

U.S. Inaction Could Doom Vienna Talks

▶ Page 3

Report



Germany's plan to cut Russian energy triggers panic

Speaking to journalists in the British capital London alongside UK PM Boris Johnson, the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says "[Germany] is actively working to get independent from the import of (Russian) oil and we think that we will be able to make it during this year."

The statement may have been aimed at pleasing the Anglo-sphere which have taken much more tougher and quicker measures on banning Russian energy imports over Moscow's military operation in Ukraine.

But saying something is easier done than implementing it as Germany is heavily reliant on Russian energy, in particular gas. Back at home there has been alarm among industry chiefs and politicians saying it would lead to huge rises in energy prices as well as shortages of energy to serve the country as well as ordinary households.

Any quick measures to completely shut the tap on Russian energy may cripple Europe's strongest economy. As one German government source told British media "what use to anybody is a weakened Germany?"

Berlin has already established a crisis team to deal with the contingency plans, something that Germany's industrial sector has sounded the alarm over saying they would be forced to shut production.

The country announced its withdrawal from nuclear power after the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan, and in 2019 said it would pull the plug on coal-fired plants.

Businesses across the country are bracing themselves for supplies to be cut either from Russian retaliation over Western sanctions or Berlin joining the Western energy embargo on Russian oil and gas supplies. ▶ Page 5

Parliament writes to Raisi, insists on guarantees in Vienna talks

TEHRAN— In the parliament's public session on Sunday, a letter from 250 MPs addressed to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi regarding the talks between Iran and the P4+1 in Vienna was read.

In part of the letter, while thanking the efforts of the negotiating team to lift the sanctions and emphasizing the principles of dignity, wisdom and expediency and past experiences, the MPs cautioned the president over a few notes including guarantees that the U.S. would not quit the nuclear agreement, officially called the JCPOA, again.

The full text of the letter is as follows:

"...while thanking the efforts of your Excellency and the negotiating team to resolve the problems related to the nuclear agreement imposed by some countries, especially the United States, as representatives of the people in the Majlis, and based on legal and supervisory duties and in the framework of the principle of dignity, wisdom, and expediency and in view of the experiences of previous years, it is essential that current and future negotiations be conducted in a manner that takes into account the following notes:

1- The experience of previous negotiations shows that the unwillingness of the United States and the negotiating parties to provide the necessary guarantees, not only did not serve the national interests of the country, but also caused the failure of the agreement due to U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and damaged the Iranian people's interests. Therefore, in the new negotiations, ▶ Page 2

Parliament ousts Imran Khan; he vows to fight back



© File photo

TEHRAN — Early on Sunday, minutes after the clock hands passed 00:00, the Pakistani parliament held an extraordinary meeting for a no-confidence vote to oust Imran Khan, Pakistan's Prime Minister.

The session ended with 174 votes out of

342 seats against Khan, which was two votes more than simple majority.

Khan took the decision with a pinch of salt, asking his supporters to rally in the streets. Minutes after his call, supporters of Pakistan's Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) staged a rally in front of

the parliament, regardless of being late.

On Sunday afternoon, former energy minister Hammad Azhar said that on the call of "brave" leader Khan, a peaceful protest will be held across Pakistan after the Isha prayer (one of the five mandatory Islamic prayers). ▶ Page 2

Aluminum ingot production up 20% in a year

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 20 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to its preceding year, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The IMIDRO's data put the annual produc-

tion of aluminum ingot at 538,633 tons in 1400, while the figure was 446,836 tons in 1399, and 278,318 tons in 1398.

Among the country's four major producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance in the previous year producing 177,058 tons of aluminum ingots, although the figure was 185,000 tons in its

preceding year. South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) produced 173,594 tons, production by Almahdi Aluminum Company stood at 150,738 tons, and Iran Alumina Company produced 37,243 tons of aluminum ingots in the Iranian calendar year 1400, the IMIDRO's data indicated. ▶ Page 4

Leader outlines social security policies

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday outlined policies for materializing goals of social security in line with the objectives of the Constitution.

The policies aim to improve social welfare, remove poverty, and support vulnerable strata of society, mainly the elderly, the disabled, and people without caretakers.

Reaching the goals entails an efficient, justice-based, and comprehensive administrative system consistent with Islamic-Iranian patterns and powered by public participation that will expand services to underprivileged people living in urban and rural areas.

Filling in social gaps through reforming subsidy schemes, promoting the culture of job creation, removing barriers for all people to benefit from public resources, and offering fertility services to families with the aim of increasing the population growth rate, are among other goals of the policies. ▶ Page 7



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Legendary general commemorated

TEHRAN — A commemoration ceremony was held on Sunday for General Ali Sayyad Shirazi who was assassinated by a terrorist allied to the Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) in Tehran on April 10, 1999. The ceremony, hosted by the Army, was attended by military officials. Sayyad Shirazi served as commander of the Ground Force during Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s.

Iran considers offering free visas on arrival during World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran considers offering free visas on arrival to boost tourism during Qatar World Cup.

The Iranian government mulls over a visa simplification procedure at the suggestion of its Foreign Ministry to draw spectators from the neighboring Qatar which plays host to the FIFA World

Cup Qatar 2022 in November and December.

The Iranian government has been required to grant a free visa to citizens whose national football teams qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar for a one-time or a two-time period with a validity period of two months and a 30-day stay, YJC reported on Saturday.

Additionally, nationals of all countries (except those from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Somalia, Sri Lanka) who are subject to tourist visa requirements as well as all nationals of the U.S., UK, and Canada can apply for a free visa once, twice or multiple times if they provide a ticket from Doha. ▶ Page 6

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Opinion



Iran wastes golden chance as always

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Iran football have a great chance to bring an end to qualification drought in the World Cups but there are still a lot of things which can endanger the chance of the success.

Iran have been drawn in a tough Group B along with England, the U.S. and the winners of Wales/Scotland/Ukraine. It means the federation must provide the best possible facilities for the team as soon as possible.

On Saturday, the media announced that Iran will play New Zealand in a friendly match. As a sports journalist who has worked in the field for more than twenty years, I have to say, unfortunately, it doesn't work. Just playing with powerful teams can be useful. That's the matter.

I remember Iran played Croatia in Rijeka as part of preparation for the 1998 World Cup. The Iranian team lost 2-0 but it was a good warm up match for the Persians. Iran showed an unexpected performance against Yugoslavia and the U.S.

The federation must arrange the better friendlies for the national team since all the teams in the 2022 World Cup will be armed to the teeth.

The football federation wanted to hire French coach Herve Renard after parting company with Carlos Queiroz in 2019 but the deal was never finalized and Marc Wilmots was appointed as Iran coach.

The Belgian's poor performance was a major blow to Iran team in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 2.

The federation had missed a golden chance to appoint a good tactician. ▶ Page 3

Iran's Kabootar Khaneh wins ADEX Platinum Award

TEHRAN – Iranian architecture project Kabootar Khaneh has received an ADEX Platinum Award at the Award for Design Excellence – ADEX Awards in the United States.

The project has been designed and set up by Iranian architects Nima and Sina Keivani at Keivani Architects in the northern Iranian town of Babolsar.

The building "has been recognized by the judges for its superior product design and quality," the organizers said.

As the project's name, Kabootar Khaneh (Pigeon House), suggests, the basic concept behind the design was to create a space for co-existence between humans and birds.

After visiting the project site in the northern Iranian town of Babolsar before the design, the architecture team noticed the widespread presence of birds there. Thus, to respect their rights, they decided to design a house where people could live next to them to create an interaction between them that causes a different sense of space to improve its quality. ▶ Page 8

Parliament ousts Imran Khan; he vows to fight back

From page 1 ► Pakistan's Express Tribune reported that all Pakistani airports were notified of the unauthorized departure of government officials after a vote of no confidence in the Parliament against Khan.

Leaders of Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party announced their decision to resign en masse from the National Assembly after the removal of Khan as Prime Minister, stressing that they will never come to terms with the next government and called for early elections in Pakistan.

According to official Pakistani sources, a meeting of senior leaders of the PTI led by Khan was held in Islamabad on Sunday and the PTI is expected to present new plans to challenge the future government of Pakistan.

The PTI has decided to resign from parliament in the first step in retaliation to move by 174 MPs voting to oust Khan. All of PTI representatives are scheduled to resign in the earliest session in the National Assembly.

In an interview with the media in Islamabad on Sunday, the PTI leaders announced the holding of a nationwide demonstration by supporters of Khan and Tehreek-e-Insaf activists in various Pakistani cities against the joint opposition front, which is currently seeking the formation of a future Pakistani government.

According to the PTI leaders, the future rulers of Pakistan have colluded with foreign agents, particularly the United States and participated in the success of the conspiracy to topple the government.

The PTI leaders reiterated that Khan's party had never surrendered and would not allow an "externally imposed government."

Meanwhile, the opposition party has nominated Shehbaz Sharif, brother of Nawaz Sharif, Pakistani entrepreneur and longest-serving Prime Minister of Pakistan who served for 9 years.

Shehbaz, 70, led the opposition's bid in parliament to topple Khan. Following Saturday's vote of no-confidence, the younger Sharif is widely expected to succeed Khan.

He presented his candidacy for the post of Prime Minister to the secretariat of the Parliament on Sunday.

In response, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, submitted his application to the Parliament as a candidate of the PTI.

Electing the next Prime Minister and the new speaker of the Parliament is scheduled for Monday, in the open session of the National Assembly.

Parliament writes to Raisi, insists on guarantees in Vienna talks

From page 1 ► it is necessary for the United States to guarantee a law that will not withdraw from the JCPOA, and to approve the agreement in a completely legal manner in its decision-making institutions, such as Congress, so as not to hinder its implementation in the future.

2- One of the main conditions of the negotiations is that the United States would not threaten Iran after the agreement, and the existence of the snapback mechanism practically means maintaining the threat and failure of the negotiations, so it is necessary to obtain the necessary guarantees that the snapback mechanism would not be activated through empty excuses.

3. Unfortunately, even during the negotiations, the United States imposes new sanctions against the individuals, entities and various sections of the country, which indicate a destructive intention in the course of the negotiations. So obviously in the negotiations, it is clear that without this guarantee, the problem of sanctions will remain the same and, as a result, will harm political and economic



interests, as well as the national credibility of the country.

