

TEHRAN TIMES

Ali Khomeini: Velayat-e Faqih should be promoted as modern principle



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Leader outlines election guidelines, calls for transparency

POLITICS TEHRAN — Having consulted with the Expediency Council, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei has outlined elections guidelines months before the Iranians will take to the ballot box to have their say.

The announcement, carried on the official website of the Supreme Leader on Saturday, is in line with Article 110 of Iran's Constitution. →2

Iran targeting a diverse market for exports: TPO head

By Ebrahim Fallahi

Mojtaba Khosrotaj, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and the country's deputy industry, mining, and trade minister, said that Iran does not plan to focus on a specific region or country as export destination and it aims for a diverse market.

Addressing a press conference held on Saturday on the occasion of Iran's National Exports Day (October 20), the official noted that the key point in choosing trade partners and target markets is analyzing the country's needs.

He stressed that the country should not limit the exports to certain markets and countries, saying "Being dependent only on a single economic or political block is not a good idea and will make the country vulnerable and weak."

Khosrotaj also noted that the industry, mining, and trade ministry's policy is to maintain balance between the target markets chosen as the destination for Iranian goods.

Iran's exports level not satisfactory

Further in the conference the deputy minister touched upon the current situation of the country's exports and imports and said although the trade relations with Asia and the neighboring countries are improving but "Considering the country's potentials we are way behind the level our exports should stand at this point." →4

Major players gather for Syria crisis talks amid low hopes

Diplomats from various countries, including Iran, the United States, and Britain, gathered in Switzerland for new talks to find a solution to the Syria conflict.

The negotiations started in Lausanne on Saturday with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meeting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as well as top diplomats from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey and the House of Saud regime.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif of Iran departed Tehran for the Swiss city on Saturday morning to attend the talks. Hossein Jaber Ansari, Zarif's deputy for Arab and African Affairs, will be accompanying him. →13



Tehran says UNESCO anti-Israeli resolution commendable

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi has praised UNESCO for defending the Palestinian people's rights and denounced the Israeli regime for its reactionary move.



UNESCO on Thursday adopted a draft resolution that strongly condemned the escalating Israeli aggression and illegal measures against the freedom of worship and Muslims' access to al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

A day after the resolution, which twenty-four countries voted in favor of, the Israeli regime suspended cooperation with UNESCO.

Pointing to the UNESCO draft resolution, Qassemi encouraged the international body for taking actions in favor of Muslims' right to access their holy site.

Qassemi further condemned Israel for its illegal activities in the Palestinian territories.

He also said "the regime's reactionary move shows its frustration and reveals its deceptive activities."

Araqchi says financial, banking issues resolved

POLITICS TEHRAN — Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi has said financial and banking issues related to doing business transaction with Iran have been resolved.

"The JCPOA is being implemented as planned, but it will leave its effects on Iran's economy over time," Araqchi said, speaking to

members of the parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Saturday.

"We are in good shape in the oil industry. Issues regarding economic transactions, finance, insurance and banking have also been resolved and there is no hurdle to implementation of the nuclear deal," Araqchi said.

He also pointed out that the Western part should keep its side of the bargain and takes

necessary steps to accelerate implementation of the nuclear deal.

However, still the U.S. primary sanctions are getting in the way, the top nuclear negotiator added, making it difficult for Iran to enjoy economic gains of the deal fully.

The deputy foreign minister further criticized Washington for new anti-Iran sanctions, describing it as "unconstructive."

Narges Kalbasi Ashtari story: An outcry for help

The girl who left the comfort of the West to help the most unprivileged children in India is accused of uncommitted crime

By Marjan Golpira

TEHRAN — She is called the Mother Teresa of India and all for good reason. At 29, Narges is a mother to many orphans, abandoned and visually impaired children in India.

However, today, she has become the victim of a very complex and unjust system in India and is being punished by the very same people she once left her life behind for.

As she puts it for change.org website, "I am going through the most horrific forms of abuse by a group of people with immense power, influ-

ence, and protection in Odisha."

Born in Isfahan, central Iran, Narges's parents moved to the UK when she was four years old.

Though, early on Narges was exposed to the ugly side of life. Losing both parents to incurable diseases, Narges decided to dedicate her life to serving orphans, who had suffered the very same fate as hers.

