Iran’s 9-month trade balance positive

TEHRAN – Iran’s non-oil trade with other countries registered a $210 million positive balance in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 – December 21), according to the head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (IPO).

In the first nine months of the current year, our exports reached $32.9 billion while the imports stood at $31.7 billion, IRNA quoted Hamid Zarrabian as saying on Tuesday.

 Mentioning the great potentials of the country’s neighbors for increasing exports, Zarrabian noted: “According to IPO statistics, Iran’s neighboring countries imported about $20 billion in non-oil commodities in 2019.”

Zarif says Iran, China interested in expanding strategic ties

TEHRAN – Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that Iran and China have developed ties to strategic level which allows the two countries to expand existing relations and interaction.

During a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, Zarif said that expanding strategic ties is an important role in international developments, especially regional developments.

He condemned the U.S. unilateral sanctions on Iran and urged the international community to counter unilateralism and support multilateralism.

For his part, Wang said the two countries’ ties were not affected by the U.S. sanctions and there was a need to maintain multilateralism.

National unity newspaper comes into bookstores over 100 years after its publication

TEHRAN – Copies of Eldedeh Newspaper, a leading paper that sought national unity in the early years after the Constitutional Revolution (1905-1906), finally reached bookstores during the day.

Eighty-two copies of the newspaper, along with a special collection of analyses written by the same authors who have been published in the book titled “Eldedeh Newspaper” (“Unity News paper”), published the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) announced on Tuesday.

NLAI said on a booklet edition was issued between May 12, 1905 and May 4, 1906, Sheikh Musa Dastjerdi was the license holder and manager of the newspaper.

The first issue of the paper was transferred to Seyyed Mohammad Vasfiah who continued to be in charge of the newspaper.

WHO keeps silent on U.S. sanctions affecting MPs patients

T HE World Health Organization (WHO) has refused to comment on the U.S. sanctions on Iran’s non-oil medicines needed for Macroph上下吞噬 (MPS) patients in Iran because of the sanctions imposed by the United States, while a group of prominent doctors criticized the sanctions unilaterally and sanctioned by the U.S. as well as the rise of list price.

Individuals with MPS either do not produce or produce less of one of the eleven enzymes required to break down sugar chains into simpler molecules, or they produce enzymes that do not work properly.

Over time, these GAGs collect in the body’s organs, such as the brain, leading to symptoms such as vision problems, hearing problems, and mental retardation. For patients suffering from MPS due to rare diseases, have created a great deal of concern and attention for the patients.

IRNA reported on Tuesday.

He added that companies either officially producing medicine for MPS patients, such as Sanofi Pharmaceuticals in the U.S. and a South Korean company, have been forced by the Trump administration to impose U.S. sanctions on Iran, threatening the lives of 353 patients in Iran. 

The secret of U.S. attacks on PMU positions in al-Qa’im

IRAN is an unprecedented move, which indicates the beginning of direct conflict between U.S.-Israeli coalition and the Iran-led resistance, the U.S. attacked the bases related to Iraq’s Kata’ib Hezbollah, near the al-Qa’im border crossing.

The move by the Americans reveals the U.S. desire to occupy Iraq and meet the interests of the Zionist regime.

Considering the sensitive circumstances in Iraq and increased concern by the Zionist regime over boosting the missile power of the axis of resistance, the Americans targeted the bases that they knew were of great importance for the axis of resistance.

The beginning of a harsh response to U.S. aggressors

The U.S. intervention was directly aimed at fulfilling the Israeli plan, as it could carry out the attacks elsewhere in Iraq, choosing al-Qa’im as the target indicates that the raids were far beyond a reaction to the attacks on the K1 base in Kirkuk, suggesting that the strategic phase of confrontation of the two sides has begun.

Although, the Israelis were deeply pleased by the attacks on the U.S. allies, with the exception of the Khalifa family that strongly backed the moves, remained silent in the face of extreme backlash by Iraqi political groups.