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran has the right to export oil to any country and to any extent agreed between the parties and within the framework of the quota set by OPEC before the imposition of sanctions and according to the situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and receive the income through the banking system.

5- Transferring the financial resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the resources obtained from the sale of oil and the blocked resources from all countries is the absolute right of the Islamic Republic and the negotiating parties must remove the obstacles in this direction. In

this regard, any obstacle to the conversion of currencies and also hindering the attraction of investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran is prohibited and is not accepted by the Iranian people. The right to verification is also in the hands of the Iranian government.

Articles 6 and 7 of the Law on "Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Rights of the Iranian Nation" also stipulate that Iran would fulfill its obligations on the condition that full banking relations would be established, export barriers would completely be removed, all Iranian oil and oil products would be sold, foreign exchange income from selling oil and oil products would return fully and quickly, and a report

of these measures would be submitted to the Majlis and the representatives would approve of it.

On this basis, verbal promises, including the words of the U.S. president, can certainly not be used as a guarantee. The U.S. and other Western countries will not have the right to withdraw from the JCPOA, apply the snapback mechanism and impose new sanctions - or re-impose lifted sanctions. Prior to the lifting of the oil and banking sanctions and their full verification by Iran and the approval of the Majlis, no remedial measures in the nuclear field should be done by the government of the Islamic Republic.

The Majlis representatives, while supporting the revolutionary government, closely monitor the negotiations, and without a doubt, the government and the Majlis agree on the protection of national interests. The Majlis and the red lines drawn by the establishment will support the interests of the Iranian people.

We wish Your Excellency and the servants of the establishment success for serving the dear people.

Iran FM urges end to Yemen embargo, delivery of humanitarian aid

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister, has stressed that the Saudi-led coalition's blockade on Yemen must be eased entirely in order for humanitarian help to reach the war-torn country, while repeating Tehran's support for a two-month UN-brokered truce between Yemen's warring parties in a phone conversation with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al Mohammed al-Sabah on Friday.

The United Nations stated on April 1 that the military coalition led by Saudi Arabia,

which has been pounding Yemen since 2015, and Yemen's National Salvation Government had agreed to a two-month truce that would take effect one day later and may be repeated with the parties' approval.

The goal of the ceasefire, according to UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg, "is to give Yemenis a necessary break from violence, relief from the humanitarian suffering, and most importantly hope that an end to this conflict is possible."

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia unleashed a

catastrophic war on Yemen in coordination with a number of its allies, with weaponry and logistical backing from the U.S. and numerous Western governments.

The goal was to restore the old Riyadh-backed dictatorship to power and smash the Ansarullah resistance organization, which has been handling state activities in Yemen in the absence of a competent government. Despite murdering hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and turning the country into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian

disaster, the war has fallen well short of its objectives.

In his remarks, the senior Iranian diplomat stated that the Islamic Republic is willing to develop relations with Kuwait and engage in talks with regional countries. According to Amir Abdollahian, the Iranian administration, in line with its goal of expanding ties with neighbors, emphasizes actual collaboration among regional countries in addition to conversation "we consider regional cooperation beneficial to security, progress

and development in the region."

For his part, Kuwait's foreign minister expressed confidence that the UN-brokered truce in Yemen would pave the way for intra-Yemeni talks and an end to the violence.

Kuwait, according to Al-Sabah, is keen to improve relations with Tehran. He also emphasized the need to define the water border and utilize joint gas fields. The Kuwaiti leader also asked Iran's foreign minister to visit Kuwait in order to strengthen bilateral relations.

A revived nuclear pact could benefit Washington and Tehran: Foreign Policy

In a commentary dated April 5 titled "The little Iran nuclear deal that Couldn't", Foreign Policy said a revived nuclear pact could benefit both the United States and Iran but it is proving a hard sell.

Following is an excerpt of the article:

Talks on Iran's nuclear program have been veering between success and failure for months now, bedeviling the best efforts of prognosticators to forecast the outcome. A deal would have something to offer both Washington, in the form of greater constraints to slow Iran's nuclear advances, and Tehran, which would gain access to a fresh pot of money. But such a deal would be fraught with political risks that would make it potentially painful for both sides to swallow.

"You have to decide what's more important: uranium enrichment or Iranian enrichment," said Ali Vaez, an expert at the International Crisis Group and a proponent of a deal who believes there is a 50-50 chance of a new pact being sealed. "If you are more concerned about uranium enrichment, then this deal is better than the alternative. If you are more concerned about Iranian enrichment, then you would argue for a no-deal scenario."

The ongoing Iran nuclear talks are aimed at resurrecting the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a landmark 2015 pact that offered Iran relief from financial and economic sanctions in exchange for a verifiable commitment to accept constraints on its nuclear program. Former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in May 2018 and imposed additional sanctions on Tehran. A year later, Iran—which had until then complied with the pact—began ramping up its own nuclear activities,

violating the terms of the original agreement.

The Biden administration committed to rejoining the JCPOA on the condition that Iran return to compliance with the pact and reopened indirect negotiations with Iran in April 2021. Those talks—which have included representatives from successive Iranian administrations—were nearing completion last month. But they have since stalled, most recently over a Russian demand that it be granted a broad exemption from sanctions imposed on Moscow in response to its invasion of Ukraine. Russia is important to the Iran deal because, for now, it is the one country willing and able to offload Iran's uranium.

Negotiators for the key signatories to the nuclear accord with Iran—China, France, Germany, Russia, Britain, and the United States, as well as the European Union, which is facilitating the talks—have largely returned home from the stalemated talks. The final stumbling blocks include a pair of demands by Iran to remove its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations and to provide some guarantees that the pact will not be rescinded if Republicans come to power in the United States. The Biden administration was reportedly entertaining the possibility of delisting the IRGC, which would continue to be subject to separate sanctions, but the arrangement has faced enormous backlash in Washington, Israel, and the Persian Gulf (Saudi Arabia and the UAE). It remains unclear whether the United States will delist the Iranian force.

A new deal

The announcement of a nuclear deal would provide some clear benefits to U.S. policymakers. It would require Iran

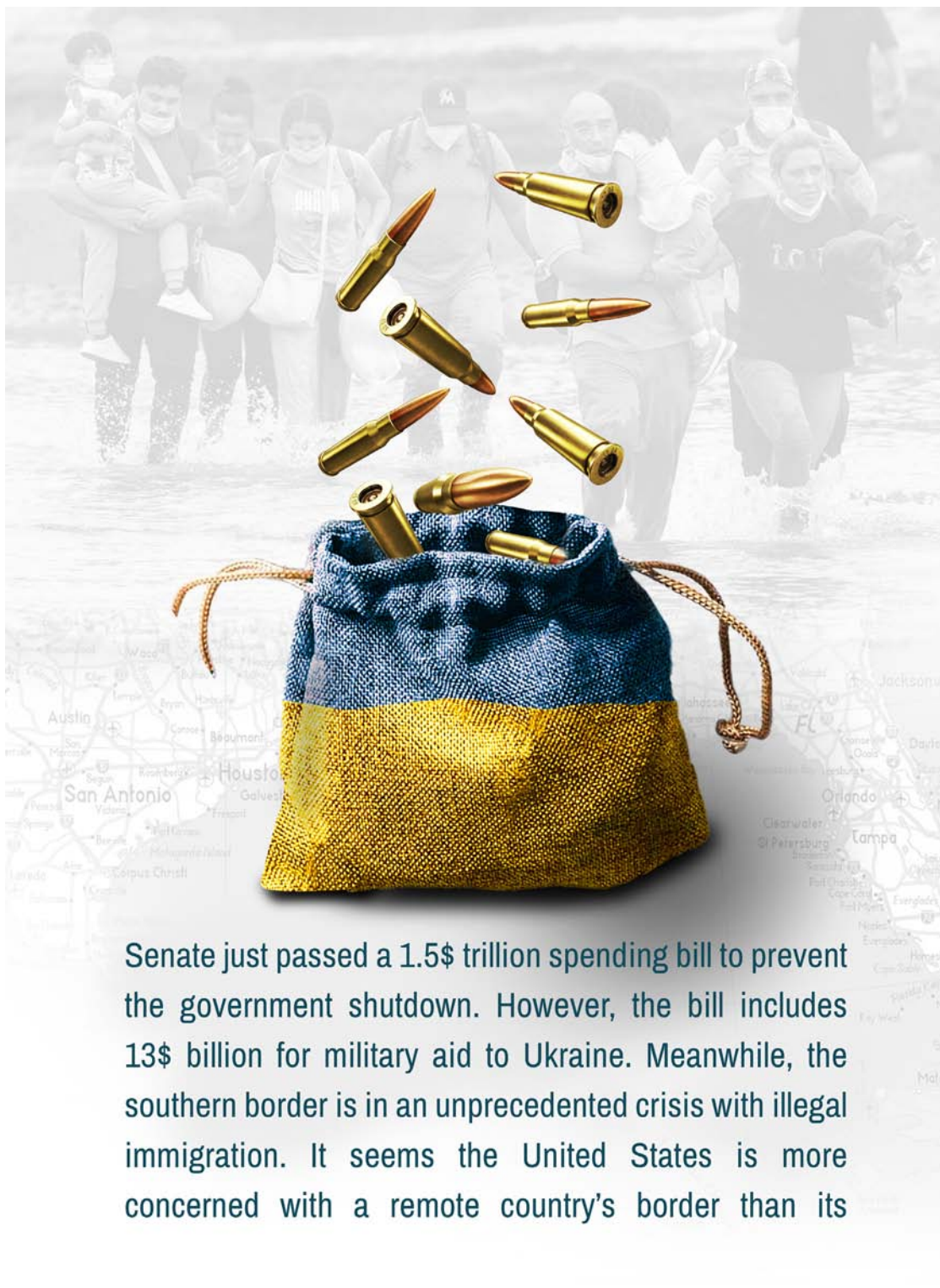
to stop operating its most advanced centrifuges. Iran would also have to store those centrifuges in a warehouse under international monitoring and either degrade its stockpile of highly enriched uranium or ship it abroad. But a deal is a hard political sell. The new pact is certain to be weaker than the original, with a significantly shorter breakout time. It would leave Iran in possession of a new generation of advanced centrifuges that it began operating only after the Trump administration pulled out of the deal.

