

In its latest report on the payment of facilities to various economic sectors, CBI emphasizes that in order to continue the payment of facilities to economic sectors it is necessary to consider inflation control strategies.



**Defense Ministry unveils upgraded, advanced defense systems**  
TEHRAN — Two new advanced drones and ten upgraded missile and ammunition defense systems were unveiled at an exhibition attended by Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani on Saturday night.

### Iran is Syria's strategic partner: Damascus

TEHRAN - Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister Bashar al-Jaafari has hailed relations between Tehran and Damascus as strategic.

The Syrian diplomat made the remarks during a celebration held at the Iranian embassy in Damascus on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Al-Jaafari offered congratulations to the Irani-

an people and the Iranian leadership on their glorious revolution, indicating in his speech that the principles of this revolution are consistent with the principles of Syria and the values it believes in, and that Syria is one of the first countries to announce its support for that revolution and considered it a supporter of the countries of the region and not a threat to them.

Al-Jaafari stressed that Syria and Iran are

the cradles of well-established civilizations throughout history, and the relations between the two countries are deeply rooted in those civilizations, and that the events targeting the entire region since 2011 have proven the truthfulness of the historical reading of the founders of the Syrian-Iranian relations, according to the website of Al Alam news television.

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## Interview

### U.S. help allies in Ukraine and Taiwan by providing arms: Rutgers professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A professor of political science at Rutgers University in New Jersey says that Washington would support Taiwan against China in the way it is helping Ukraine against Russia, giving arms to them rather than deploy troops there.

"Certainly, we would support Taiwan against any effort by China to absorb it, but our help would be the same kind of assistance we give to Ukraine: equipment but no troops," Ross Baker tells the Tehran Times.

There is a speculation that the West, including the U.S., is trying to spread its influence in the former Soviet Republics, something which has angered Moscow.

But Baker says, "Putin's concept of a sphere of influence by Russia that encompasses all surrounding countries is an obsolete idea." He adds, "Putin is not Stalin or Czar Nicholas and that Russia is not the Soviet Union with its obsession about 'capitalist encirclement'."

With more than 100,000 Russian troops amassed along the Ukrainian border, Western powers are trying to anticipate when Moscow might shift from threatening an invasion to launching one.

U.S. officials say they're closely monitoring cyber intrusions, like the attack that hit Ukraine's government last month. They're watching not just Russian troops that amass on the border but where they're positioned, and they're keeping an eye on what Russia is doing with its equipment like tanks.

### Afghan epic "Chehel Dokhtar Mountain", immigration tale "Coffin" staged at Fajr theater festival

TEHRAN - Theatergoers in Tehran watched on Thursday "Chehel Dokhtar Mountain" and "Coffin", two Afghan stories competing in the 40th Fajr International Theater Festival.

Director Emadeddin Tajik (Rasuli) has co-written "Chehel Dokhtar Mountain" with Ahmad Atai and Amir-Hossein Alemi based on an epic story from the Uruzgan region in Afghanistan.

The story takes place almost a century ago when an army led by Abdur Rahman was sent by the central government, a mere puppet of Britain, to take the control of the Uruzgan region. Hundreds of people were brutally killed and abused by Abdur Rahman's soldiers.

## Iranian, Russian nuclear teams hold bilateral talks in Vienna



TEHRAN – Negotiating teams from Iran and Russia held a bilateral meeting in Vienna on Sunday as Iran and the P4+1 group are negotiating to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan

of Action (JCPOA).

The meeting between Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani and Russian representative Mikhail Ulyanov began on Sunday noon (UTC+3:30), IRNA reported.

The meeting was also attended by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari, who joined the Vienna talks on Saturday.

As the teams in Vienna have agreed, the Joint Commission of the JCPOA is not going to convene and the negotiators will only have bilateral and multilateral meetings, according to IRNA.

## Diplomat: Iran has shown necessary goodwill to reach a good agreement

TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to Greece gave an interview to Greek City Times on Friday. Ahmad Naderi touched on many important issues, from moves to reestablish ties with Saudi Arabia to the ongoing nuclear talks in Vienna.

The following are excerpts from the interview:

“We do not forget that in those days the friendly Greek people supported the Iranian revolution with marches and demonstrations.”

“The Iranian revolution was a socio-political movement with significant results and implications on various political, economic, cultural, scientific, and social dimensions.”

“It proposes sustainable political independence, the creation of a state based on religious democracy, balanced foreign policy, and maximum people participation in determining their fate by participating in electoral processes.”

“The issue of the complete lifting of U.S. sanctions in order to benefit Iran from the financial aspects of the JCPOA is very basic and is the 'red line' of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the non-fulfillment of its commitments and the breaches of the agreements by the other side, has so far shown the necessary goodwill to reach a good agreement and expects the other parties, especially the American side, to take the necessary decisions, recognizing the legal rights and requirements of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

“The JCPOA parties should not expect the cost of catastrophic and erroneous decisions, including Trump's illegal withdrawal from the deal, to be paid for out of the pockets of the Iranian people.”

“Basically, we do not recognize a country by the name of Israel.”

## Defense Ministry unveils upgraded, advanced defense systems

From page 1 ► The unveiling ceremony was arranged by the Defense Ministry's Aviation Industry Organization. It took place as Iran is celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

The unveiled defense systems include various types of surface-to-air missiles, helicopter and UAV payloads with different specifications and coordinates tailored to the defense requirements, as well as long-range and intelligent ammunition and artillery, which increase range and accuracy in destroying targets.

“Undoubtedly, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) industry is one of the reliable points in increasing the authority and defense of the Islamic Republic,” the defense minister said.

He stated that four decades have passed since the formation of this indigenous industry in the aviation complex of the Defense Ministry.

The minister said today Iran is witnessing the crystallization and flourishing of this industry and the emergence of new operational achievements in this field.

Stating that the UAV is one of the key pillars of combat and operational capabilities of the Armed Forces beyond national borders, Ashtiani said, “We have a long way ahead of us to reach the peak of this industry. With prudence, will and increasing efforts, we will make a diligent effort

“It is an occupying power that has occupied the Palestinian territories with violence, aggression and apartheid, while for several years they have been ignoring the demands of the international community and the UN resolutions for the evacuation of the occupied territories.”

“Instead of being held accountable in an international tribunal for decades of crimes, genocide and state terrorism, as well as for the production of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, the illegal Israeli state is unfortunately appearing as a plaintiff threatening the people of other countries, like the great people of Iran.”

“If the occupying Israeli regime had the strength and courage to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran, it certainly would have done so by now.”

“The apartheid regime in Israel is well aware that the slightest attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran will bring a decisive and catastrophic response.”

“Iran and Saudi Arabia are two important Islamic countries in the Middle East and friendship and cooperation between them can make a significant contribution to peace, stability and security in the region.”

“We have repeatedly stated our readiness to re-establish contacts, hold talks and resolve existing problems and disputes. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a conversation with the Iraqi Prime Minister, also welcomed the talks with Saudi Arabia.”

“We therefore welcome the diplomatic mobilization and the efforts of the government and people of Iraq to promote a culture of dialogue to expand cooperation in the region, and in particular the positive role of Iraq in the negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh.”

to promote this industry and offer new emerging products.”

Referring to regional conflicts, as well as different generations of weapons and combat equipment, the defense minister said today the role of drones in war and various intelligence and operational missions is undeniable.

This strategic product, as one of the main systems in all scenes of land, air and sea, has a practical and key role, he stated.

Referring to the advanced drones unveiled at the exhibition, Ashtiani said, “Stepping into the production of highly advanced generations of drones is a cornerstone of the determination, will and belief of the Defense Ministry and a manifestation of the ‘we can’ slogan.”

While praising the scientists and staff of the defense industry and all those who have contributed to this great national achievement, the brigadier general said that the expectations from the UAV industry, its capabilities and missions are beyond what has been achieved so far.

“We intend to establish this highly strategic product as one of the pillars of superior and reliable defense arrays in various battlefields of the country by developing the capabilities, type of mission and diversity of drones use by the Armed Forces and friendly countries,” the defense minister concluded.

# Trump’s Iran failures left Biden with no choice but to make a deal: Senator Murphy

*‘Trump’s Iran policy proved to be a complete, unconditional fiasco’*

TEHRAN - Chris Murphy, a United States senator representing Connecticut, wrote an article in the TIME magazine on Thursday noting the mess created by Donald Trump's “complete fiasco” toward the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran has left President Joe Biden with no alternative other than to make a deal with Iran.

Following is an excerpt of the article:

On September 8, 2015, President Obama secured the last three votes to win Senate passage of his historic agreement with Iran. The agreement had been years in the making. Obama had rallied the world to enact a system of crippling economic sanctions on Iran, and then, defying the odds, had united Europe, China, and Russia behind a diplomatic strategy that eventually won an agreement for Iran to roll back its nuclear research and allow unprecedented international inspections of its program.

That same day, presidential candidate Donald Trump authored an op-ed in USA Today eviscerating this massive diplomatic breakthrough. Trump confidently declared that if elected President, he would do better: “A Trump presidency will force the Iranians back to the bargaining table to make a much better deal.”

Once President, Trump's closest national security advisors begged him not to tear up the deal. They told him the deal was working. Iran had lived up to its promises, shut down major parts of its nuclear program, and allowed the inspectors



in. And that unlikely coalition Obama had constructed on Iran policy—America, Europe, China and Russia—was now assembled and ready to get to work on Iran. America was safer with the deal in place, they told him.

But Trump didn't listen. He scrapped the deal and reimposed sanctions. Not a single other nation joined him, and the other nations in Obama's coalition took Iran's side and did their best to help Iran avoid the impact of Trump's reapplied sanctions. To make matters worse, Iran began to restart parts of its dormant nuclear research program.