At mere 21, Narges took a year off to do some volunteer work for orphanages in Sri Lanka and India.

It was during the eye opening journey that an idea flashed into her



Narges Kalbasi Ashtari

mind: opening a children's home herself in India through foreign funds.

According to a report on charge.org, with much difficulty, Narges was granted an employment visa through a local NGO called ASSIST (Asia Society for So-

cial Improvement and Sustainable Transformation).

In 2011, Narges established the Prishan Foundation in Rayagada, an orphanage home for girls in the Rayagada district in Odisha, which then led to the launch of another home for blind children in Mukundapur, all through the generosity of foreign donors.

Based on her personal account on Telegram, a messaging app, Narges named her organization in the honor of an orphaned blind girl she met in Sri Lanka. →13

S. Korean, Russian university officials to come to Iran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — South Korean and Russian university officials are set to come to Iran in the near future, IRNA news agency reported.

University chancellors from top 14 South Korean universities will pay a four-day visit to Iran on Wednesday, the Iranian deputy science minister has said.

The chancellors will hold talks with their Iranian counterparts to boost bilateral cooperation and interaction, Hossein Salar-Amoli added.

During their stay, the Korean officials will take a two-day trip to the central province of Isfahan to visit academics as well, he highlighted.

The visit can pave the way for more in-



depth cooperation as the Science Ministry is determined to promote Iran's Islamic culture and Persian language actively, Salar-Amoli said.

Mentioning the memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Korea upon Korean president Park Geun-hye visit to Iran in May, he explained that faculty and student

exchange programs, holding conferences, and executing joint research projects are of the fields Iran is willing cooperate with South Korea.

Additionally in a meeting with Lee Joon-sik, Korean Education Minister, Iranian Science Minister Mohammad Farhadi discussed possibility of setting up a center for Korean studies in Iran which was welcomed by the Korean side.

Moreover, 23 Russian delegations with 20 chancellors are also scheduled to travel to Iran on Wednesday.

The Russian delegation is going to take part in the second summit of the Islamic Republic of Iran top universities' chancellors on Thursday, the summit secretary Ahmadreza Khazravi has said.

Doc puts spotlight on Iran's traditional blacksmithing

ART TEHRAN — A documentary recently produced by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center focuses on traditional blacksmithing in Iran, which is gradually passing into oblivion.

"To study this subject I decided to visit some veteran blacksmiths

in Amol who, with great effort, craft some implements used in farming," said Saeid Habibi, the director of "Sigh of Iron", in a press release on Saturday.

"The documentary also examines why the younger generation does not show interest in working in that field despite their unem-



ployment," he added.

"In addition, this film shows how blacksmithing influences the individual characters of those people working in this field," he mentioned.

The differences among the blacksmiths are also scrutinized in a comparative study over the documentary.

War is never justified

The 20th century witnessed the world's two biggest wars, as well as hundreds of bloody regional wars, military operations, conflicts, riots and civil wars. In the 55 years following WWII, some 200 wars took place.

According to official figures, the death toll of these wars and conflicts reached 150 million, and 80% were civilians, not to mention the injured, disabled people or those who lost their families, who are not even included in the statistics.

We have left the 20th century behind but regrettably the same cannot be said for war. On the contrary, wars continue at full speed, threatening to turn into disasters of even bigger scales. For the past 15 years, millions of elderly, women and children have lost their lives in the wars that target particularly the Middle East and Islamic countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia and Palestine.

Even worse is the fact that the global powers behind them have been portraying them as 'wars of necessity'.

For instance, the Iraq war started in March 20, 2003 under the leadership of the USA and Britain with the pretense of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and the subsequent military occupation that lasted until 2011. More than 1 million Iraqis, a majority of whom civilians, lost their life due to this invasion.

There was no need at all for such a tragedy. Since 2009, a UK Commission, headed by Sir John Chilcot, has been working on the legality of Tony Blair's administration's involvement in the Iraq War in 2003 and the conclusion of their inquiry was as follows:

- Iraq didn't pose a threat. The judgment about the severity of the threat posed by Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was presented with a certainty that wasn't justified. →13

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