Under the terms of the original 2015 deal, Iran can legally resume some of its enrichment activities in 2026 and 2031. Iran secured the right to expand the size of its uranium stockpile, currently capped at about 660 pounds, in January 2031 and to then enrich uranium at higher levels than currently allowed under the 2015 nuclear pact. It remains unclear whether a new deal would extend those provisions. But Iran has, in the wake of the U.S. abrogation of the pact, already enriched more uranium, and to greater purities, than it could have done under the deal it previously adhered to.

But Iran would still be subject to expanded international monitoring of its nuclear program for up to an additional 10 years. The original pact also required Iran to sign an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—known as the Additional Protocol—that involves more intrusive scrutiny of its nuclear program than required by signatories to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Iran has long been saying that its nuclear program is aimed at securing the country's energy future.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Senate just passed a 1.5\$ trillion spending bill to prevent the government shutdown. However, the bill includes 13\$ billion for military aid to Ukraine. Meanwhile, the southern border is in an unprecedented crisis with illegal immigration. It seems the United States is more concerned with a remote country's border than its

U.S. inaction could doom Vienna talks

TEHRAN – After a year of painstaking negotiations between the United States and Iran, Washington keeps coming up short in terms of making tough decisions necessary for bringing the current negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Last week marked the first anniversary of the resumption of talks between Iran and the U.S. after Washington decided to walk out of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018. A year has passed but the talks have not resulted yet in a deal to resurrect the tattered 2015 pact.

And this is because the U.S. keeps dithering over making the kind of tough decisions Iran made to move the talks forward. Iran has made all the political decisions needed to push the talks forward.

But the U.S. is yet to make such decisions. Even worse, it keeps presenting demands that fall beyond the scope of the JCPOA, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The United States put forward demands that contradict the negotiated draft text, Amir Abdollahian said on Sunday, noting



that the U.S. needs to act in good faith if it wants the JCPOA to be revived.

“Although much of the text has been agreed upon, the American side presents demands that contradict some of the text. In the field of lifting sanctions, they are sometimes interested in unilaterally raising and imposing new conditions outside the framework of the negotiations that have taken place,” the foreign minister said.

Amir Abdollahian said the U.S., despite its unconstructive stance toward the talks, keeps demanding direct negotiations with Iran.

directly talking to the Americans.

Earlier, Amir Abdollahian said that “the ball is now in the United States’ court.”

The U.S., however, does not seem to be ready to take the initiative in terms of concluding the Vienna talks. Quite on the contrary, it keeps sending signals that it is not ready to make the kind of political decisions Iran demands.

Iran has demanded that the Biden administration delist the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) because it believes that the Trump administration’s move to designate the group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization was politically motivated and designed to make it difficult, if not impossible, for the Biden administration to resuscitate the JCPOA, which Trump jettisoned.

A senior Biden administration official told Washington Post columnist David Ignatius that President Biden doesn’t intend to concede on the terrorist designation, even though this may be a dealbreaker. The official again threw the ball into Iran’s court, saying that the onus is on Iran to revive the deal. This is while Iran has reiterated time and again that it made all the necessary decisions in that regard.

Enemy fears Iran’s independence: Raisi

TEHRAN – President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has said that the enemy knows that Iran does not seek nuclear weapons but it fears Iran’s independence and power.

“The enemy knows very well that Iran is not seeking to build a nuclear weapon and is only afraid of the independence and empowerment of the Iranian people. The government considers it its duty not to back down from the rights of the nation in the negotiations,” Ayatollah Raisi said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

He made the remarks on Saturday at the 16th National Anniversary of Iran’s nuclear industry.

“One of the components of the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran are these sophisticated human beings who are educated and willing to take risks,” he said, adding, “Today, despite the wishes of the enemies, by relying on the steely will of the scientists, the nuclear industry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress and, more importantly, this industry has become domestic to our country.”

The president stated, “The many sanctions, threats and oppressions that were inflicted on the Iranian nation did not and will not stop us. The assassination of scientists of the nuclear industry and the sabotage of nuclear facilities could not stop the Iranian people from advancing their peaceful goals.”

He added, “The enemies know very well that nuclear weapons have no place in the defense doctrine of the Islamic Republic, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed 15 times in its reports that no violations have been observed in Iran’s nuclear activities”.

The president continued, “The nuclear



activities and equipment of the Islamic Republic of Iran in total include about three percent of the nuclear equipment in the world, but 25 percent of the inspection capacity of the International Atomic Energy Agency is allocated to this volume of nuclear activities, which shows the (baseless) concern of ill-wishers of the Islamic Republic is about Iran’s acquisition of nuclear weapons and even due to the fact that Iran has become powerful and enjoys numerous achievements in the peaceful nuclear industry.”

Ayatollah Raisi said, “Certain countries in the region have nuclear weapons, but the enemies have no sensitivity to their nuclear weapons, and this shows that what worries them from the Islamic Republic of Iran is the independence and strength of Iran”.

The president added, “Today, despite the wishes of the enemies, the young and brave scientists of the country have shown high capabilities in the nuclear industry and their valuable achievements have many applications in various fields of medicine, agriculture and industry.”

Ayatollah Raisi stated that the will of Iran is to

defend the inalienable right of the great Iranian nation with all its might. “We will never allow the domination seekers to violate the Iranian nation’s right or slow down or stop Iran’s peaceful nuclear activities, and the path to increasingly achieving the peaceful achievements and capabilities of a nuclear power will continue.”

The president stated, “The nuclear and military industries of the country have been subject to sanctions and pressure more than any other field, but we see that the most progress of our country has been achieved in these fields. The reason for these developments is that our country’s activities in these fields rely on the high and strong will of the young scientists of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Stating that the government is seriously pursuing progress in the peaceful nuclear industry in other industrial sectors as well, including the auto industry, the president noted, “The government, especially in 1401, the motto of which is production, employment and knowledge, will do its best to plan and take action in various industries of the country, especially heavy industries, to take advantage of the capacities of science-based and knowledge-based.”

Referring to the preparation of a strategic document of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) for the 20-year horizon of the industry, the president said, “The preparation of this document deserves appreciation because it proves the existence of ideas and planning in this complex to achieve higher horizons.”

He continued, “On National Day of the Nuclear Industry, which belongs to the great nation of Iran, we announce that peaceful nuclear activities, relying on creativity and innovative measures, will continue to move towards increasing progress.”



He added, “Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran has observed and will observe its red lines, and the Americans are constantly talking about the need for direct negotiations with Iran. We did not see any interest in direct negotiations with the United States, given the surveys we conducted and the view that the Americans have.”

Amir Abdollahian pointed out, “Many times when they insisted on negotiating [directly], we told them that if you are really in good faith, before any agreement, present one or two practical and tangible issues, for example, release some of the assets of the Islamic Republic of Iran that are blocked in foreign banks. We did not demand loans and money from the Americans, [we just told them] let the money of our people be released.”

during my visit to Moscow, there were very clear and transparent talks between us, and as people witnessed, Mr. Lavrov stated at a press conference what we had agreed on at the meeting. Our agreement with the Russian side was that if our red lines were fully observed and we reached the point of agreement in the Vienna talks on lifting the sanctions at any time, Russia would not be an obstacle in the way of reaching an agreement. During my visit to China, Mr. Lavrov stated there that as soon as you announce that you are at the end point of the agreement, we will support the agreement.”

Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov met in Tunxi, east China’s Anhui Province, while attending a conference on Afghanistan in late March.

According to Amir Abdollahian, the American side has presented excessive demands in the last three weeks.

“Although much of the text has been agreed upon, the American side present demands that contradict some of the text. In the field of lifting sanctions, they are sometimes interested in unilaterally raising and imposing new conditions outside the framework of the negotiations that have taken place,” the foreign minister said.

Iran sticks to its red lines: FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Hossein Abdollahian said Sunday that Iran is sticking and will continue to stick to its red lines on the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, Amir Abdollahian said that Iran’s diplomatic apparatus is seeking the removal of U.S. sanctions at the Vienna talks.

He noted that President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has instructed the Foreign Ministry to pursue the goal of getting U.S. sanctions lifted at the Vienna talks.

“We certainly want the sanctions to be lifted, but in a dignified way and with a strong and lasting agreement. However, Mr. Raisi has always emphasized to all cabinet members in meetings that the focus should not be on Vienna, but that all institutions should act to neutralize sanctions and to promote the sustainable development of the economy and trade in the country,” the foreign minister said.

He added, “For several weeks now, it has been necessary to pause the negotiations, because we came very close to a conclusion with the three European countries on technical issues. We faced the crisis and the war in Ukraine at the same time.

While the Islamic Republic of Iran has at the highest level expressed its opposition to the war in Ukraine, Yemen, Afghanistan or any other country, we have also stated our opposition to the imposition of unilateral sanctions.”

Amir Abdollahian further said, “Before my visit to Moscow, I spoke to the Ukrainian Foreign Minister on the phone, and we carried the message of the Ukrainian Foreign Minister to our friends in Russia that they want the war to stop and the talks to continue. Therefore, we do not consider war as a solution to the Ukraine issue, and we consider the solution as purely political, and in this regard, the diplomatic efforts of the diplomatic apparatus are still ongoing. At the same time, we pay attention to the roots of the war in Ukraine and the roots of the provocations of NATO and the United States as the main factor.”

As regards Russia’s position toward the Vienna talks, the Iranian foreign minister said, “The Westerners told us that considering the start of the Ukraine war, the situation is that even if we reach the finish line in the agreement, Russia will not go along with the agreement. During our telephone conversation with Mr. Lavrov and

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iran wastes golden chance as always

From Page 1 ► After that, Dragan Skocic was named as new head coach and he saved the team in the Round 2. The federation had a chance to negotiate with a well-known coach for the Round 3 but it continued cooperation with the Croatian coach.

With less than eight months to the FIFA World Cup starts, to change the coach is not the best decision.

The football federation has yet to know whether it’s going to work with Skocic or not.

Extraordinary assembly of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) will be held on May 10 and it will know its new president.

We have to wait if the new president wants to work with Skocic or decides to change the coaching staff.

We will just have to wait and see how things go.

But as usual, Iran will waste the golden chance due to mismanagement. The team have so many stars and have the chance to qualify for the World Cup next stage for the first time ever BUT....

Badminton player Aghaei to miss 2022 Asian Games

TEHRAN – Badminton player Soraya Aghaei will most likely miss the 2022 Asian Games.

The 26-year-old player, who represented Iran at the 2022 Olympic Games in Tokyo, has undergone surgery on her both knees and will not be fit for the Games.