And, of course, Trump made no effort to find that “better deal.” His second Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, scribbled out a non-sensical list of twelve demands that Iran needed to meet to even begin negotiations, knowing that Iran could never agree to most items. As Trump's

term dragged on, Iran's nuclear research program grew. Trump's Iran policy proved to be a complete, unconditional fiasco.

The thin silver lining of Trump's disaster was that at least he was able to test the theory of those that opposed the Iran deal when it was first signed. Those critics wanted Obama instead to keep sanctions in place, even if our partner nations wouldn't follow suit, until Iran agreed to permanently abandon parts of their nuclear program and negotiate on all of their other behavior in the region. Obama felt this was wishful thinking, and Trump proved him right by spending four years implementing the deal's critics' preferred strategy and finding only embarrassing failure.

As I write, President Biden and his team are earnestly trying to pick up the pieces. The administration has been trying to get Iran back to the negotiating

table, but Iran is understandably reluctant after having the rug pulled out from under them once already. Iran's positions have also been maddeningly hard to pin down: a new Iranian negotiating team came back to the table in December and reversed most of the concessions the previous government had made in the spring.

But going another month or year with Trump's Iran policy still in place is madness.

So now is the time for Biden's negotiating team to make the smart but necessary concessions to restart some version of Obama's nuclear deal. Yes, Iran is going to have to make equal compromises, but the clock is ticking, and a new deal needs to happen soon. This new deal may not look the same as Obama's deal due to all the ground we lost during Trump's presidency. But an agreement by Iran to significantly expand its breakout time and allow all the inspections to resume would make the world a safer place.

And for those who argue against releasing Trump's sanctions as part of this new deal, it's clear America has not received a single benefit from keeping them on. Trump's sanctions were embarrassingly feckless. They didn't drive Iran to the negotiating table, as Trump promised.

In the Middle East (West Asia), those whose criticism of Obama's deal was the loudest in 2015 are now cheerleading its restart. Biden and his team should do whatever is necessary to get a good deal back in place.

## MP: Agreement in Vienna not far-fetched

TEHRAN— A member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament said on Sunday morning that reaching an agreement in Vienna “is not far-fetched”.

“The way to reach a good agreement for the Americans is to learn from their past behavior in dealing with the Islamic Republic of Iran and modify their policy of maximum pressure,” Ebrahim Rezaei told ISNA.

Referring to the new round of the Vienna talks, the MP said the solution to many differences between the two countries has been identified and reaching an agreement is not unlikely.

However, he said that there are two disputed issues.

“First, the Americans must ensure that the agreement remains in place and that the actions of the parties to the agreement can be verified,” Rezaei asserted.

He reiterated that guarantees and verification are the fundamental conditions of Iran.

“In a recent closed-door session of the Majlis (parliament), the foreign minister also stressed the need to meet these two conditions,” the MP asserted.

He then went on to explain that Iran views the agreement as a catalyst and facilitator of economic conditions, not the main reason for progress.

“Even if we reach an agreement, the main condition, which is to strive for a resilient economy and endogenous progress, must not be forgotten,” Rezaei highlighted.

The legislator added that after a possible agreement, balanced foreign economic diplomacy with neighbors and all countries should be considered in foreign policy.

Negotiations started last week after a ten-day hiatus as the chief negotiators returned to capitals for consultations.

European Union political director Enrique Mora, who coordinates the nuclear talks, has said the talks have reached a stage which entail

political decisions by the negotiating partners.

Wang Qun, China's representative at the Vienna talks, has said the negotiations are in the concluding stages.

He also said the Iranian negotiating team has returned to the talks with their final package.

On Friday, Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's lead negotiator, signaled progress in the talks.

Ulyanov also held talks with Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani on Sunday.

“Very intensive consultations continue on Sunday in the course of the Vienna Talks on JCPOA. In particular I had a productive meeting with the chief Iranian negotiator Dr. A. Bagheri Kani on the remaining outstanding issues,” the Russian diplomat tweeted.

Ulyanov also held talks with the chief negotiators of the U.S., Britain, Germany and France on Sunday.

“Yet another meeting with the US Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley at the final stage of the #ViennaTalks on #JCPOA,” he wrote.

## Venezuelan ambassador says Islamic Revolution had significant impact on entire world

TEHRAN— Venezuela's ambassador to Tehran has said the 1979 Islamic Revolution had a significant impact on Venezuela and other Latin American countries as well as the entire world.

“We in Latin America have enormous respect for the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian people, and the Iranian leadership, who have set a magnificent example for us,” Carlos Antonio Alcalá Cordones told IRNA on Saturday.

The envoy also stated that the revolutions in Iran, Cuba, and Venezuela share a resistance and rejection to U.S. imperialism and its hegemonic policies and doctrines.

“These policies are opposed by the Islamic Revolution [in Iran], the Cuban Revolution, and the Venezuelan Bolivarian Revolution,” he continued.

Cordones recognized parallels between the Iranian and Venezuelan revolutions, saying that both were against imperialist and hegemonic regimes such as the U.S. and Israel.

Other similarities, he noted, include the holding of a referendum in both countries to consult with the

people concerning the constitution, as well as both countries' participation in decision-making through elections.

**‘States subject to U.S. sanctions should band together’**

The ambassador emphasized the importance of forming a bloc comprised of Iran, Venezuela, Russia, China, and others against the U.S., which has put sanctions on all of them.

“One measure that can assist us in confronting the United States and its allies is to unite, share experience and information, socialize, and build a bloc among sanctioned countries... We must unify financially, economically, socially, and culturally in the face of American imperialism, as well as via art, sports, science, and technology,” he stated.

“If such a bloc is formed, Iran, Venezuela, Russia, China, and others will be able to help one another against their shared enemy, the White House.”

**‘General Soleimani has been described as a symbol of love and sacrifice’**

The envoy praised the

character of General Qassem Soleimani, who was martyred by the U.S. in early 2020, saying a visit to Caracas by Iran's top anti-terror commander had a major role in bolstering bilateral relations.

General Soleimani was described by Cordones as “a symbol of devotion and sacrifice for the motherland, government, and sovereignty of Iran, as well as a great example to be followed.”

He stated that the famed commander's visit to the Latin American country was critical to the Caracas government and led to the strengthening of ties between the two countries.

On January 3, 2020, General Soleimani and his Iraqi trenchmate Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Units, were martyred in a U.S. drone strike ordered by ex-President Donald Trump near Baghdad International Airport.

**‘Iran has resurrected Venezuela's oil industry’**

He also praised Iran for

opening Magasis chain stores and pharmacies in Venezuela, adding his countrymen are grateful to Iran because the Islamic Republic, as a friendly and fraternal country, has always backed Venezuela's liberty.

**‘Iran and Venezuela should strengthen ties’**

Cordones emphasized that Venezuela's late president, Hugo Chavez, was the one who restarted a positive relationship with Iran, and that the current administration in Caracas is following in his footsteps.

He further stated that during his three-year stay in Iran, the two countries boosted bilateral interactions and signed various agreements to strengthen cooperation in energy, tourism, food industry, military, healthcare, and security sectors.

Furthermore, the envoy thanked Iran for sending ships carrying fuel, food, and other products to Venezuela at a critical moment and for playing a critical role in rebuilding the country's oil industry.

# Erdogan's unconstructive messaging toward Iran

TEHRAN – While Turkey has embarked on a new path of cooperation with many regional countries, it continues to spread allegations that could damage its relations with neighboring Iran.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is now in a new diplomatic mood. He keeps sending conciliatory messages in all directions. He warmly received Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Ankara, exchanged warm greetings with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who is expected to visit Ankara soon. Erdogan is also preparing to make a historic two-day visit to Abu Dhabi on Monday.

He also significantly soothed tensions with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In Libya, he ceased to be protecting his allies in Western Libya by force.

In a bid to expedite reconciliations with his onetime rivals, Erdogan prevented Turkish media from publishing news and reports that may damage relations with many countries in the region. Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated television networks no longer operate from Turkey to target Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Turkey-based Hamas leaders are instructed to tone down their rhetoric against Israel.

All that is because the Turkish president suddenly discovered that "now is the time for regional peace and cooperation initiatives."

On Sunday, a day before he visits the UAE, Erdogan wrote an op-ed for the Khaleej Times newspaper, saying that Ankara is willing to develop relations with every country. "Turki-



ye is one of the rare countries that seeks to balance its interests with peace and stability in its foreign policy. We strive to apply this principle to all parties we come into contact with. Our fundamental principles are aligning our interests, extending the fields of cooperation using the 'win-win' formula, and joint struggle against threats. As Turkiye, we are ready to develop our cooperation with every country and work together to solve regional problems," he said.

But recent announcements by Turkey about alleged Iran-led attempts to kill or kidnap people residing in Turkey run counter to Erdogan's stated policy of expanding his countries' foreign relations.

Over the last few days, a barrage of accusations was leveled by Turkish media against Iran. On Friday, while the upcoming visit of the Israeli president to Turkey was in the news, Turkish media broke the alleged

news that Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) had foiled an alleged plot by Iran to assassinate an Israeli-Turkish businessman using a network of hitmen.

The businessman was identified as Yair Geller, an Istanbul-based tycoon with investments in the machine and defense industries. MIT's counter-intelligence branch claimed that the plot was in response to Israel's 2020 assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh on the outskirts of Tehran.

In addition to the Israeli businessman, MIT also claimed that it foiled another plot by Iran – this time to kidnap Iranian dissidents living in Turkey.

On Friday, MIT briefed Turkish media outlets on its alleged counterintelligence efforts that allegedly led to busting the Iranian plotters and Turks collaborating with them. Simultaneously, Turkish media showed footage featuring arrests, home

searches, and the transfer of suspects.

The alleged Turkish revelations come at a time when Iran is looking to open a new chapter in bilateral cooperation, especially with neighboring countries of which Turkey is an important one.

Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday laid out the principles and characteristics of his administration's foreign policy in a meeting with foreign ambassadors, heads of foreign missions and organizations in Tehran.