What are the Americans looking for?

U.S. is in fact trying to take the control of areas that they believe is in favor of its projects. It does not intend to step back in the face of the axis of the resistance.

The sources affiliated to the PMU have said that behind the scene game is over and the confrontation has emerged.

From the perspective of the Israeli resistance groups’ leaders, the U.S. has made a mistake in its calculations and adopted the name of “Held and Hearer Base,” as the Iraqi resistance movement insists on a proper response in proportion to the U.S. air raids.

The U.S. attacks on the K1 base in Kirkuk, suggesting that the Americans are conducting a propaganda campaign against us, we tried to construct them and observe multilateralism, and we are opposing the abuse of politics and unilateralism,” Bandrich Vega also noted that a series of problems have obstructed the efforts to enhance the trade, economic and business cooperation between Tehran and Havana, saying, “The economic war that the United States has waged and has entangled all countries has also affected Cuba.”

According to the ambassador, Cuba’s main trade partners are Russia, Venezuela, China and Vietnam, and they are working with the U.S. on the basis of a mid- and long-term plan.

He also highlighted Cuba’s efforts to settle its debts as soon as possible, maintain its unity in all conditions, and find new solutions in a constantly changing world.

One of the revolutionary ideas that late Cuban leader Fidel Castro outlined was that we should think positively despite all problems, and we should struggle and hope to overcome all problems. I also told such a hope and positive attitude that the relations between Iran and Cuba would reach the highest level, and we would achieve such perfect relations in spite of the distance and the sanctions,” he added.

On the Trump administration’s decision to roll back the Obama administration’s deal with Cuba or the move to exempt Cuba from the U.S. Preventive Plan of Action (CPOA), Bandrich Vega said all American authorities are on the same path, which is using every method to reach their goal.

When Trump took power, his main purpose was to intensify the economic and trade sanctions (on Cuba) and to mount violence against the country… This (US) administration is by no means (on Cuba) and to mount violence against the country… This (US) administration is by no means

Responding to the U.S. efforts to reach their goal.

On November 17, Iran’s Health Minister Saeed Namaki in separate letters to his counterparts in other countries registered a $100-million injection of lymphosomal enzymes needed to break down the glycogen that collects in the cells (glycogen
gels).

Individuals with MPS either do not produce or produce less of one of the eleven enzymes required to break down sugar chains into simpler molecules, or they produce enzymes that do not work properly.

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He added that companies either officially producing medicine for MPS patients, such as Sanofi Pharmaceuticals in the U.S. and a South Korean company, have been forced by the Trump administration to impose U.S. sanctions on Iran, threatening the lives of 353 patients in Iran.
Iran in worst days of sanctions: Rouhani

Rouhani says Iran has lost $200 billion due to sanctions

According to reports, the amount of 200 billion dollars is calculated based on the loss in oil revenue, exports, and reduced access to international markets. Rouhani has earlier stated that the country is facing unprecedented sanctions and has urged for international support to lift the sanctions.

Kabete Hezbollah blasts U.S. for turning Iraq into ground for avenging Iran

Iran is facing unprecedented economic sanctions imposed by the United States. According to reports, the country has lost $200 billion due to these sanctions. Rouhani has recently stated that the country is facing unprecedented sanctions and has urged for international support to lift the sanctions.

Russian FM Lavrov to visit Iran in 2020

According to reports, the visit is expected to discuss the situation in the region, including the conflict in Syria and the situation in the Persian Gulf. Lavrov is also expected to discuss the JCPOA and its implementation. The visit is seen as a step towards improving relations between the two countries.
One ton of opium seized in Bushehr

Iran’s National Prohibitory Organization (NPO) has seized a ton of raw opium in 24 hours as part of the controls in the port of Bushehr.

The Organization has carried out a control operation on Butterfish in the eastern region, which has led to the discovery of one ton of raw opium. The Director of the Organization, Alireza Karimi, said: “This is a great success by our team.”