Fariba Madadi, vice president of Iran badminton federation, said that Aghaei will most likely be absent in the Asian Games.

“A total of 12 badminton players have been invited to the team and we select two players for the Games. Aghaei’s health is our priority and I think she is not ready for the Games,” Madadi said.

The 19th Asian Games will be held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China from Sept. 10 to 25.

Iran down Maldives in 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualification

TEHRAN – Iran defeated the Maldives 17-0 in the opening match of the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualification on Sunday.

Iran, headed by Vahid Shamsaei, will play Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in Group A on Monday and Tuesday.

The competition is the qualification process organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to determine the participating teams for the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup, the 17th edition of the international men’s futsal championship of Asia.

A total of 15 teams will qualify to play in the final tournament, excluding Kuwait – who automatically qualified as a host.

The qualifiers take place between April 1 to 15 in centralized venues. In the West Zone, the United Arab Emirates will be a host. Top two teams from each group and the winner of the play-off match between the third placed teams will qualify.

In the Central and South Zone, the matches will be played in the Kyrgyz Republic where top two teams from each group advance to the main tournament. The host for the East Zone will be announced soon. The group winners and the play-off winner between the runners-up will qualify for the tournament.

Mes Kerman, Khalij Fars Mahshahr into Hazfi Cup semis

TEHRAN – Mes Kerman and Khalij Fars Mahshahr football teams booked their places at the Iran’s Hazfi Cup semifinals.

Mes Kerman defeated Kheybar Khoramabad 1-0 Saturday night and advanced to the semifinals.

Khalij Fars Mahshahr also beat Mes Rafsanjan 4-2 in penalty shootout after the match finished 1-1 after 120 minutes.

Monday night Esteghlal will meet Nassaji in the quarter-final round in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium.

Rouzbeh Vosough Ahmadi appointed as FIVB Disciplinary Panel member

TEHRAN – Rouzbeh Vosough Ahmadi of Iran has been appointed as a new member of International Volleyball Federation (FIVB)’s Disciplinary Panel.

The FIVB Board of Administration confirmed changes to the composition of the FIVB Judicial Bodies.

Following the resignation of Rosmarijn van Kleef as Vice-President of the Disciplinary Panel, the Board approved the following changes within this judicial body: Ms Maria Jose Garcia Suarez (COL, CSV) was appointed as Vice-Chairperson, Mr Cambreleng (ESP, CEV) was appointed as a member, and Mr Rouzbeh Vosough Ahmadi (IRI, AVC) was appointed as a new substitute member.

Two Iranian athletes banned for doping

TEHRAN – Two Iranian athletes are barred for violations of anti-doping rules.

Swimmer Kia Afzali has been banned from the sport for three years due to use of anabolic steroid Oxandrolone.

Skater Mohammad Salehi has also received a two years suspension for using clomiphene, which is prohibited substance.

Allahyar Sayyadmanesh needs goals: Arveladze

TEHRAN – Hull City coach Shota Arveladze says that Iranian forward Allahyar Sayyadmanesh needs to score goals in the Championship side.

“If he’d scored last week, it would be much better for me and it would be a great leap. He has had two great chances in the last few weeks, but it will come,” the Georgian coach said.

“I would have liked to have used him much more, but he got injured and it takes time.

“But I was surprised from day one that he really integrated (fast) into the group. I think we should give a lot of credit to the club, the boys and the staff. They have opened the doors to the social life, which we have here,” Arveladze said.

Arveladze continued: “He (Sayyadmanesh) is good and passionate and he has a will to do well in football and they (Iranians) have this history.

“He has been raised well and knows about respect and his position and how to act with the boys in the dressing room from his mum and dad and friends.

“If we want people and players to succeed, we have to try and get them involved in every case.

“Let’s say they spend four hours at the club from 9am to one or 1.30pm. For the rest of the hours, they are outside.

“I don’t believe being on Zoom and Skype and having lunch with their families on the screen will make them play better. They have to be integrated,” Arveladze added.

Aluminum ingot production up 20% in a year

From page 1 ► Annual production of the aluminum ingot in the country had been planned to increase 63 percent in the past year.

Iranian officials estimate the country's aluminum sector has a value of \$22 billion, which is sufficient to meet the country's aluminum needs.

At present, Iran is the 18th biggest aluminum producing country in the world.

The country plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).



Value of annual trades at IME climbs 102%

TEHRAN- The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were

registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades, and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

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).

Iran wins lawsuit against France's Sofregaz



TEHRAN - The International Court of Arbitration has ruled in Iran's favor in a lawsuit against Frances Sofregaz engineering company, Shana reported on Sunday quoting the managing director of Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company.

According to Reza Noshadi, based on the mentioned ruling, the French company is obliged to pay Iran €13 million to compensate for the termination of a deal with Iran on recovering natural gas flared at Iran's South Pars gas field.

Sofregaz has previously opened a lawsuit against Iran and claimed that the Islamic Republic should pay €26 million in compensation to the company as it was forced

to terminate its contract with Iran because of the U.S. sanctions.

Noshadi said that the case was handled by an Iranian lawyer.

According to the official, Sofregaz had only completed part of their commitment valued at €15 million euros in the project and the money was blocked by the Iranian government.

Frances Sofregaz and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed a deal in September 2017 to recover natural gas flared at South Pars Phase 2 and 3.

The announcement was made only days after the country awarded a deal worth €42 million to a consortium led by France's Sofregaz for a similar project at the treatment plant of South Pars Phases 2 and 3.

Sofregaz was the second French company that had won a deal in Iran's energy sector. In early July 2017, Total had also signed an agreement with NIOC to develop Iran's South Pars Phase 11.

Total, which was expected to invest around \$5 billion in the project, also left the deal after the U.S. re-imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic in 2018.

Over 3m tons of goods loaded, unloaded in Khorramshahr port in a year

TEHRAN - More than 3,181 million tons of non-oil commodities were loaded and unloaded in Khorramshahr port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), a provincial official announced.

Nourollah As'adi, the director-general of Khorramshahr County's Ports and Maritime Department, also announced that loading and unloading operations in the container sector of the port reached 20,730 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), which was six percent more than the figure in the Iranian calendar year 1399.

The official named constructional materials, agricultural and livestock products, metals and mining products as the major goods exported from the port in the

past year.

Based on the data released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the past year.

The ministry's data show that loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year



also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the petroleum sector grew by 22.5 percent.

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

Annual exports to EAEU members rise 12%

TEHRAN - Iranian exports to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) exceeded \$1.170 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) to register a 12-percent increase year on year, Mehr News Agency reported.

Iran exported over 2.770 million tons of commodities to the five members of the mentioned union in the said year, 3.5 percent more than the figure for the preceding year, according to the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Russian Federation with \$583.658 million was the top destination for Iranian products among the EAEU members, followed by Armenia with \$302.343 million, Kazakhstan with \$188.866 million, Kyrgyzstan with \$78.900 million, and Belarus with \$16.813 million of imports, Latifi said.



Iran also imported over 10.356 million tons of goods valued at \$4.472 billion from the block in the said year, to register a 90 percent rise in value and a 73 percent increase in terms of weight, compared to the preceding year.

Russian Federation with \$4.053 billion, Kazakhstan with \$379.271 million, Belarus with \$28.605 million, Armenia with \$9.071 million, and Kyrgyzstan

with \$1.663 million were the top five sources of Iranian imports.

Iran and Eurasian Economic Union reached a preferential trade agreement (PTA) in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17,

2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

The two sides have also announced the decision for upgrading the mentioned PTA into a free trade agreement by the end of 2022.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan).

The preferential trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides.

The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran's exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a turning point for the Islamic Republic's plans for boosting non-oil exports during the U.S. sanctions.

'Stock market can meet production units' demand for liquidity'

TEHRAN - Former Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Karbasian believes that the stock market can provide the liquidity required by the country's productive sectors to perform at full capacity, IRNA reported on Sunday.

"All around the world, investor liquidity is a major source of capital for production units which is mostly provided by the banking system or the capital market, but in Iran, it [growing liquidity] is considered as an issue," Karbasian said.

Pointing to the important role of the capital market in removing barriers to production and creating the necessary conditions for the realization of the slogan of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) which is named "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating" the official added: "There are several factors affecting the production process in the country, each of which should be considered separately."

He underlined investment as the first factor



affecting production units in the country and said: "We must accept that the rate of investment in the whole country is very low and even close to zero, such a statistic indicates that investment planning has not been made at the macro level and no alternative has also been provided for this issue; Therefore, the existence of such margins has prevented the country from moving towards the development and productivity."

Considering the issues created by the U.S. sanctions in the way of attracting foreign investment, the capital market can help the

development of production units in terms of providing liquidity, and this market has a special place in this field, Karbasian added.

He pointed to the widespread presence of people in the capital market and said: "In recent years, people have become more willing to participate in the capital market and we have witnessed significant investments in this market."

"Despite the inconveniences created in the stock market over the last two years, it seems that this market has gained a special position among people compared to other investment markets, and considering the support provided by the government, we can see the strengthening of transactions in this market," the official said.

If the government continues to strengthen and support the capital market, it can help the production sectors by providing liquidity, which is the basis for creating economic transparency and helping to achieve the slogan of the year, he added.

TEDPIX gains 15,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 15,327 points to 1,474 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 12,306 billion securities worth 56.5 trillion rials (about \$221.5 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 16,099 points, and the second market's index climbed 15,800 points.

TEDPIX rose 31,637 points (2.2 percent) to 1,463 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As stated by the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange

Organization (SEO), the monthly sales of the shares of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange has been very good in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the present year as well.

"Considering the general provisions approved in this year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for investors to make decisions," Majid Eshqi told the press on March 12.

Mentioning the measures

taken for the improvement of the market in the past year, the official said: "For nearly 12 years, no new brokerage companies were established across the country, but since late October 2021, a licensing permit has been issued in this regard and a new brokerage firm has also been established."

The establishment of new financial institutions including investment funds, investment consulting companies, financing firms, and financial information processing companies were also mentioned as other steps taken in this regard.

Eshqi also pointed to the

launch of Iran's largest and most advanced capital market data center earlier this month and said that in order to promote the use of information technology in this sector, a smart system is also going to be unveiled for monitoring and assessing the capital market and investment companies.