The president said his government has proved its sincerity in strengthening friendly relations with neighbors and other international partners in the period since its inauguration. "In our efforts for a new approach in the field of diplomacy, we are trying to create a new chapter of cooperation and multilateralism."

Ayatollah Raisi added, "We have also taken effective steps to improve relations with all neighbors and by strengthening ports and transit corridors, we have prepared the way for the development and expansion of cooperation with neighbors."

Turkey, however, does not seem equally eager to improve relations with the region's countries. The recent history of Erdogan's diplomatic turnabouts shows that he treats change in Turkey's foreign policy only selectively. While he moves to patch up relations with old rivals in the region, he keeps ignoring allegations propagated by his country's media outlets against Iran.

## Result-oriented foreign policy has neutralized sanctions on Iran: government

TEHRAN – Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi has highlighted the failure of U.S. sanctions policy against Iran, saying that Tehran has made U.S. sanctions ineffective through result-oriented foreign policy.

The Western media's acknowledgment of Iran's record-breaking oil exports over the last three years is another sign of maximum pressure failure on the Iranian people, Bahadori Jahromi wrote on his Twitter account.

Result-oriented foreign policy, without placing hope in Vienna and New York, has made sanctions ineffective and neutralized, he added, according to the official website of the Iranian government.

The Iranian nation is victorious in this battle, he noted.

Reuters earlier reported: "Iranian oil exports have risen to more than 1 million barrels per day for the first time in almost three years, based on estimates from companies that track the flows, reflecting increased shipments to China."

The administration of Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has made result-oriented foreign policy a top priority. And in Vienna talks, it serves as a guiding principle for Iran's negotiating team led by Ali Bagheri Kani.

In reference to the new government's foreign policy, in mid-January Bahadori Jahromi tweeted,

"The president is preparing for a visit to Russia and the foreign minister went to China, the minister of transport was in Syria, the minister of culture went to the Dubai 2020 Expo, and Mr. Bagheri is focusing on the Vienna talks. Last week, several foreign officials were present in Iran. Diplomacy in the #popular\_government pays attention to the #broad field of national interests. Dynamic, all-around, and result-oriented."

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahi has also said the Raisi administration is seeking a result-oriented policy in the Vienna talks.

He said in December that Iran arrived in Vienna with good faith, seriousness, planning and initiative in the first round of new talks. The foreign minister added that he has told EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and the foreign ministers of the countries whose diplomats are present in Vienna that their eagerness to resume the talks must be reflected in their goodwill and initiatives.

"We told them bluntly that Raisi's government is a pragmatic and result-oriented government, and that vague and general dialogue will not help solve the problem. If you are concerned about Iran's completely peaceful nuclear program, we also have our own concerns and demands regarding the continuation of sanctions, the non-lifting of sanctions, and non-compliance with the so-called nuclear agreement," he added.



In November, the Iranian foreign minister also said, "The new administration of Iran is a pragmatic and result-oriented administration. We have shared our views with the negotiating parties and are ready to reach a good agreement. This requires a full return of the negotiating parties to their obligations."

The foreign minister reiterated Iran's position again on Instagram ahead of the talks. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is entering the talks with a pragmatic and result-oriented approach and is determined to reach a good deal, but this entails effective and verifiable removal of sanctions and the return of all sides to full compliance with their commitments."

## Iran is Syria's strategic partner: Damascus

From Page 1 ► Al-Jaafari pointed out that Syria considers Iran a strategic partner and appreciates its responsible role as a country that respects international law, pluralism and the United Nations charter and contributes to confronting imperialist powers and their practices.

He stressed Syria's readiness to continue joint work in order to deepen and strengthen cooperation and exchange in all fields.

For his part, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, Mehdi Sobhani, said that the unwavering support for the Resistance Axis and the Palestinian cause and the deepening of cooperation with friendly countries, especially sisterly Syria, are among the priorities of Iran's foreign policy.

The ambassador added that the political will in both Tehran and Damascus is to deepen cooperation at all levels.

Sobhani stressed that his country supports Syria's sovereignty and condemns the illegal presence of foreign elements on its lands, stressing the need to return every inch of these lands to Syrian sovereignty.

Sobhani expressed his country's conviction that the Syrian people, despite all the pressures exerted on them, defeated enemies in their struggle against terrorism, and through their resistance, they would give lessons to the terrorists and

their international supporters.

The ceremony was attended by Syrian Minister of Administrative Development Salam Safaf, Economy Minister Muhammad Samer al-Khalil, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Bassam Ibrahim, Minister of Communications Muhammad Iyad al-Khatib, member of the central leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party Mahdi Dakhallallah, a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Damascus.

In Latakia, the cultural center of the Iranian embassy also hosted a celebration marking the 1979 revolution with the participation of political, scientific, religious and literary figures.

In his speech, Ali Reza Fadavi, the cultural attaché at the embassy, stressed that the Islamic Revolution moved Iran to a new stage in which it achieved many achievements in various fields, which placed it in the ranks of the advanced countries in the region and the world, and it became a role model and an example for all free people and fighters against injustice and tyranny.

For his part, Director of the Great Prophet Complex in Latakia, Ayman Zaitoun, pointed to the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, especially support for the Axis of Resistance



and liberation movements, as well as confronting and thwarting all conspiracies being hatched against the region.

Earlier on Friday, the Iranian embassy in Baghdad marked the forty-third anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution with a massive public celebration, in the presence of political and cultural figures, including the Iranian ambassador to Iraq, Iraj Masjedi, according to U News.

The ceremony began with a recitation of the Holy Qur'an, followed by the national anthems of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, and then a video clip of a choral group, and then an Iraqi poet recited a poem inspired by the occasion.

Masjedi delivered a speech during the ceremony, in which he said, "By God's grace, the system of the Islamic

# IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iran edge Tajikistan in CAFA U19 Futsal Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Tajikistan 2-1 in the CAFA U19 Futsal Championship on Sunday.

Iran, who started the campaign on Saturday with a 10-3 win over Afghanistan, will play Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan on Thursday and Saturday.



Five teams battle for regional bragging rights over five Matchdays at Bishkek's Gazprom Arena, with every CAFA Member Association except for Turkmenistan taking part in the inaugural U19 event.

Played on a round-robin basis, the tournament will not only provide a platform for the region's next generation of senior internationals but deliver competitive preparation for regional and continental competitions to come over the next two years.

Each team will play four matches, with the final Matchday to be held on Saturday, February 19.

Central Asia has long been considered an Asian futsal hotspot, with 12-time continental champions Iran leading the way, while Uzbekistan have reached the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Final on four occasions.

Kyrgyz Republic has reached the semi-finals of the continental finals on three occasions, and Afghanistan were runners-up in the inaugural AFC U-20 Futsal Asian Cup in 2019, while Tajikistan have qualified for the last nine AFC Futsal Asian Cups.

### Iran, Iraq karate federations ink MoU

TEHRAN – A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the karate federations of Iran and Iraq on Sunday.

The MoU was signed in Iran karate federation's headquarters.

It has been signed with the aim of strengthening the mutual relationship and to cooperate together for the further development of the sport in the two countries.

Referring to the history of relations between Iran and Iraq federations, Hassan Tabatabaei, head of Iran karate federation, said "We have previously hosted the Iraqi karate athletes in our country. We are going to hold a karate tournament with participation of Islamic countries next year and invite Iraq for competing in the event."

### Mohebi scores in Santa Clara loss to Benfica

TEHRAN – Santa Clara scored the opener early but home side Benfica overturned the deficit to win the match 2-1.

The eagles took a long time to take off and even conceded early to the visitors. A nice attack by the Azoreans brought the Benfica defense difficulties.

Rui Costa's first shot was blocked by Odysseas, but the rebound fell to Mohammad Mohebi who converted to make it 0-1. The goal was initially disallowed for offside, however, it didn't take long for VAR to validate the Iranian's goal.

Benfica coach Verissimo made two substitutions in the 57th minute and in the next minute, a penalty to Benfica was given. Darwin then got the better of Santa Clara keeper Marco to make it 1-1 in the 60th minute. Darwin then scored again to help his side take the lead in the 62nd minute.

Benfica remain in 3rd place in the league standings, while the Azoreans sit in 10th.

### Persepolis complete signing of Ramin Rezaeian

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club announced the signing of Al Duhail winger Ramin Rezaeian

Saturday night.

The 31-year-old winger has joined the Reds until the end of the season.

Persepolis have signed the player as replacement of Mehdi Shiri who joined Foolad after parting ways with Persepolis.

Rezaeian was a member of Persepolis football team and won the Iran league title in the 2015/16 season.

Persepolis are favorites to win Iran Professional League (IPL) title for the sixth year in a row.

### Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam seek early boost ahead of Uzbekistan 2022

TEHRAN – There will be more than just bragging rights at stake in the AFF U23 Championship 2022 in Phnom Penh on February 14-26.

Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, while targeting the title, will use the tournament as preparation for June's AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022, where the continent's best awaits them.

The draw for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 will be held on Thursday.

With Indonesia forced to withdraw from the AFF U23 Championship 2022 due to a COVID-19 outbreak in their squad, new champions will be crowned on February 26.

The tournament will see 10 teams competing for the title with hosts Cambodia, Timor Leste, Philippines and Brunei Darussalam in Group A. Malaysia have Myanmar and Laos for company in Group B while Group C promises to be a thriller with Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore in the fray.

The three group winners and the best second-placed team will advance to the February 24 semi-finals. All the three AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022-bound teams will be aiming for extended runs in Phnom Penh to boost their preparations for the continental showpiece.

Vietnam, runners-up in 2018, sealed their place in a fourth consecutive AFC U23 Asian Cup Finals after winning Group I. Malaysia, quarter-finalists in 2018, finished top of Group J ahead of Thailand in qualifying for Uzbekistan 2022.

Thailand, who lost 2-1 to Indonesia in the 2019 AFF U23 Championship final, will be looking to add the title to the 2020 AFF Cup the senior side won in resounding fashion.

### Chelsea win Club World Cup

TEHRAN – Kai Havertz scored a penalty deep into extra time as Chelsea defeated Brazil's Palmeiras 2-1 in the Club World Cup final on Saturday to complete their collection of major trophies.

Romelu Lukaku's superb header gave the European champions the lead on 54 minutes but Raphael Veiga levelled from the spot for the Copa Libertadores winners just past the hour in Abu Dhabi, foxsports.com.au reported.

Havertz, the hero in the Champions League final against Manchester City, was Chelsea's match-winner again as he converted a penalty on 117 minutes awarded following a VAR review.

"It's amazing. After champions of Europe, we are now champions of the world. It sounds better," Havertz told Channel 4.

"I was nervous (taking the penalty), I have to be honest. It's a big penalty. It's just crazy. It was good I kept the nerves. I am very happy."

"I dreamed always as a kid of this. This is an amazing feeling for me," he added.

Chelsea have now claimed every possible trophy since Roman Abramovich bought the club in 2003, and become the third English side to win the global tournament after Manchester United and Liverpool.

The Blues avenged their 1-0 loss to Corinthians in the 2012 final, but will have little time to celebrate with a critical stretch on the horizon once they return to London.

## Bank loans to economic sectors increase over 59%



From page 1 ► Iranian banks paid 20.195 quadrillion rials (over \$75.7 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2021), which was also 59.5 percent more than the figure for the same period in the previous year.

Based on CBI data, working capital loans paid to different economic sectors in the mentioned nine months were above 13.424 quadrillion rials (about \$50.37 billion), accounting for 66.5 percent of the total provided facilities.

Over the past three years, CBI has been collaborating with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry for implementing a program based on which bank facilities are provided to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and semi-finished products.

The mentioned facilities are mainly provided for renewing machinery, equipping production units, or completing semi-finished products.

The mentioned program was kicked off in February 2019 and since then over 12,124 production units and SMEs have registered for receiving the mentioned loans.

## Average daily gasoline consumption stands at 86m liters

TEHRAN - Head of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) said the country's average daily gasoline consumption has stood at 86 million liters in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Jalil Salari put the country's current gasoline production at about 104 million liters per day, IRNA reported on Sunday.

He noted that his company has stored the necessary gasoline to meet the peak demand during the Nowruz holiday (Iranian new year) season and there would be no problem in this regard.

Having the production capacity of nearly 120 million liters per day of gasoline, Iran currently has also the capacity to store three billion liters of the strategic fuel.

Although the Islamic Republic is currently self-sufficient in gasoline production, fluctuations in consumption at different periods through the year have led to the creation of storage facilities across the country to manage the sustainable supply



and distribution of gasoline.

These tanks will help the country's refineries continue operating at full capacity if on certain days of the year (such as the Nowruz holidays) gasoline consumption reduces significantly, and also prevent any interruption in the supply of the fuel if consumption increases drastically.

In this regard, the capacity of the country's gasoline storage facilities has increased in recent years, so much so that according to the National Iranian Oil Products Refining and

# Trade between Iran, Oman up 40% in 10 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Oman Ali Najafi has said the value of trade between the two countries increased by 40 percent in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022) compared to the same period in the previous year.

Najafi put the value of trade between the two countries at over one billion dollars in the mentioned 10 months, saying that Iranian exports to Oman increased by over 70 percent in the said period, IRNA reported.

According to the official, the trade between the two neighbors

is following an upward trend and is expected to increase even further in the months to come.

Mentioning the holding of the 19th Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting in the previous week, the official said, during his visit to Oman for attending the joint economic committee meeting, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin

met with the private sector and political and economic officials of the Kingdom, including the minister of Health, the minister of

## Iran's 10-month export to Oman up 70%

Economy, Foreign Affairs, Energy, and Minerals and the minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology of Oman and the heads of Oman's free and special economic zones to discuss the latest state of economic and

trade relations between the two countries.

Najafi stressed the importance of increasing trade relations between the two countries and said: "We hope to see the utilization of the existing capacities in Iran-Oman relations by pursuing a

preferential tariff agreement and organizing and strengthening maritime transport between the two countries."

Referring to the serious determination of the Iranian Embassy in Oman to advise and support private sectors of the two countries, he stressed: "The doors of the Iranian embassy are always open to all Iranian and Omani businessmen and investors, and in this regard, and in line with our economic diplomacy, more than half of the daily meetings of the ambassador and other relevant colleagues are held with Iranian and Omani businessmen."



## Knowledge for domestic production of screw pumps for steam turbines achieved

TEHRAN - Iranian engineers managed to achieve the knowledge for the manufacturing of three-screw pumps that are used to pump lube oil for steam turbine bearings, IRNA reported.

As reported, the first produced pump has been successfully installed in a steam turbine of Shahid Salimi (Neka) Power Plant in northern Mazandaran Province.

According to Hossein-Ali Taziki, who is a deputy manager at the mentioned power plant, before Iran, only a few developed countries like Sweden, the U.S., Germany, and the UK had access to the knowledge for manufacturing such pumps.

A screw pump is an axial-flow gear pump, similar in operation to a rotary screw compressor. Three types of screw pumps include the single-screw, two-screw, and three-screw.



In the single-screw pump, a spiraled rotor rotates eccentrically in an internal stator. The two-screw pump consists of two parallel intermeshing rotors rotating in a housing machined to close tolerances. The three-screw pump consists of a central-drive rotor with two meshing idler rotors; the rotors turn inside of a housing machined to close tolerances.

## Iran to open trade center in Sulaymaniyah

TEHRAN - Iran's Consul General in Sulaymaniyah Mehdi Shoushtari has said the Islamic Republic plans to open a trade center in the region for promoting Iranian products, IRNA reported.



According to Shoushtari, over 30 knowledge-based companies and representatives of 100 major Iranian commodity brands are going to be presented and promoted at the mentioned center.

Speaking with the representatives of Kermanshah Province's private sector on Saturday, the official underlined the development of trade with neighbors as one of the priorities of the 13th government.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry pursues four major export policies, the first of which is to increase product quality and branding of exported goods," he said.

He also stressed the importance of standardization and continued: "The third policy is the diversification of products; currently, we have a good situation in construction materials, fruits, and fuel, but in the medical equipment, medicine, agricultural machinery, furniture, and clothes despite having the capacity to export to Iraq, unfortunately, we are far behind from our competitors, and our production units must work in these areas as well."

# Over 1.8m tons of commodities traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 1,805 million tons of commodities worth \$504 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.34 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$230 million.

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 961,766 tons of cement, 186,785 tons of steel, 98,000 tons of iron ore, 84,000 tons of sponge iron, 14,525 tons of aluminum, 4,240 tons of copper, 1,445 tons of zinc ingots, 150 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 50 tons of lead and 9 tons of precious metals concentrate.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both

domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 446,134 tons of commodities worth more than \$260 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 199,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 93,103 tons of bitumen, 68,792 tons of polymeric products, 28,215 tons of chemicals, 45,000 tons of lube cut, 11,930 tons of sulfur and 3,186 tons of base oil.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 18,685 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, more than 7,297 million tons of commodities worth over \$2 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the past Iranian calendar month (ended on January 20).

The exchange sold on both



domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor more than 1.529 million tons of commodities worth over \$856 million.

On this floor the exchange traded 415,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 490,000 tons of bitumen, 306,534 tons of polymeric products, 171,000 tons of lube cut, 108,463 tons of chemicals, 26,285 tons of sulfur, 14,653 tons of oil, 450 tons of argon and 225 tons of insulation.

Next was the metals and minerals

trading floor with trades of 5.724 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$1 billion.

Commodities changing hands on this floor included 3.606 million tons of cement, 1,332 million tons of steel, 367,000 tons of iron ore, 241,000 tons of sponge iron, 35,090 tons of aluminum, 133,340 tons of zinc, 26,911 tons of copper, 630 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke, 500 tons of lead, 42 tons of precious metals concentrate and 23 kg of gold bars.

On its agricultural trading floor the exchange saw offering of 50 kg of saffron strands.

It's worth noting that the IME also played host to trade of 43,899 tons of commodities on its side market.

The value of trades at Iran

Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

## TEDPIX drops 8,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 8,036 points to 1.276 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 9.378 billion securities worth 58.598 trillion rials (about \$225.37 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 7,069 points, and the second market's index fell 12,527 points.

TEDPIX lost 17,000 points (1.3 percent) to 1.284 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company, Isfahan Oil Refinery, Iran Khodro Company, Tejarat Bank, and National Iranian Copper Company were the most widely followed ones.



which prompted the government to promote the non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then,

including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azerbaijan Province, and Maku in West-Azerbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

While near three decades have passed since the start of free trade zones activity in Iran, their planned objectives have not been fully achieved and their development is still facing some impediments.

Lack of proportion between the facilities and the objectives, lack of a national definition for free trade zones' performance, limited resources for establishment and completion of infrastructures, no comprehensive management between the zones, and not complete implementation of zones management law are some of the barriers in the way of free trade zones' activity and development in the country.

## Free trade, special economic zones account for 40-45% of Iran's export

TEHRAN- The secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council said that 40-45 percent of Iran's export is from the country's free trade zones (FTZs) and special economic zones.

Saeed Mohammad also mentioned investment making in these zones and said that about 110 trillion rials (about \$423 million) plus \$300 million of investment has been made in the free trade zones, and 700 trillion rials (about \$2.692 billion) plus \$530 million in the special economic zones during the past five years.

The mentioned investment resulted in the establishment of 2,500 industrial units in these zones, leading to the export of \$1 billion of products from the free zones and \$15 billion from the special zones per annum, which equals 40-45 percent of Iran's export.