The above-mentioned data center was established with the aim of stabilizing and developing technology infrastructure in all areas of processing, storage, and security in order to protect the interests of shareholders and meet the technological needs of the capital market.

Export from Golestan province increases 63%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 63 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, a provincial official announced.

Ebrahim Hosseini, the head of the province's customs department, said that over 402,000 tons of commodities worth \$183.6 million were exported from the province in the previous year, indicating also 51 percent growth in terms of weight.

He named polystyrene, dairy products, dates, pistachios, cement, ceramic and tiles, and tomato paste as the major exported products, and Kazakhstan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Bulgaria, Afghanistan and Romania as the main export destinations.

As previously announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to its previous year.

Alireza Moqadasi put the country's non-oil



trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for its preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official underlined.

The White House has begun to harbor fears that Vladimir Putin could soon notch his biggest victory of Russia's invasion of Ukraine — in Paris.

There is growing concern within President Joe Biden's administration about the narrowing polls in the French presidential election that show a tight race between incumbent Emmanuel Macron and far-right challenger Marine Le Pen.

A possible victory by Le Pen, a Putin sympathizer, could destabilize the Western coalition against Moscow, upending France's role as a leading European power and potentially giving other NATO leaders cold feet about staying in the alliance, according to three senior administration officials not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Senior U.S. officials have warily watched across the Atlantic for any signs of possible Russian interference in the first round of the elections, which took place Sunday. Polls suggest that Macron and Le Pen would likely then advance to a showdown on April 24 — and that the potential two-person race would be close.

Le Pen, in her third attempt at the presidency, has surged over the past couple of weeks, as she has toned down some of her notoriously incendiary rhetoric to focus on cost-of-living issues. Millions in France are struggling to make ends meet after a 35 percent surge in gas prices over the past year.

Her resume deeply worries the White House.

Though Le Pen styles herself a benign populist, her campaign platform on immigration and Islam are still radical, with plans to ban the veil from all public places and stop foreigners from enjoying the same rights as French citizens. Her surname, in certain circles, is synonymous with racism and xenophobia — she now fronts the far-right, anti-immigration party her father founded. And she has been an unabashed admirer of Putin, whom she met in Moscow in 2017. Though she has somewhat distanced herself from the Russian president since the invasion of Ukraine, she has spoken sympathetically of Putin's rationale for war and rejected some of the Western coalition's hard-line measures against Russia.

“Do we want to die? Economically, we would die!” she asked in a recent television debate, when asked if France should cut off oil and gas imports from Russia. “We have to think of our people.”

A Le Pen victory, once unthinkable, would present the European Union with its biggest crisis since Brexit, potentially triggering a slow death rattle for the constellation of countries and completely upending a continent. And in the short term, it would deeply shake the pro-Ukraine coalition that extends from Warsaw to Washington.

The worst-case scenario, according to White House officials,

The White House is freaked out that Putin's next big win could be in Paris



would be that Le Pen could win and then pull France from the coalition currently standing alongside Kyiv against Moscow. Macron's government has already walked a fine line with Moscow, with the French president attempting to play the role of mediator in the days before Putin's invasion. Since then, France has supported the Ukrainians with weapons and assistance, but they've been quiet about it, refusing to release details on what and how much they're sending.

Washington fears that a Le Pen in the Élysée would upset this delicate balance. Her victory could then prompt other European

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel was once viewed as Europe's emissary to Putin, a mantle that has now fallen to Macron upon her exit. On the eve of war, Macron sat across Putin's famous long table in an effort to avert invasion; the two leaders have spoken several times on the phone since. Macron has been criticized for engaging Putin, particularly from the president and prime minister of Poland.

Back in France, some resentment has grown that Macron — who trounced Le Pen in 2017 — has been far more focused on international diplomacy than domestic concerns and

pocketbook issues for a country weary after grappling with a pandemic for two years. Macron tussled with the so-called “yellow vest” protesters, sparked at first by a gas tax and then became a wider movement in 2018-19. He's also never managed to shed the stigma of being a leader “of Paris” — not France — who has failed to empathize with everyday problems.

That he jumped into the presidential campaign late, confident that acting as an international statesman would guarantee a second term, is case in point for some voters.

A Le Pen win, most analysts believe, remains unlikely. In her run five years ago, polls were tight for a time before the race turned into a substantial Macron win. And when the field is narrowed to just two, she may simply become unpalatable to many voters.

But if Macron were defeated by Le Pen this time, it could put a huge crack in the trans-Atlantic wall built by Biden and his European counterparts. After four tumultuous years of Donald Trump that badly strained traditional alliances, Biden has made a central mission to reassure Europe that it

could count on the United States again. He has made three trips to Europe in his presidency — including last month to Brussels and Poland — to affirm those ties, and he recommitted the U.S. to the NATO alliance designed as a bulwark to Moscow's aggression. The Paris-Washington dust-up over the AUKUS deal, which robbed France of a lucrative submarine deal with Australia, seems to be largely behind Biden and Macron now.

Washington has been watching the elections and sharing information on possible Russia-based intervention, from bots to fake accounts, though most of Moscow's cyber efforts right now are focused on sharing propaganda to support the war effort in Ukraine, the officials said.

The Western allies have worked largely in lockstep in putting vise-like economic sanctions on Moscow and supplying Ukraine with needed military equipment. Russia's invasion has badly struggled in recent days, and Putin has already been forced to dramatically curtail his war aims.

But he would get a major boost by a Le Pen win. This time, she has focused relentlessly on economic issues, promising to reduce gas and electricity prices, and tax the hiring of foreign employees to favor nationals. But while she has toned down her rhetoric, and benefited from the presence of a candidate even further to her right, she has changed little of her platform, including measures like removing benefits from many immigrants, repudiating the primacy of EU law and closing the door on most asylum seekers.

“Le Pen represents a historic threat to one of the most important democracies in Europe,” Lauren Speranza, director of the Transatlantic Defense and Security program at the Center for European Policy Analysis. “She has praised Putin, who is a war criminal, and depends on Russian money.

“If she leads France, it will be incredibly difficult to maintain the relative unity the trans-Atlantic community has shown so far in the war in Ukraine,” continued Speranza. “Her election would play directly into Putin's goal of exacerbating cracks in the NATO alliance.”

And she cannot dodge her previous praise of Putin. Macron has repeatedly pressed that point, telling reporters this week that he was not the candidate in the race who has shown “complacency towards Vladimir Putin.”

In 2017, she voiced her support for Putin's invasion of Crimea and her opposition to EU sanctions in response to the annexation. If she had won that time, she pledged to lift the sanctions. Just two weeks ago, she told French TV that Putin “could become an ally of France again” when the war ends.

“Russia's not going anywhere,” she explained to the French public broadcaster France 2. “I've always said that a great power can be an ally in a number of situations.”

(Source: politico.com)

Germany's plan to cut Russian energy triggers panic

From page 1 ► The owner of a hi-tech mechanical engineering company in the country's West spoke to media on condition of anonymity and refused to name his company because he says, in part” for fear of appearing to support Russia's military operation.”

He says if Russian gas is cut off, his business which has been operating for a century now “will likely not survive”.

He also added that “It would be a disaster, one which would have seemed almost unthinkable just two months ago, but which right now feels like a very realistic prospect.”

Industry managers and political leaders have warned that the damage which will be imposed on Germany by abandoning Russian energy supplies would be far stronger than any benefit it would bring to Ukraine.

Millions of german households without heat this winter is one of the most concerning matter. The other major concern is the hundreds of thousands of small and medium-sized businesses which are interlinked with manufacturing giants, all dependent on gas to operate.

Both small and giant business companies are likely to suffer with huge rises in energy prices as well as mass shortages.



The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) has come up with a model on how Germany can free itself from Russian supplies by this year's winter.

The popular think tank has suggested alternative suppliers and lower consumption which means households will have to turn down thermostats and use less warm water during what are usually long and very chilly winter conditions in Europe.

The DIW report itself acknowledges that “added supply alone will not be enough to make up the current volume of Russian gas imports” but says it is possible “if there is a clampdown on consumer demand.”

That has been echoed by the German economics minister, Robert Habeck, who has urged German households and industries to “turn down the thermostat.” But the question is who will carry that burden?

German households are already suffering from high inflation rates and energy prices had already soared before the crisis in Ukraine even began.

A spokesperson for the economics ministry noted “The question of prioritization is a very difficult decision, requiring consideration of a wide range of consequences.”

The Federal Network Agency, which claims to ensure fair access to gas, electricity and other vital services, has sent a questionnaire to all German businesses, essentially asking them to state their individual arguments for the right to access gas.

Forced by the high energy costs some businesses, such as the porcelain manufacturer KPM, founded in 1763, are working overtime to produce as many goods as possible before the Russian taps are turned off. “Who knows for how long we will have gas?” its CEO, Martina Hacker, told German media. “We can't produce porcelain without it.”

Some analysts are envisaging an unpleasant battle between different sectors over who deserves the energy most. There have been discussions of dark scenarios over supply chains, which

are already under pressure amid the covid pandemic, collapsing altogether with businesses forced into bankruptcy along with mass unemployment.

The chemical giant, BASF, the largest in the world and one of Germany's biggest purchasers and consumers of energy says around 40,000

employees would have to be put on short-time working hours or laid off.

BASF says “the consequences would not only be reduced work hours and job losses, but also the rapid collapse of the industrial production chains in Europe, with worldwide consequences.”

The German Chemical Industry Association (VCI), has also warned that chemical plants are too complex, they “can't just be switched off and on again like a microwave oven. Once chemical plants are shut down, they remain silent for weeks and months,” it says the disruption would have a “huge domino effect through almost all industries.”

Other businesses are considering moving abroad to save their business and workforce, something that will cause further harm to the German economy.

the EU's foreign affairs commissioner, Josep Borrell has also

warned that “this isn't just a German problem because the German economy is very closely tied to the European economy.”

Fitch Ratings has warned that replacing Russian natural gas in Europe could be challenging in the short term and it will keep gas prices high.

According to the credit rating agency, Europe, as a whole, imports around 60 percent of its total natural gas demand, as Russia is supplying about a third of the continent's consumption, which amounts to 152 billion cubic meters (bcm) by pipeline and 17 bcm as liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which Berlin has now scrapped, was meant to deliver from Russia as much as 70 percent of Germany's gas requirements. Russia accounted for 55 percent of Germany's gas imports in 2021 and 40 percent in the first quarter of 2022.