The establishment of free trade zones in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989- March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year

# Biden under fire for “theft” of Afghans’ frozen assets

From page 1 ► The Taliban's senior spokesperson, Mohammad Naeem Wardak, wrote on social media that “the theft and seizure of money owed by the United States to the Afghan people represent the lowest level of human and moral decay of a country and a nation”.

Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, says the money was “critically needed” to revive the economy of the war-battered country. Akram says “we have consistently joined the calls of the international community as well as the senior UN officials and the international humanitarian actors to unfreeze Afghanistan's reserves”

Critics have also denounced the White House for doing so little to address underlying factors driving Afghanistan's massive humanitarian crisis after 20 years of American occupation.

A financial advisor to the former Afghan government, Torek Farhadi, questioned the White House's decision saying “these reserves belong to the people of Afghanistan, not the Taliban... Biden's decision is one-sided and does not match with international law”

Farhadi also says that “no other country on Earth makes such confiscation decisions about another country's reserves”.

Policy Analyst and Afghan Researcher, Mohsin Amin, strongly denounced the move; writing on social media that “the U.S. dropped 85,000 bombs on Afghanistan. Even if one bomb killed 3 people, it's 255K. The last U.S. airstrike killed 10 (7 children), “97 percent of [Afghanistan] is starving, 3.2m children are malnourished, yet the US wants to throttle the economy and steal the hard-earned savings of Afghans”.

The Policy Advisor to the UK Minister of Afghan Resettlement, Shabnam Nasimi, wrote on social media “as more than 23 million people are on the brink of starvation, it is unjust & immoral for @POTUS to want to use billions of Afghanistan's frozen assets to pay 9/11 victims. The horrific 9/11 attacks had nothing to do with the people of Afghanistan, & they



should not be punished”.

Adam Weinstein, a researcher at the Quincy Institute, also added to the chorus of condemnation online saying the move will “go down in history as a travesty. Punishing an entire people for a crime they did not commit & kneecapping them into forever dependence should offend every American”.

On Sunday, the Afghan central bank called on the U.S. administration to reverse the decision.

In a statement, the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) said “blocking Foreign Exchange (FX) Reserves and allocating them to irrelevant purposes, is an injustice to the people of Afghanistan and [the DAB] will never accept if the FX reserves of Afghanistan is paid under the name of compensation or humanitarian assistance to others and [the DAB] wants the reversal of the decision and release of all FX reserves of Afghanistan”.

“As per the law and relevant regulations, FX reserves of Afghanistan are used to implement monetary policy, facilitate international trade and stabilize financial sector”.

The statement added that “the real owners of these reserves are the people of Afghanistan. These reserves were not the property of governments, parties, and groups and have never been used as per their demand and decisions”.

When Kabul fell to the Taliban in August 2021, Afghanistan had over \$9 billion in reserves held on behalf of the country's central

bank abroad.

This included \$7 billion in foreign currency reserves held in the U.S., and the rest mostly in Germany, the UAE, Switzerland, & a few other countries.

The Biden administration has decided to release \$3.5 billion of Afghanistan's money held in America towards families of victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks and it has also agreed to allocate the other \$3.5 billion towards a trust fund that will be used to send humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

However, a senior U.S. administration official told reporters that it will take a long time before the money is even released for humanitarian relief in Afghanistan claiming “we have to go through a judicial process here, it is going to be at least a number of months before we can move any of this money, right? So this money isn't going to be available over the next couple of months regardless”.

The remarks come as acute malnutrition is spiking and over 90 percent of the country is facing serious food insecurity, problems that disproportionately affect women and girls; while Afghan children are starving to death nearly every day.

Advocacy group Human Rights Watch says “even if implemented, the decision would create a problematic precedent.. directing \$3.5 billion to humanitarian assistance for Afghans may sound generous, but it should be remembered that the entire \$7

billion already legally belonged to the Afghan people”.

The rights group highlights that even if the U.S. gives the remaining money to “a humanitarian trust fund, current restrictions on Afghanistan's banking sector make it virtually impossible to send or spend the money inside the country”.

It added that more important to addressing Afghanistan's current crisis “are ongoing efforts by the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to convince the U.S. and World Bank to ease economic restrictions to allow Afghanistan's economy, which is near complete collapse, to stabilize. Current restrictions on Afghanistan's banking system are driving the population toward famine”

On multiple occasions, humanitarian organizations have warned that keeping an economic blockade on the country will only make things worse.

Organizations and groups that are trying to offer assistance need access to banks.

Human Rights Watch says “without them, the UN's own humanitarian activities have become exceedingly difficult; some have had to cease operations altogether”.

Aidgroup Refugees International has also issued a statement saying they are concerned Biden's administration's decision will exacerbate the suffering of the Afghan people.

The organization said “millions are already facing a dire and life-threatening humanitarian crisis this winter. Using part of Afghanistan's reserves to help provide badly needed relief aid and essential services will no doubt help save lives”

It added, “but we are concerned that this action could further cripple the country's financial system and thereby perpetuate the suffering of the Afghan people.”

Analysts say the mounting condemnation of the U.S. administration will add to America's disastrous policies and mistakes Washington committed and is continuing to commit again the people of Afghanistan.

## U.S. help allies in Ukraine and Taiwan by providing arms: Rutgers professor

From page 1 ► At the same time, some political observers say that ultimately there may not be a clear tip-off for an attack on Ukraine.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has said the U.S. administration did not know if Russian President Vladimir Putin had made a final decision to invade, but said that the Kremlin was looking for a pretext to justify military action, which he said could start with intense aerial bombardment.

Russia has repeatedly denied any plans to invade Ukraine but says it is ready to take unspecified “military-technical measures” if its demands are not met, including a promise by NATO never to admit Ukraine and to withdraw some troops from Eastern Europe.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What is Washington's top foreign policy priority right now? Containing Iran as a regional player, confronting Russia in Ukraine, or curtaining China's influence as an emerging superpower?**

Right now, Russia/Ukraine is the major focus



of policymakers in Washington but not far behind is the increasing concern about nuclear enrichment programs in Iran. I suspect that after the Eastern European situation is resolved one way or other that Iran's nuclear issues will rise to the top of the agenda.

**Do you think that NATO is going to surround Russia? What would be a U.S. reaction if another power tries to enter into its backyard or sphere of influence?**

My own view of the Russia-Ukraine issue

which, I think is shared by people in Biden Administration, is that Putin's concept of a sphere of influence by Russia that encompasses all surrounding countries is an obsolete idea, that Putin is not Stalin or Czar Nicholas and that Russia is not the Soviet Union with its obsession about “capitalist encirclement”.

We simply do not conceive of spheres of influence as they were understood in past centuries and certainly would support Taiwan against any effort by China to absorb it, but our help would be the same kind of assistance we give to Ukraine: equipment but no troops.

**Don't you think that the U.S. is better to concentrate on its close rivals rather than deploying forces to the Eastern hemisphere?**

The U.S. has hostile governments in the Western hemisphere that it has tolerated for a long time -Venezuela and Nicaragua - and has no plans that I am aware of to invade them.

Allowing a freely-elected government to be absorbed by an authoritarian regime is something that would be opposed by the U.S.

location of our submarines but we do fly, sail, and operate safely in international waters,” the statement added.

It is common for the United States to monitor military activity being carried out by other countries without having to enter their territorial waters.

The crew of the Marshal Shaposhnikov frigate used “corresponding means” to make the submarine leave Russian waters, the Russian Defense Ministry was quoted

as saying.

It said it had called in the U.S. defense attaché over the incident.

The submarine was spotted near the Kuril Islands early on Saturday as Russia was conducting naval exercises with its Pacific Fleet and it was ordered to surface immediately, the Russian ministry was quoted as saying.

It said the order was ignored by the U.S. submarine's crew, leading the Russian frigate to take unspecified

## Singaporean expert says Iran has been acting as anti-status quo power since 1979

*‘The only language the U.S. and the West understand is power and force’*

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - Bilveer Singh, a Singaporean professor, believes that following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has been acting as an anti-status quo regional power.

“Following the February 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the unpopular and pro-Western monarchy under the Shah, Iran has been seen as an anti-status quo regional power, namely, against the status quo of a largely Western-domination, almost akin to post-colonial control of the region especially of its oil and gas wealth as well as Western control of the strategic Persian Gulf region,” Singh, who



specializes in international relations, tells the Tehran Times.

“The big difference is the paradigmatic shift and change; prior to the 1979 Revolution, especially under the Shah, Iran was seen as a status quo-oriented regional player supporting Western domination of the region, especially as an Anglo-American proxy,” he adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see the position of Iran as a regional player after the 1979 revolution?**

The big difference is the paradigmatic shift and change; prior to the 1979 Revolution, especially under the Shah, Iran was seen as a status quo-oriented regional player supporting Western domination of the region, especially as an Anglo-American proxy, all the more it was the U.S. that replaced the Shah into power following the CIA engineered a coup against then highly pro-Iranian nationalist Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. Following the February 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the unpopular and pro-Western monarchy under the Shah, Iran has been seen as an anti-status quo regional power, namely, against the status quo of a largely Western-domination, almost akin to post-colonial control of the region especially of its oil and gas wealth as well as Western control of the strategic Persian Gulf region.

**How do you evaluate the fallout of U.S. sanctions and pressures on Iran over about the past four decades? Could Americans change Iran's policies?**

The story of sanctions is a simple one: they don't work and they hurt the wrong people; if the U.S. sanctions were aimed

at hurting the Iranian government, then it failed as the only real victims were the people of Iran. However, for political optics and perception, and to demonstrate its power and sense of revenge, just as the West is doing now towards the Taliban in Afghanistan, the West has blindly continued with its sanctions against anyone it does not like; sanctions don't work but because the West does not have any other weapon, short of a military one, it continues to roll out sanctions to have a ‘feel-good’ feeling that it is hurting ‘Islamic Iran’, all the more being cheered by the Israelis.