Analysts say America would love to fill the void but there are too many logistics problems down the road for Washington.

Alternatives supplies have been suggested but it looks very difficult for Germany to shield its economy until it completely end its dependency on Russian energy.

Habeck has previously said that it would take around two years. But he also admitted “we face turbulent days ahead” amid the expected rise in gas prices.

BASF says a realistic timeframe, for Berlin to wean itself off Russian gas would be four to five years. Some experts have said it is more likely to take until the end of the decade. That is unless Moscow itself does not halt supplies very soon unless it receives payments in its own currency the Ruble.

Germany finds itself between a rock and a hard place by trying to join the Western sanctions alliance against Russia at the expense of German households and businesses along with the country's economy.

Those advocating the advance of peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow amid the West's pumping of weapons to Ukraine, which some experts argue is prolonging the conflict; may help shape the direction Germany takes and what is currently the largest economy in Europe.

Unprecedented sanctions against Russia to collapse international institutions: Medvedev

The unprecedented measures will cause a total disregard for the norms of international law, the deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council points out

The current unprecedented sanctions against Russia will cause further collapse of all international institutions, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev has said.

He wrote in his Telegram channel on Friday that unlawful sanctions always cause a degradation of the international law system. “The current unprecedented in breadth, scope and degree of cynicism measures of illegal influence will cause further collapse of all international institutions, including above all the UN, and a total disregard for the norms



of international law,” the deputy chairman of the Security Council pointed out.

On Thursday, in particular, he said, a similar thing happened to the UN Human Rights Council. “It lost its legitimacy for Russia.”

“Diplomatic relations will also come to a complete standstill, their level with a number of

states will be lowered or there will be a complete breakdown,” Medvedev said.

In general, the deputy chairman of the Security Council noted that sanctions have been discussed “an endless number of times” recently, while “enemy countries keep imposing them against Russia.”

In this regard, Medvedev pointed out that he decided to recall “some fundamental moments of the sanctions epic.” “Sanctions are coercive measures taken by the UN Security Council on the basis of Article 41 of the UN Charter against the offending state.

I would like to emphasize specifically: there is no other way to adopt them. Everything else is reprisals, which are not internationally recognized, they are not sanctions in the sense of international law,” he explained.

“Consequently, everything that has been done almost a thousand times recently against Russia is a direct violation of the rights of the Russian Federation as a sovereign state by individual countries or their alliances. Thus, Russia is now under illegal sanctions by a number of countries,” Medvedev concluded.

(Source: ITAR-TASS)

Ancient cave discovered in northern Iran

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently discovered an ancient cave in Rudbar, northern Gilan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The cave is approximately seven meters long and one meter wide and it is estimated to date back to four thousand years ago, CHTN quoted Vali Jahani as saying on Sunday.

Because of its location, the cave is inaccessible without special equipment, and the route through it is also difficult to cross, the official added.

However, according to archeological visits and studies, relics from the Bronze Age have been found there, he explained.

Exploring a cave may not be on the “to-do list” of travelers in Iran. However, Karaftu, Ali-Sadr and Quri Qaleh, and Katale-Khor are among the most visited caves.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-

Himalayan organic belt. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the enigmatic evidence of human presence on the Iranian plateau is as early as Lower Paleolithic times.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Iran considers offering free visas on arrival during World Cup

From page 1 ► Free visas can encourage World Cup spectators to visit Iran during the event, some experts say.

Back in February, Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said that Iran must take an immense opportunity to be provided by the upcoming Qatar World Cup to properly introduce the county to the international spectators of the major event.

“A significant number of travelers, mostly young people, would arrive in Qatar to attend the World Cup... It provides an exceptional opportunity for us to properly introduce tourist attractions of the country,” he added.

“Over the past months, we

have prepared some plans to arrack attendees to the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer championship.”

The minister said many people are interested to visit Iran for its historical attractions and ecotourism to name a few.

Furthermore, Zarghami's deputy for tourism, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, has said the landmark event gives Iran a chance to dwindle the so-called anti-Iranian sentiments known as Iranophobia. “Qatar's World Cup offers a unique opportunity to introduce destinations near the host country, and we should take advantage of this opportunity to confront Iranophobia.”

To make good use of this



A view of Borj-e Azadi (Azadi Tower), which is widely known as the most iconic landmark of the Iranian capital.

occasion, it is necessary to develop consensus among the relevant agencies, and if this does not occur, it will be detrimental to the country, Shalbafian explained.

The geographical position of Iran and its unique tourist attractions make it a potential destination for the World Cup spectators, the official added. “Therefore, proper policy-making and management in collaboration with the private sector can pave the way for the widespread use of this event.”

Iran football team became the 14th team to book their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Moreover, the ‘Persian Leopards’ became the first Asian team to book their place in a

major competition.

Iran, No. 21 in the current FIFA world rankings, will kick off the World Cup campaign in Qatar against fifth-ranked England on November 21 before facing Wales/Scotland/Ukraine on November 25. The Iranians will close out Group B play on November 30 versus the U.S. (No. 15 in FIFA ranking).

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Qazvin's Feyzabad holds historical values: archaeologist

TEHRAN – An Iranian archaeologist has suggested Feyzabad site of Qazvin holds historical values after her team caved some trenches across the property situated in Abyek county of Qazvin province.

Nozar Heydari and his team conducted an archaeological survey to determine the boundaries of the ancient site after it was reported that a fish pond was under construction

within the property.

“After several rounds of research and field inspections, finally 26 trenches were drilled on the north and northwest fronts of the site as well as on all four sides of the pool construction area,” the archaeologist explained.

“The locations of trenches, most of which has a depth of 120 cm, were selected at a maximum distance of three meters from each other.”

The surface of the site, which has been the subject of numerous unauthorized excavations in the past, shows that the site enjoys historical values, he said.

So far, a number of earthenware bearing geometrical motifs and sole glazed pottery estimated to date from the (early) Islamic Era have been discovered inside the site, the archaeologist noted.

Handicrafts sales reach \$327,000 in Khorasan Razavi in Noruz

TEHRAN – Sales of handicrafts in Khorasan Razavi reached 87.5 billion rials (\$327,000) during the two-week new year (Noruz) holidays, starting March 21.

Some 48 temporary handicraft markets were set up across the northeastern province during the mentioned time, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Handicrafts with the highest sales were

traditional jewelry, semi-precious stones, kilim and Firoozeh-Koobi (Turquoise-ramming), Reza Ebrahimi explained on Sunday.

Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, is Iran's holiest and second-largest city which embraces the shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted across Mashhad. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded. The metropolis is also a good place to buy top handwoven rugs and carpets, and it's a staging post for travel to Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and little-touristic Khorasan regions.

In the Name of God

Notice of International call for Investors in Biogas Extraction

In a bid to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of greenhouse gases and improve waste-to-energy conversion capacity, the Waste Management Organization of Tehran Municipality plans to make arrangements for identifying technically and financially competent foreign companies which are interested to invest in producing biogas from waste burial and energy generating sites.

Therefore, all the qualified entities are invited to either send within 30 days from the publication date of this Notice, their technical and executive records along with their plans in a sealed envelope together with other identity documents of the company to the Waste Management Organization of Tehran Municipality at the following address: Imamzadeh St., Shahid Khaleghi Sq., end of 13 Aban St., Shahid Rajaei Ave., Tehran, Tel: 021-55530130-8, Secretariat Fax: 021-55530159, postal code 1884754141, or by email to info.pasmand@Tehran.ir.

Note I: Bidders should indicate the following points in detail over the envelopes containing their proposals.

- “Notice of International call for Investors in Biogas Extraction from the waste burial and energy generating sites”.
- Waste Management Organization of Tehran Municipality, Office of Deputy Chief for Waste Processing and Disposal.

Meanwhile, for further information, interested parties may contact. 021-56540642-3 (Office of Deputy Chief for Waste Processing and Disposal)

Note II: Bidders should have legal status (registered companies certified by the Commerce Chamber of their subject country in Iran) bearing sufficient record of working experience in respect of the project under consideration or similar projects and enjoy good performance along with financial and technical capabilities.

Tehran Municipality
Office of Deputy Mayor in charge of Urban Services

Waste Management Organization

If you wish to participate in this call, please send your request to this email address to send you technical information as soon as possible: Info@pasmand.tehran.ir

Second Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IN TWO STEPS)

No. :443651

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
1500 MT LOW & HIGH CARBON SLAB CASTING POWDER

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

LOW&HIGH CARBON SLAB(steel grade)		
	%C Min	%C Max
Low carbon	0.01	0.07
High carbon	0.15	0.3

Casting speed(m/min)			
Thickness=200mm		Thickness=250mm	
min	max	min	max
0.7	1.1	0.5	0.9

MOLD DIMENSION			
Thickness (mm)		WIDTH (mm)	
min	max	min	max
200	250	800	1250

INTRESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN SET OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF:

EUR 50 "FIFTY EURO" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

1) ACCOUNT No.**0100013543943** AT "EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ CENTRAL BRANCH"

2) ACCOUNT No.**1902-750-4019644-1** AT "EGHTESAD NOVIN BANK- OF IRAN AHVAZ SHARIATI BRANCH" OR

Rials 5,000,000, "FIVE MILION RIALS" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

1) ACCOUNT No.**0102513186002** AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

2) ACCOUNT No.**0100304453001** AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

AND PRESENT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Consumption Material And General Goods Purchasing Dep.
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)

KM 10 AHWAZ – BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD

P.O.BOX: 1378

POST CODE: 61397-31398

AHWAZ– IRAN

Note1: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO **13th April, 2022**. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE **27th April, 2022**. THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10 AM ON THE **01st May, 2022** IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHWAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

Note 2: FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Tel No. : +98 61 32136159

Fax No. : +98 61 32908115

Mr.M.FARZINEJAD EMAIL : m.farzinejad@ksc.ir OR VISIT: <http://WWW.KSC.IR>

Second Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IN TWO STEPS)

No. :439087

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
1500 MT MEDIUM CARBON SLAB CASTING POWDER

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

MEDIUM CARBON SLAB(steel grade)		
	%C Min	%C Max
Carbon	0.08	0.14

Casting speed(m/min)			
Thickness=200mm		Thickness=250mm	
min	max	min	max
0.7	1.1	0.5	0.9

MOLD DIMENSION			
Thickness (mm)		WIDTH (mm)	
min	max	min	max
200	250	800	1250

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Fax No. : +98 61 32908115

Mr.M.FARZINEJAD EMAIL : m.farzinejad@ksc.ir OR VISIT: <http://WWW.KSC.IR>

40,500 more ha under cultivation of medicinal plants

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Agriculture announced plans to expand the area of lands under the cultivation of medicinal plants by 40,500 hectares during the current [Iranian calendar] year (began on March 21), IRIB reported on Sunday.

Hossein Zeinali, the manager of the Ministry of Agriculture's cultivation project, said that plants such as saffron, Damask rose, cumin, caraway, licorice, shal-lot, mallow, henna, thyme, fennel flower, coriander, and hops are the main medicinal plants in the project.

These plants meet the domestic needs, then it is planned to improve the quality and productivity of these herbs, which will result in increasing the added value of products, he explained.

According to the statistics, about 70 percent of people around the world consume medicinal plants and herbal medicines.

The global industry has a large market in the world, and forecasts indicate that by 2050, the export value of this industry will reach \$5



trillion.

In Iran, the area under cultivation of medicinal plants has reached more than 250,000 hectares, according to the latest statistics released by the Vice President for Science and Technology.

Other measures in this area include increasing the number of knowledge-based and creative companies to 700, increasing health centers to 60, and produc-

ing more than 5,000 herbal products.

Persian traditional medicine

Iranian traditional medicine is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra'), and black bile (Sauda'). The concept of four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and

Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

So far, about 30,000 plant species are identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species its plant diversity is more than the whole of Europe.

Currently, about 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country, accounting for one-third of the medicines used in human societies, the share of world trade in these products is about \$124 billion and Iran's share is \$570 million, which is only 0.5 percent of the total.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$29 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilograms.

Identity cards to be issued for Iranian expats

TEHRAN – The Iranians living abroad will receive smart identity cards, said the head of the Civil Registration Organization.

In order to facilitate service provision and honor Iranian expats, the plan for the issuance of smart identity cards entered the implementation phase, ISNA quoted Hashem Karegar as saying on Sunday.

The applicants can register in the consulates of Frankfurt, Kuala Lumpur, and Vienna to receive the identity cards, and they will soon be available in other countries as well, he further noted.

The Secretariat of the High Council of Iranians Abroad announced in its 2020 report that a total of 4,37,258 Iranians reside abroad, 76 percent of whom are resident in Americas and



European countries.

The administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has placed the issue of facilitating the return of Iranians living abroad to their home country high on its agenda, with government officials constantly reiterating the need for paving the

way for the expatriates to return.

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

With the support of the National Elites Foundation and Science and Technology Vice Presidency, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled 'cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elites' in 2015.

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

486 village administration offices established nationwide

TEHRAN – Establishment licenses for 486 new village administration offices were issued over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), Mehdi Jamalinejad, deputy minister of interior for urban and rural development, has said.

So far, 37,605 licenses have been issued to set up village administration offices across the country, and about 19 million people, who constitute 95 percent of the country's rural population, benefited from the management and services of these institutions, he explained.

Established in 2003, Iran's Municipalities and Village Administrations Organization has so

far implemented about 130,000 small and medium-scale development projects across the country's rural areas.

The organization has been set up with the aim of improving the environmental situation of villages, recognizing the deficiencies and social, economic, health, cultural, and educational needs, preparing practical plans in the mentioned fields, and presenting them to the relevant officials for necessary action, as well as encouraging the villagers not to migrate to the cities.

Village administrators are elected by the members of the Council of the village, who are elected by the people and are tasked with lo-

cal management.

Out of a total of 39,465 villages in the country, which comprise about 26 percent of the national population (20.1 million), 37,118 villages have received permits to establish rural administration offices (called Dehyari).

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

Since the establishment of the Municipalities and Village Administrations Organization until the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), more than 250 trillion rials (nearly \$1 billion) have been allocated to rural development.



According to Jamalinejad, about 130,000 small and medium-scale development projects have been implemented in the country's villages.

Over 900 fire stations have been built and equipped in the country's villages.

He also said that 80 percent of rural areas are equipped with waste collection systems.

Leader outlines social security policies

From page 1 ► In his New Year message, Ayatollah Khamenei called on the government and the nation to work hard to boost knowl-

edge-based production and create new jobs.

The Leader reemphasized the importance of boosting domestic production, as he had done

in past years, saying the reason he placed so much emphasis on production was "because it boosts economic growth, it creates employ-

Iran receives consignment of donated vaccines from Bulgaria

TEHRAN – Bulgaria has delivered 2.83 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines against Covid-19 to Iran, IRNA reported.

The doses were delivered on April 9 and were welcomed at a ceremony attended by Bulgaria's ambassador to Iran, Nikolina Kuneva.

"During ? global pandemic the joint efforts and cooperation are the only way to recovery and resilience," Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry said.

The total number of vaccines imported into the country from the beginning of February 2020, reached 158,056,808 doses.

In March, Iran received 2,191,500 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines donated by the German Government.

However, Iran is the sixth country in the world and the first country in West Asia to gain the ability to produce the Coronavirus vaccine.

The country is able to produce 600 million doses of vaccine against coronavirus annually thanks to the capacity of knowledge-based companies, according to Bahram Daraei, head of the Food and Drug Administration.

A total of 21 knowledge-based companies are operating to produce 50 million doses of vaccine monthly and 600 million doses annually.

Exporting vaccines

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said the country is currently exporting domestically-made vaccines for coronavirus to ten African countries.

"We started exporting coronavirus vaccines



one or two weeks ago," he said, adding, "For the time being, Iranian-made vaccines are being exported to ten African countries."

On January 28, the process for global registration of the Iranian-made "COVIRAN Barkat" vaccine started by holding a virtual meeting with the World Health Organization officials.

COVIRAN is the first vaccine in West Asia that is in the process of global registration.

According to a new study, the effectiveness of the COVIRAN vaccine in fighting the coronavirus has been more than foreign rivals, namely Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, and Sputnik.

Health tips for Ramadan

Part 8

All Muslims take part in the month-long dawn-to-sunset fast that is the hallmark of Ramadan. Eating and drinking (including water) is prohibited during daylight hours, and the day's abstinence is offset by a nightly meal known as Iftar.

The month also honors the time when God, via the angel Gabriel, revealed the first verses of the Quran, the holy book of Islam, to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

For 30 days, followers of Islam pray and refrain from smoking, bad behavior — including cursing, gossiping or fighting — and impure thoughts.

Muslims believe that fasting cleanses the body, and the practice reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

Physically speaking, the month also requires some strength to abstain from eating and drinking for long hours and for those who are healthy enough to observe fasting there will be benefits.

The Iranian traditional medicine has

come up with a number of advices to feel better and experience better fasting days during this month.

How to avoid constipation

To prevent constipation it is recommended to consume lettuce, cucumber, and plum- especially for those with warm Mizaj- at Suhur meal.

Make sure to have Suhur

Not having Suhur is a huge mistake. The human digestive system converts food into nutrients that the body needs and once there is no food digestive acids eat away at the lining tissues of the stomach and lead to stomach ulcer and painful sores in the stomach lining or small intestine.

Do not insist on eating too much

Generally, fasting would shrink the stomach, decrease the appetite, and result in losing weight. Therefore, insisting on eating as much as one used to eat before Ramadan might cause nausea, excessive throat mucus and Acid reflux.

Concluded

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran gets ready for two-week coronavirus closure

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control will implement a plan, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, will be closed for two weeks in more than 100 cities in an attempt to curb the coronavirus.

Alireza Reisi, a spokesman for the Headquarters, said that "the plan will go into effect on November 21."

The plan divides cities into three levels of alert, according to which, if a city is in a state of high alert, all other occupations will be closed, except for the most essential jobs, which are related to the provision of basic necessities, security, and health.

Deputy health minister Iraj Harirchi has predicted that the COVID-19 death toll would double in the next two weeks.

"Unfortunately, daily deaths reached over 450 in the past 10 days, and an upward trend in infection, hospitalization, and death is predicted," he lamented.

اجرای طرح تعطیلی دوهفته‌ای سراسری برای مقابله با کرونا هفته آینده

ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا در ایران طرحی را اجرا خواهد کرد که بر مبنای آن بیش از ۱۰۰ شهر از جمله تهران با وضعیت هشدار بالای کرونا به مدت دو هفته تعطیل خواهند بود.

به گزارش ایسنا، علیرضا ریسی سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: این طرح از اول آذرماه آغاز می شود.

این طرح شهرها را به سه سطح هشدار تقسیم بندی می کند که بر اساس آن، اگر شهری در وضعیت سطح هشدار بالا قرار گیرد به جز مشاغل خیلی ضروری که مربوط به تهیه مایحتاج ضروری مردم، امنیت و سلامت می شوند، بقیه مشاغل همه تعطیل هستند.

ایرج حریرچی معاون وزیر بهداشت از پیش بینی ها در دو برابر شدن مرگ ناشی از کرونا در دو هفته آینده خبر داد. به گزارش ایرنا، حریرچی گفت متأسفانه بیش از ۱۰ روز است که مرگ های بالای ۴۵۰ مورد را تجربه کردیم و پیش بینی ها این است که فعلا روند صعودی در ابتلا و در بستری و در مرگ را خواهیم داشت.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 10

New cases	2,894
New deaths	39
Total cases	7,191,643
Total deaths	140,616
New hospitalized patients	384
Patients in critical condition	1,558
Total recovered patients	6,918,860
Diagnostic tests conducted	50,020,619
Doses of vaccine injected	147,767,297

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APRIL 11, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:13:06 Evening: 19:52 Dawn: 5:10 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:37 (tomorrow)

Attar, composer of the Conference of the Birds

Part 2

Aspects and problems of this via purgative form the central theme of Attar's mystic writings. He propounds them in theoretical discussions and exhortatory homilies and through the medium of exemplary facts or events, drawing his material not only from specifically Sufi but also from older ascetic legacies.

Although his heroes are for the most part Sufis and ascetics, he also introduces stories from historical chronicles, collections of anecdotes, and all types of adab literature.

He has no objection to putting his words of wisdom into the mouths of fools and madmen. His talent for perception of deeper meanings behind outward appearances enables him to turn details of everyday life into illustrations of his thoughts.