**Given the recent escalations between U.S. and Russia over Ukraine coupled with Washington's policies to confront**

**China, can you imagine that China and Russia as superpowers form an alliance with Iran as a regional power to contain U.S.?**

The only language the U.S. and the West understand is power and force. That is the only thing in their culture that led them to dominate the world since the 16th century; it is not morality that China and India have, but simple, brutal raw power. Hence, if anyone wants to confront the West especially the U.S., then you either built up all-around military power and if that is not sufficient, a loose or tight coalition is the only logical response. Yes, the only way to curtail, contain and rollback American power that has overstayed its welcome is for some kind of coalition involving Russia, China, Iran and other like-minded states; the message should be a simple one: if you play with military toys and coalitions such as NATO, so can we!

**One of the goals of the Islamic Revolution in Iran was encouraging Islamic states to confront Israel and America. Why did political leaders in Arab countries prefer to make more concessions to Israel and the U.S. rather than resist?**

The main reason is that the leaders from these Arab states are weak and highly dependent politically, economically and militarily on the West. Also, they lack legitimacy at home especially the feudalistic monarchies and the only way to survive is to depend on these Western powers that have been in the region for more than 100 years controlling their natural resources. These Arab states are dependencies and dependency on the West has led them to be concessionary towards Israel and the West.

Russia's defense minister spoke by telephone with his U.S. counterpart on Saturday as the United States and other Western nations warned that war in Ukraine could ignite at any moment.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin also spoke for an hour by phone later in the day to discuss Ukraine but according to the Kremlin, the submarine incident was not brought up.

(Source: Reuters)

## U.S. denies it carried out operations in Russian territorial waters

The United States on Saturday denied that it had carried out military operations in Russian territorial waters, after Moscow said a Russian naval vessel chased away a U.S. submarine in Russian waters in the Pacific.

Russia accused Washington of breaking international law and creating a national security threat over the incident at a time of high tensions between Moscow and Washington over a Russian military

buildup near Ukraine.

Interfax news agency cited the Russian Defense Ministry as saying a Russian naval vessel chased away a U.S. submarine in Russian waters in the Pacific after the submarine ignored the ship's orders to surface.

“There is no truth to the Russian claims of our operations in their territorial waters,” Captain Kyle Raines, a U.S. military spokesman, said in a statement.

“I will not comment on the precise

## Five Iranian monuments win ICESCO heritage status

From page 1 ► In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins". In her celebrated 1934 travelogue, she recounts her hike up to Nevisar with mules that "seemed to be standing on their hind legs."

### Gonbad-e Alavian

The 12th-century Gonbad-e Alavian ("Alavian Dome") is located in Hamedan province and is a prime example of the Persian-Islamic architecture of the time.

The brick tower of the monument remains famous for the whirling floral stucco added in the Ilkhanid Mongol era; this ornamentation is described by British travel writer Robert Byron in his travelogue "The Road to Oxiana". In its small cellar, there are tombs of two elders of the Alavian family. The interior area is formed of six rooms with arches. Cube-shaped graves covered with turquoise bricks are in the center.

A rectangular plaque with stucco honeycomb patterns and flower motifs is hung above the entrance of the structure. The outer frame of this plaque bears stucco reliefs of Quranic inscriptions in the Kufic calligraphy hand.

### Mausoleum of Sheikh Ahmad Jami

One of the most beautiful attractions of Torbat-e Jam in Khorasan Razavi province is the Sheikh Ahmad Jami Mausoleum. Persian Sufi writer, mystic, and poet Ahmad Jami were some of the most famous of his time.

It includes several monuments, including a tomb, an iwan, a mosque, a madrasah, and a dome. Other constructions were also added to it at different points in time. Later, a cistern, an underground mosque, and some graves were built there. The entrance door of the mausoleum made of wood is engraved with a Kufic inscription, revealing its history.



*Perched on top of a steep hill, Alamut Castle was once sheltering the followers of a spiritual leader in the 12th century.*

### Bastam historical complex

Bastam historical complex is located in the small city of Bastam, near Shahroud in the north-central province of Semnan. It includes the holy shrine of Mohammad Ibn Jafar Sadegh (AS), Bayazid Bastami tomb, Bayazid Monastery, Bayazid Mosque, Eljaito Iwan, Ghazan Dome, Jame Mosque, Kashaneh Tower, and Shahrokhieh School, which were built in different eras from the Seljuk era (1037-1194) to Qajar period (1789-1925).

The prominent Persian mystic Bayazid Bastami lived in the historical city of Bastam, which is located six kilometers north of Shahroud. The monastery was a simple place where he studied and prayed.

### Masouleh

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

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

## Tourism minister underlines role of cultural attaches

TEHRAN – On Sunday, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami praised the role of cultural attaches as potential advocates of Iran tourism in every corner of the globe.

"Our cultural attaches are present in 80 spots of the world. As of today, [I expect] all of them [to] represent the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts out of the country," Zarghami said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) Director Hojjatolislam Mehdi Imanipur, Mehr reported.

As an organization working under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the ICRO's mission is to seek the expansion of Iran's cultural relations with other countries through sending cultural attaches across the world.

Iran seeks to revive its virus-hit tourism industry. Last September, the country initiated preliminary steps for a bounce-back, restarting the issuance of tourist visas following a 20-month hiatus, and easing COVID-19 protocols for fully-vaccinated passengers. Iran's trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and

lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts.

All things considered, Iran is determined to get through the coronavirus crisis with a greater reliance on its numerous tourist spots of which 26 are UNESCO World Heritage, and above all, its welcoming, sociable people. Going to statistics, some 1.47m foreign nationals visited the ancient land from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year to January 1, a span most of which was subject to severe travel bans due to coronavirus. Citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021. "226,000 people from Iraq, 103,000 from Afghanistan, 90,000 from Turkey, 22,000 from Azerbaijan, and 18,000 from Bahrain arrived in Iran during the mentioned period," according to data released by Mehr news agency.

As the data suggests, neighboring countries have been the main source of tourism for the Islamic Republic. That is why the fair has invited travel insiders, tour operators, and exhibitors from neighboring states to reinforce the trend. The average of international travels to and from the Islamic Republic fell by 80



percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) from a year earlier. "During this period, 4,343,163 passengers entered the country, which included 3,030,464 Iranian passengers and 512,699 international travelers," according to Arezou Ghaniy, an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration. "From the beginning of 1399 to the end of it, we saw a significant reduction in passenger traffic to the country or vice versa in land, sea, rail and air borders, which were caused by various coronavirus restrictions."

In the international scene, tourism experienced a 4% increase in 2021, 15 million more international tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) compared to 2020 (415 million versus 400 million), according to data compiled by the World Tourism Organization. International arrivals, however, show 72% below the pre-pandemic year of 2019, according to preliminary estimates.

## Nationally-designated Timcheh unaffected by fire, Tehran tourism chief says

TEHRAN- Timcheh of Hajab al-Doleh, which is registered in the national list of cultural heritage, has suffered no damage from the fire broke out in the Grand Bazaar of Tehran on Saturday, Tehran's tourism chief has announced.

"The fire occurred in an area that is treasured but not nationally registered. However, its neighboring Timcheh of Hajab al-Doleh is fortunately unaffected by the blaze," IRNA quoted Parham Janfeshan as saying on Sunday.

Firefighters were dispatched from five various stations to contain to fire as soon as possible, however, 30 shops were destroyed by the flames, the official added.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and has not yet been revealed, while experts are currently assessing the damages, he noted.

The cultural heritage department in Tehran is leading the way in helping to protect and restore historical buildings, including the Grand Bazaar, which is vulnerable to events such as fires, he explained.

### Second Announcement

#### Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for  
zinc stearate // 102000 kg

TABRIZ PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (PLC)



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of zinc stearate for polystyrene production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until February 19.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: March 01, 2022

Email: [me.rahimi@tpco.ir](mailto:me.rahimi@tpco.ir)

Phone No.: +98-41-34282592

Tender	No	Quantity
zinc stearate	PVS-0041059	102000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company ( Public Stock )

### Second Announcement

#### Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for  
Magnesium Powder // 4000 kg

TABRIZ PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (PLC)



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Magnesium Powder for polyethylene production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until February 19, 2022

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: March 01, 2022

Email: [l.lalfakari@tpco.ir](mailto:l.lalfakari@tpco.ir)

Phone No.: +98-41-34282921

Tender	No	Quantity
Magnesium Powder	PVS-0041054	4000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company ( Public Stock )

### Second Announcement

#### Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for  
EC-3305 // 31000 kg

TABRIZ PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (PLC)



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of EC-3305 for polystyrene production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until February 19.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: March 01, 2022

Email: [Mr.ghorbani@tpco.ir](mailto:Mr.ghorbani@tpco.ir)

Phone No.: +98-21-88737355-Int 109

Tender	No	Quantity
EC-3305	PVS-0041064	31000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company ( Public Stock )

### Second Announcement

#### Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for Cumene  
Hydroperoxide (CUH) // 34000 kg

TABRIZ PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (PLC)



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Cumene hydroperoxid for ABS production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until February 19.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: March 01, 2022

Email: [me.rahimi@tpco.ir](mailto:me.rahimi@tpco.ir)

Phone No.: +98-41-34282592

Tender	No	Quantity
Cumene hydroperoxide (CUH)	PVS-0041057	34000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company ( Public Stock )

From page 1 ► The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, nanotech, biotech, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in.

With the outbreak of coronavirus, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem endeavored to surge production to meet the country's need for self-protective equipment along with medical and pharmaceutical items to fight against the pandemic, at a time when other developed countries were struggling with a severe lack of personal protective tools.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, domestic firms began their activities to develop test kits, vaccines, medicine, and other strategic products; Not only has it fully met the country's needs, but it has also the capacity to be exported.

Most recently, a company developed a technological test kit to diagnose the new Omicron strains, which is also one of the top three manufacturers of COVID-19 antigen-based diagnostic kits.

While, another technology company has developed an antigen-based rapid detection kit, which can detect the Omicron variant in less than 20 minutes.

Knowledge-based companies can produce any medicine effective in countering coronavirus or approved by the scientific committee within a week to 10 days, Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, said.

In January 2021, the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, unveiled three raw pharmaceuticals and a new anti-coronavirus drug called Ivermectin, which had been previously imported.

Iran also produced drugs confirmed to be effective in the coronavirus treatment, including, Remdesivir, Tocilizumab.

Considering that five coronavirus vaccines have so far been produced domestically, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said in June 2021 that Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms.

On February 7, ISNA reported

# You sanction it, we build it



that two domestic companies have completed the animal phase of a clinical study to develop vaccines against the Omicron strain.

COVIRAN, the first homegrown vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, is the first vaccine in West Asia that is in the process of global registration through the World Health Organization.

The vaccine also showed effectiveness in fighting the coronavirus more than foreign rivals, namely Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, and Sputnik, according to a new study conducted by Iranian researchers.

Meanwhile, these national heroes strived several times to break the U.S monopoly on the production of specific medicine or medical equipment, a simple example of which was the creation of doxorubicin, Sina Doxosome in Iran, a chemotherapy medication used to treat cancer that was previously monopolized by the United States, Canada, and India. Which is being exported to the regional countries over the past two years.

## Iran excels in nanotech, biotech

Sattari said that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Iran has created centers in six Asian countries for exporting nanotechnology products, including China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq.

Revenue from nanotechnology products will reach up to 200 trillion rials (nearly \$727 million) by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), anticipated Saeed Sarkar, secretary of the Nanotechnology Innovation Council.

Over the past 20 years, 850 nano products have entered the market from 25 industrial sectors, showing that the industries have accepted that nanotechnology has developed the market, he stated.

Last [Iranian calendar] year, the sale of nano goods amounted to 115 trillion rials (about \$460 million), so we hope to exceed 200 trillion rials (nearly \$727 million) by the next month.

Around 450 knowledge-based companies are currently working to use nanotechnology for manufacturing more than 850 products.

Nearly 800 knowledge-based companies in the country are currently operating in the field of biotechnology and supplying their products and services to the domestic market.

Iran is ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of

biotechnology, as 9.5 percent of the income of knowledge-based companies and more than 60 percent of their exports are related to biotechnology.

Foreign exchange savings of \$1 billion per year by producing 22 biopharmaceuticals, gaining the first rank in biotechnology products and vaccines in West Asia, and the presence among the top five biotechnology producers in Asia are among the country's achievements, Mostafa Ghanei, secretary of the biotechnology development office of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, said in October 2020.

So far, 27 biotechnology medicines, 12 vaccine projects, 90 pharmaceutical raw materials, and 55 projects in agriculture and food security have been implemented in order to gain a 3 percent market share and biotechnology assistance to the development of the economy, he explained.

## Share of knowledge-based firms in economy

In an interview with the Bangkok Post published on February 7, Iran's Ambassador to Thailand, Seyed Reza Nobakthi, said although Iran is known for its crude oil exports, Tehran has become actively involved in the nanotechnology, pharmaceutical, and health sectors.

Iran's technological capacity has allowed it to churn out advanced machinery, such as Sena, a telesurgery system that launched in 2015. Indonesia, the ambassador added, recently purchased two telesurgery robots.

Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari told the Tehran Times in October 2020 that "U.S. sanctions caused exports of knowledge-based companies to decline three years ago, however, it has returned to growth and is projected to reach the pre-sanctions level of more than \$1 billion.

However, today, the share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, Sattari stated in an interview with Fars on Sunday.

## Science, technology advancement with knowledge-based ecosystem

TEHRAN – Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology told Fars on Sunday.

Today, the share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

The knowledge-based ecosystem is a newly-emerged ecosystem but has so far been able to solve many of the country's problems.

In every field where few knowledge-based companies are active, there is the highest import and the greatest impact of sanctions. For example, we have problems in the field of agriculture and food security because the number of knowledge-based companies is not sufficient.

In the field of food security, billions of dollars are spent on importing simple things. While the country has the requisite scientific capacity to solve these problems.

With our high scientific potential and the growth of technology, we should not get to the point where we want to import the food we need. Development of food supply chains is one of the future plans of the vice presidency for science and technology, he further explained.

There have been great developments in non-oil exports in recent years and large companies have sprung up, but we still have a long way to go. The same is true in the field of knowledge-based firms. Today, most of the exports take place in the field of biotech. Biotechnology in our country is a very creative and innovative

nascent ecosystem that is growing and conquering international markets.

Fighting in the economic field and reducing inflation and poverty in the country have two simple solutions. The first solution is to reform the business environment, much of which is to eliminate corruption. The second solution is a tax on the rich. The subsidy solutions that are offered are very short-term and have terrible effects in the long run. The fight against corruption occurs with the development of smart and e-government.

In the past few years, many words such as innovation factory, innovation area, science and technology parks, knowledge-based and creative companies, etc. have been added to the country's science and technology literature. Great achievements have been fulfilled in these years, but in order to deal with these issues, the process must be accelerated.

In order to make a difference in this area, the government can provide incentives to increase private sector investment. This should also happen in areas such as the media.

We have our own capacities and unique innovations. We must note that the way to deal with events that affect our society is not to imitate the methods of other countries; Rather, we must develop our own innovation and, if we are to use the methods of others, localize it according to the structure of our country.

The law of surge in production is also one of the most effective laws that we have been involved in for about 3 years, which is a direction towards the knowledge-based economy and tried to solve the problems during these years.

It is not a solution to all the existing problems, but is a railway for the development of the country for the next 20 years, Sattari said.

## Iran ready to offer scholarships to Malian students

TEHRAN – The Iranian Ministry of Science is ready to offer 20 scholarships to Malian students in line with the policy to expand science diplomacy with other countries.

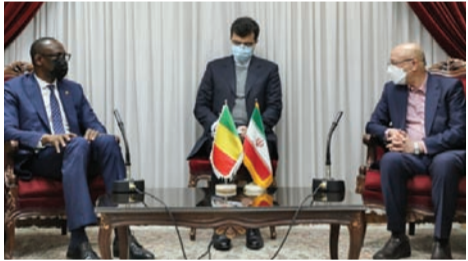
Science Minister Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol made the remarks in a meeting with Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop in Tehran on Sunday.

Zolfigol also emphasized the need for setting up a joint working group to follow up on establishing a technical-vocational university by Iran in the African country.

The Malian official, for his part, referred to the high status of Iran worldwide in science and technology, saying that Iran is a good example for those countries which want to stand against the global arrogant powers and their unfair sanctions.

Data from the Scopus International Citation Database show that Iran's science diplomacy has reached more than 34 percent since the beginning of 2021, the highest level in the past 20 years.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and to build constructive international



partnerships. It is a form of new diplomacy and has become an umbrella term to describe a number of formal or informal technical, research-based, academic, or engineering exchanges, within the general field of international relations.

Comparing the rate of 2020 with 2019, Iran with a growth of 12.5 percent and with a slight difference with India has gained second place in the world in terms of the growth of world science diplomacy, Mohammad Javad Dehghani, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), said.

Moreover, studies show that Iran enters the year 2022 with the 15th rank in science production worldwide and it is expected to make progress over the next years as the coronavirus pandemic is going to ease.

## Golestan wetlands grappling with drought, mismanagement

TEHRAN – Alagol, Almagol, and Ajigol – the three major wetlands in the northern province of Gilan – have been facing drought and mismanagement over the past couple of years.

Insufficient intake of water and irregular exploitation of the wetlands are now threatening these valuable biodiversity reserves.

Covering an area of 3,000 hectares, Almagol and Ajigol are seasonally-filled freshwater lakes, fed by autumn and winter rains, which become desiccated in drought periods. Alagol is slightly saline and fringed by extensive reed and grass marshes.

Almagol is sparsely vegetated. There are several human settlements. The site supports Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), flamingos, and nesting White-tailed Plover.

Placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to high levels of disturbance from wildfowl hunters and the extraction of water for irrigation purposes, which has lowered lake levels

considerably, especially during summer.

Recent rainfalls have eased the water shortage problem in the Caspian Sea province, however, wetlands have lost a lion's share of their beauty and significance.

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater. More than 40 percent of freshwater fish are said to live in wetlands.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Iran is rich in terms of having a variety of wetlands due to its climatic diversity. In Iran,

141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.

Of Iran's 25 Ramsar sites about one-third are under pressure or in critical condition.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth.

Concurrent with the adoption of the Ramsar Convention, World Wetlands Day was designated on February 22, emphasizing the importance of the wetlands and sustainable use of these valuable ecosystems.

The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'. It aims to highlight the importance of actions to conserve and sustain wetlands.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### ‘Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%’

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghnan, Urmia, Chooapanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

According to the law, agricultural development around the lake's basin is banned, and investigation results demonstrated that no land seized illegally for the agricultural development, he highlighted.

### کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

دیردفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفتوگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطر نشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کنبدی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

طبق مصوبه دولت توسعه اراضی کشاورزی در حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه ممنوع است و با بررسی‌های انجام شده در حوضه آبریز دریاچه نیز هیچ توسعه‌ای انجام نشده است.

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FEBRUARY 14, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*If someone’s deeds lower his position, his pedigree cannot elevate it.*  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18    Evening: 18:03    Dawn: 5:27 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:51 (tomorrow)

Hafez’s tomb (Hafezieh)

Part 2

On the walls of this section of the Hafezieh, odes from Hafez’s Divan are inscribed on tiles and marble slabs in the calligraphy of Abd al-Hamid Malek al-Kalami (d. 1949): on the north wall is the ghazal beginning Sahar-am hatef-e mey-khana be dawlat-khahi/Goft baz ay ke dirina-ye in dargah-i; on the south wall the ghazal Cho beshnavi sokhan-e ahl-e del magu ke khata’st/Sokhanshenas ne-i jan-e man khata inja’st; on the east wall the ghazal Mazra’e sabz-e falak didam o das-e mah-e now/Yad-am az keshta-ye khish amad o hangam-e derow; and on the west wall the ode Bia ke qasr-e amal sakht sost bonyad ast/ Biar bada ke bonyad-e omr bar bad ast.