The idiosyncrasy of Attar's presentations invalidates his works as sources for study of the historical persons whom he introduces. As sources on the hagiology and phenomenology of Sufism, however, his works have immense value.

In regard to Attar's general education and culture, no adequate picture can be obtained from his writings. In his riper years, he esteemed only the Islamic sciences of feqh (jurisprudence), tafsir (Quranic exegesis), and Hadith (Mosibat-nama), while viewing the ancient Aristotelian heritage with skepticism and dislike (Mosibat-nama).

Significantly, he did not want to uncover the secrets of nature. Although there are some indications that in his younger years he had paid attention to this and other fields of non-religious knowledge, any traces of such knowledge in his writings are minimal.

This is particularly remarkable in the case of medicine, which fell within the scope of his profession. On the other hand, he obviously had no motive for showing off his secular knowledge in the manner customary among court panegyrists, whose type of poetizing he despised and never practiced.

Such knowledge is only brought into his works in contexts where the theme of a story touches on a branch of natural science, for instance when he describes the constellations at the end of a story about a poor man's impressions of the sky's phases (Asrar-nama), or when he cites as an example of a polymath's erudition his skill in removing a brain tumor (Elahi-nama).

Attar speaks of his own poetry in various contexts including the epilogues of his long narrative poems. He confirms the guess likely to be made by every reader that he possessed an inexhaustible fund of thematic and verbal inspiration; when he composed his poems, more ideas came into his mind than he could possibly use (Asrar-nama).

He also states that the effort of poetical composition threw him into a state of trance in which he could not sleep (Asrar-nama). He does not seem to have been so aware of his proficiency in the art of narrative or of his peculiar gift of economy in the use of rhetoric combined with mastery of all its potentialities.

When he boasts of his ability to conceive and express ideas, he generally does so in ways comparable with those of contemporary panegyrists such as Khaqani.

Like the latter, he is not only convinced that his poetry has far surpassed all previous poetry (Elahi-nama), but even believes it to be intrinsically unsurpassable at any time in the

future (Elahi-nama), seeing himself as the "seal of the poets" (Mosibat-nama) and his poetry as the "seal of speech".

He thinks that he exhausted the entire stock of poetical themes and artifices (Mosibat-nama). Khaqani's claims of finding eternally fresh themes and of subtlety in presenting them reappear in verses by Attar (Asrar-nama). The model for these shared notions of the two poets may have been provided by Sana'i.

A problem which has greatly occupied researchers on Attar is the question whether all the works that have been ascribed to him are really from his pen.

It was brought to the fore by the observation of two facts; firstly, there are considerable differences of style among these works, secondly, some of them indicate a Sunni, and others a Shia, allegiance of the author.

Classification of the various works by these two criteria yields virtually identical results. Ritter at first thought that the problem could be explained by a spiritual evolution of the poet; he distinguished three phases of Attar's creativity and surmised that the last phase, that of old age, was coincidental with a conversion to Shiism, but in 1941, Nafisi was able to prove that the works of the third phase in Ritter's classification were written by another Attar who lived about two hundred and fifty years later at Mashhad and was a native of Tun.

Ritter accepted this finding in the main, but doubted whether Nafisi was right in attributing the works of the second group also to this Attar of Tun.

One of Ritter's arguments is that the principal figure in the second group is not Ali, as in the third group, but Hallaj, and that there is nothing in the explicit content of the second group to indicate a Shia allegiance of the author; another is the important chronological point that a manuscript of the Jawhar al-zat, the chief work in the second group, bears the date 735 (= 1334-35).

While Attar of Tun's authorship of the second group is untenable, Nafisi was certainly right in concluding that the style difference (already observed by Ritter) between the works in the first group and those in the second group is too great to be explained by a spiritual evolution of the author.

The authorship of the second group remains an unsolved problem. Ritter in his first article thought it possible that a poet with the name Attar lived in the later years of the 13th century; but there is no concrete evidence to identify the poet in question as the author of the second group.

As regards Nafisi's suggestion of a certain Zayn-al-abedin Mohammad Attar Hamadani who died in 1326-27, Ritter demonstrated that this putative individual came into being through a typographical error.

After these subtractions from the huge total (reputedly equaling the number of the Quranic suras) which legend gave to Attar's works, the next question is the authenticity of the remainder.

Attar himself, in the introductions of the Khosrow-nama and the Mokhtar-nama, lists the titles of further products of his pen as follows: Divan, Asrar-nama, Maqamat-e Toyur (= Manteq al-tayr), Mosibat-nama, Elahi-nama, Jawaher-nama, and Sharh al-qalb.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Iran's Kabootar Khaneh wins ADEX Platinum Award

From Page 1 ▶ This project, which has previously won an A Design Award in Italy, has also been inspired by Iranian historical dovecotes. Consequently, a portion of the interior space was allocated for this purpose that functions as a patio due to the use of glass material and the resulting transparency around it.

The interiors were shaped by the creation of the game area and the level differences in these spaces as well as the specific design of the stairs and voids inside. Even the windows of the building were arranged according to the interior game area. Thus, in addition to creating different sequences of views and exterior perspectives, we see the light radiating from different angles, and consequently, the playful dance of light resulting from a change in the angle of incidence.

Due to the limited budget and according to the design line of thought of respecting nature, inexpensive and sometimes recycled materials were used in the construction of the building. All the lumber used in the

A combination photo shows views of the exterior and interior of Kabootar Khaneh.

construction of the building, such as the facade and sloping roof, stairs, doors and windows, came from wood that had been recycled from the old buildings in the location, and was cut and sanded by the construction team. The rocks used in landscaping are sedimentary rocks in the

village that were collected and used for landscaping at the site. A form of sloping roof was used in this building that had not been used before. In fact, the sloping roof is hidden behind the walls to maintain the cubic and minimalist form of the building. Rainwater is collected on the

roof surface and drains through utility pipes for irrigating site plants. Pardis Khaneh, a building designed and completed by Keivani Architects in Tehran, had also been nominated for an ADEX Award, but it failed to garner the honor.

Milan Unfair showcases works by Iranian artists

TEHRAN – Works by six Iranian artists were showcased at Unfair, an international art exhibition which was organized at Superstudio Maxi in Milan, Italy, from April 7 to 10.

Nian Gallery located in Tehran sent works by Siamak Azmi, Vahid Hosseinpour, Maryam Razavi, Amir-Hossein Dezfuli, Tabit Aram and Maryam Tabatabai to the art fair.

The gallery's mission is to focus on recognizing and promoting Iranian contemporary art and culture, through the creation of a standardized platform for solo and group exhibitions, supporting all forms of contemporary intellectual movements.

It creates an appropriate context for communicating with different levels of contemporary global art and attends various international events.

The gallery believes that nowadays

consideration for different forms of media is vital in order to communicate within the contemporary world.

Unfair was born in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic, in a period in which Italy and many other countries had been living on stand-by, waiting for the end of a prolonged lockdown that also forced the art world to take a break and think of new avenues.

It was established as an ironic denial of the original concept of a fair. Unfair wants to be the outside-the-box alternative to the contemporary art fair. It aims to offer new ways of interacting with the art world, involving and creating new generations of collectors and supporting the art system, galleries and artists who are writing the history of our days.

It is committed to sustainability and equal

A painting by Siamak Azmi.

opportunities; it is inclusive and supports cultural diversity.

The fair reacts, works for a fresh restart and wants to create a space for new relationships. It works outside the box to bring a new and wide audience closer to contemporary art, supporting at the same time galleries, artists and today's art production.

Iranian movies to compete in Santa Cruz Intl. Film Festival

TEHRAN – Three Iranian movies will be competing in the 8th FECSC – Santa Cruz International Film Festival in Argentina.

"The Fourth Round", "Aparat" and "War and Color" will be screened in the different categories of the festival, which will take place from April 15 to 17.

"The Fourth Round" directed by Alireza Amini has been selected to be screened in the feature films competition.

Involved in different legal and illegal petty works, Mohammad is working and living in a room in the biggest football stadium in Tehran with his wife and his little son. During a riot in the capital of Iran, he disappears while two women

"Aparat" by Hassan Najmabadi.

are looking for him impatiently: his wife, Maryam, who is going around all through the city, and a convicted woman, Shahla, who needs him because he is the only witness who can save her from death with a confession in the appeals court.

"Aparat" will be screened in the

short fictions competition.

Directed by Hassan Najmabadi, "Aparat" tells the story of six teenage boys in a remote village who decide to work in the corrals in order to raise the money they need to rent an 8 mm movie projector from a tour guide.

The film earlier won the audience award at the 4th Iran Fest in Italy.

"Aparat" was screened at the Khamruba International Short Film Festival in India, where Emad Najmabadi was named best male child artist for his role in the short drama. Erfan Ehteshami also won the award for best cinematographer for this film.

"War and color by Adnan Zandi will be showcased in the animation category.

The festival is promoted as a cinematographic meeting that brings together films of all genres.

The music video competition has been added to the different categories of this year's festival.

Reminiscence in "Autumn has arrived" without any clichés

An interview with Golestan Jafari

The book "Autumn has Arrived," written by Golestan Jafari and published by Soore Mehr, tells the story of Fakhral-Sadat Musavi, the wife of Martyr Ahmad Yusefi, from their marriage to his husband's martyrdom.

*** How did the content of this book come together, and why did you choose this title?**

The process of writing this book started when I was given a number of prepared interviews to read and comment on, and they were about the wife of a martyr who lost her husband during the war while she was just 24 years old, and they already had two sons. Mrs. Musavi was one of those people who volunteered for military training, and her husband, who was her instructor at the time and was ten years older, proposed to her and told her that if she accepted, she would have to accept the fact that he would eventually abandon her and she would have to face the possibility of losing him in the war. And my question was, although she

loved him, how did she accept her proposal? So, I went to Zanjan to talk with her in order to figure it out on my own.

And I chose this title because Autumn was the season of her husband's birthday, his martyrdom, and their marriage.

*** What aspects of the imposed war do you believe have been ignored during these years?**

I believe we haven't really talked about it in depth yet, such as their families' complicated circumstances and the extent of their suffering, and it is the fault of writers, researchers, and experts like me that people are unaware of these difficulties.

*** What challenges do you face now in gathering and collecting the wartime memoirs of the soldiers?**

The avoiding of clichés is one of the issues that authors face. And it isn't as simple as it seems. It took me a long time and a lot of effort to write something interesting and believable.