The southern section of the Hafezieh constitutes the entrance garden, with orange trees, two large flower gardens, paths, and a stream.

In the middle of each garden is a large rectangular pool. The stone edges of these pools came originally from a pool in the north garden of Bagh-e Nazar, a part of the Divan-khaneh palace of Karim Khan Zand, which was

destroyed during the extension of Karim Khan Zand Boulevard (the partially remaining south garden is now the Pars Museum).

The stones were transferred to the Hafezieh to build the present pools. On each side of the courtyard there is a large orange grove. The south wall and the entrance are made of iron railings. The area of the southern section, from the entrance to the garden to the steps of the central hall, is 9,985 square meters.

A number of famous people are buried in the vicinity of Hafez’s grave. They include poets, scholars, and other notables of Shiraz: the poets and scholars Ahli Shirazi, Mirza Kuchak Wesal Shirazi, Mohammad-Nasir Forsat-al-Dawla, Lotf-Ali Suratgar, Fereidun Tavallali, Mehdi Hamidi, Nasereddin Salar (Salar-e Jang), Mohammad-Khalil Rajai; the mystic Mohammad-Hesam Zahabi; and the writer Rasul Parvizi.

The mausoleum of Qawam al-Molk Shirazi and his family (the Qawamiha) is also found here.

(Encyclopedia Iranica)  
(Concluded)

Lexical structure of Hafez’s ghazals

Part 1

In describing the lexical structure of Hafez’s ghazals, we must consider three main problems.

First, the quantitative valuation may vary, depending on the edition of the ghazals used or of the manuscript(s) chosen for the scrutiny.

Second, the data resulting from lexical processing are strongly conditioned by the lexicological choices in singling out tokens, types and lemmas. (By “lemma” we mean the lexical item corresponding to the headword found in Dehkhoda’s Loghat-nama; by “token” we mean any occurrence of a form of a lemma; by “type” we mean any different form a lemma may take according to inflectional or phono-morphological variants.)

Third, at present there is no general description of the classical Persian poetic language, and no statistical studies enabling us to analyze deviations in the language of Hafez’s ghazals with reference to average data.

Despite these limitations, it is nevertheless necessary to base textual criticism on complete and reliable lexico-statistical inventories of Hafez’s ghazals.

In this perspective, a simple list of types or lemmas—even if complete with the relative frequencies—is not enough. A computerized processing of the texts, which will guarantee a greater richness of information, coherence in lexicological choices, and precision of data, thus becomes indispensable (the only such work is Meneghini Correale, based on the 1983 khanlari edition of the ghazals; the following data were extracted and processed on the basis of that study, and obviously reflect the scientific criteria assumed therein).

The general data pertaining to the lexicon of Hafez’s ghazals are as follows: N (number of tokens) = 77,779; V (number of types) = 7,215, of which 3,605 are hapax legomena (single occurrences); VI (number of lemmas) = 4,787, of which 2,037 are hapax legomena.

(Concluded)

Afghan epic “Chehel Dokhtar Mountain”, immigration tale “Coffin” staged at Fajr theater fest

From Page 1 ▶A girl namely Shirin forms a small group of 47 Hazara girls to put up resistance to the invaders. They take shelter on the Shehpar Mountains. The army lays siege to the mountain to capture the group. To preserve their honor and dignity, the girls finally throw themselves down the mountain after a seven-day fight. The mountains were later renamed “Chehel Dokhtaran Mountains” (Forty-Girl Mountains).

Written and directed by Senator Hosseini, “Coffin” is composed of three episodes, the first of which is about an Afghan family that lives in Iran. A son of the family tries to convince the family to immigrate to Europe, however, the father disagrees with him,

he says, “If we have any plan to leave Iran, I prefer to return our homeland.”

The second episode follows an Iranian boy and an Afghan girl who are secretly married. They plan to leave Iran before their families are informed about their marriage.

The characters of the stories join together in the third episode, which features the challenges they face in dealing with human smugglers.

Tajik and Hosseini were both born into Afghan families living in Iran. Along with a number of members of their crews, they met Iran’s Dramatic Arts Center director Qader Ashena in his office on Saturday.

“I was really delighted by

“Chehel Dokhtar Mountain” by Emadeddin Tajik.

watching ‘Coffin’ and I’m amazed and pleased that the writer of this play is someone who has only read up to the third grade at secondary school and is a construction worker, and this makes our responsibility to him weightier,” Ashena said at the meeting.

“Afghanistan has suffered great pains over the past century and I told my colleagues that ‘Coffin’ teaches us political science; it’s the anti-imperialist play of the festival,” added Ashena who has a Ph.D. in political science.

“I promise to help the ‘Coffin’ crew to stage their play in a state theater to provide the opportunity for the group to show that the knowledgeable and well-established Afghan

youths are men and women who have gone through difficult times and to present their high potential in artistic affairs,” he noted.

For his part, Tajik said, “We were born in Iran and therefore, we obviously deem this our country, though our parents and ancestors are from Afghanistan.”

“I never imagined that I could stage a play at one of the best theaters of Tehran. That I receive this opportunity is the outcome of the cultural affinity between the Iranian and Afghan people,” he added.

“Chehel Dokhtar Mountain” and “Coffin” have previously been performed at Mehregan Theater and Shahrzad Theater Complex in Tehran.

“Hero” trying its luck at Belgrade festival after missing Oscar race

TEHRAN – Iranian drama “Hero” will be competing in the 50th Belgrade International Film Festival as it failed last week to receive a nomination in the international feature film category of the 94th Oscars.

Eight screenings have been arranged for the film at the festival, which will take place in the Serbian capital from February 25 to March 6.

Directed by two-time Oscar winner Asghar Farhadi, the film was also shortlisted for the Best Picture – Non-English Language category at the 79th Annual Golden Globe Awards, however, it left the field as the Japanese drama “Drive My Car” took the honor home.

The film, which is a co-production between Iran and France, follows Rahim, who is in prison because he was unable to pay a debt. During a two-day leave of

“Hero” directed by Asghar Farhadi.

absence from prison, he attempts to have his creditor withdraw his complaint over part of the sum owed. But things don’t go as planned.

The winner of the Grand Prix (ex aequo) at Cannes 2021 has been screened at numerous international events and won several awards.

Austrian Film Museum holds retrospective of filmmaker Rakhshan Bani-Etemad

TEHRAN – The Austrian Film Museum is holding a retrospective of Iranian filmmaker Rakhshan Bani-Etemad.

Twelve drama and documentary films by 68-year-old Bani-Etemad are being reviewed in the program, which opened on January 27 with “The May Lady”.

The museum’s statement for the retrospective begins with reference to UK press during the British Film Institute’s 2008 Bani-Etemad retrospective, reading “She’s foreign, she’s a woman and she’s still alive. Can a Rakhshan Bani-Etemad season at the BFI draw the crowds?”

A scene from the documentary “Touran Khanom” by Rakhshan Bani-Etemad.

She studied film and, shortly after the 1979 Iranian revolution, started her professional career working for Iranian state TV.

After three early commercial features that approach social issues from a satirical angle, Bani-Etemad found a strong personal voice with her bleak,

hard-biting social melodrama “Nargess” (1991), an instant classic both in Iran and internationally and the first part of the director’s informal “City Trilogy”, which she much later continued with “The May Lady” (1998) and “Under the Skin of the City” (2000).

Since “Nargess”, Bani-Etemad’s features have cast a piercing gaze at the anomalies of post-revolutionary Iranian society, usually focusing on the precarious role of women and their struggles in a patriarchal environment.

Over the past fifteen years, documentary filmmaking has become Bani-Etemad’s primary mode of expression. These films

focus on what she perceives as major social anomalies.

“See You Tomorrow Elina”, “The Blue Veiled”, “Nargess”, “Under the Skin of the City”, “We Are Half of Iran’s Population”, “Our Times”, “Angels of the House of Sun”, “Gilaneh”, “Mainline”, “All My Trees”, “Hey Humans”, “Touran Khanom” and “Tales” will be reviewed.

The program will end on February 28 with a screening of “Tales”, a documentary containing seven short episodes in which Bani-Etemad reveals the fate of some of the female characters in her previous films like “The Blue-Veiled”, “Under the Skin of the City” and “Mainline”.

“Very Little... Almost Nothing” appears in Persian

TEHRAN – English philosopher Simon Critchley’s 2004 book “Very Little... Almost Nothing: Death, Philosophy, Literature” has been published in Persian.

Leila Kuchakmanesh has translated the book published by Ney.

The “death of man”, the “end of history” and even philosophy are strong and troubling currents running through contemporary debates.

Yet since Nietzsche’s heralding of the “death of god”, philosophy has been unable to explain the question of finitude.

“Very Little... Almost Nothing” goes to the heart of this problem through an exploration of Blanchot’s theory of literature, Stanley Cavell’s interpretations of romanticism and the importance of death in the work of Samuel Beckett.

Front cover of the Persian translation of Simon Critchley’s book “Very Little... Almost Nothing”

Critchley links these themes to the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas to present a powerful new picture of how we must approach the importance of death in

philosophy.

A compelling reading of the convergence of literature and philosophy, “Very Little... Almost Nothing” opens up new ways of understanding finitude, modernity and the nature of the imagination.

Critchley is currently teaching at The New School. He works in continental philosophy. He argues that philosophy commences in disappointment, either religious or political.

These two axes may be said largely to inform his published work: religious disappointment raises the question of meaning and has to, as he sees it, deal with the problem of nihilism; political disappointment provokes the question of justice and raises the need for coherent ethics.