The organization has also called on the local officials to cooperate in this regard and continue the campaign to prevent smuggling and opium trafficking.

Advisor condemns U.S. attacks in Iraq

Major General Abdul Karim Khalil, spokesman for the Iraqi forces in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has strongly condemned the attacks against the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) in Iraq.

General Khalil said that the PMU forces have been targeted by the U.S. forces on several occasions in the past and has called on the U.S. to stop these attacks.

The IRGC spokesman has also called on the Iraqi government to take strong measures against the踞 U.S. forces in Iraq.

The statements come after the U.S. forces carried out airstrikes on several PMU positions in Iraq in recent days.

The attacks have been condemned by the IRGC and the Iraqi government.

The U.S. has denied any responsibility for the attacks, saying that they were carried out by unidentified parties.

The situation in Iraq remains tense following the U.S. attacks, with both the U.S. and Iran blaming each other for the incidents.

The attacks have raised concerns about the possibility of further conflict between the two countries.

The U.S. and Iran have been involved in a tense standoff in recent months, with each side accusing the other of provoking conflict.

The situation remains volatile, with both sides vowing to take further action if the other side continues to provoke.

The U.S. has warned that it will respond to any further attacks by Iran or its proxy groups in Iraq.

The situation is likely to remain tense in the coming days and weeks, with both sides continuing to view each other with suspicion.

The U.S. has also imposed new sanctions on Iran, including targeting its financial institutions and intelligence services.

The sanctions are designed to pressure Iran to halt its nuclear program and to engage in diplomacy to resolve the impasse.

The situation remains uncertain, with both sides vowing to take firm action if the other side continues to provoke.
**ECONOMY**

**TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the Governor General Highway in Alborz province, north-central Iran, on Tuesday.

The road, which was built by the Iran’s Roads and Urban Development Ministry, was inaugurated with the participation of Rouhani and several senior officials including Transport and Urban Development Minister Alireza Tajerani and Alborz province governor General Amir Ali Esfahani.

The road, reported by IRNA, over 10,000,000 (about $238 million) have been spent on the road.

With this new line going operational, the Tehran-Tehran North Freeway will be linked to the Golshar Square Station in Alborz province’s city Karaj (about 34-km away from Tehran), which is the last station of Tehran Metro’s Line 5. According to the officials, the new section has the capacity to transport 250,000 passengers daily.

Considering the increasing traffic and air pollution in the area, the new road, which is approximately 18-km long, the line can help alleviate both.

President Hassan Rouhani inaugurates a new metro line in Alborz Province on Tuesday.

**Iran’s 9-month trade balance positive**

The official further underlined the free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and said: “Three of the 35 mentioned neighbors, namely Russia, Armenia and Kazakhstan, are part of Eurasian Union and next year, when the free trade negotiations begin, we can make up to 85% of our trade with these countries under the free trade deal.”

Iran’s value of non-oil trade with other countries increased by over $24 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March in September 21, 2021), according to a report released by Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the country exported 105 million tons of non-oil products and imported 165 million tons of products valued at $21.22 billion during the half year.

China, Iraq, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan (AZ), and Afghanistan are among the top Export destinations of Iranian products, while China, UAE, Turkey, and Germany are mainly the free export importers of goods to Iran.

The road was made with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Sudan.

Based on the data published by TPO, the value of the trade partners in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, which is about 41% of the country’s total non-oil trade in the mentioned time-span.

Iran plans to launch several projects to identify more target markets, according to the head of the +P forum, Mehdi Mirashrafi.

Mohammadreza Mohammadi said with the implementation of several projects, which mainly focus on the markets of neighboring countries, identifying new countries, and promoting export of non-oil commodities will be put on agenda, Mehr news agency reported.

According to the official, Iran is referred to the $1.2 billion positive trade balance in the country’s non-oil trade in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021), and this positive balance was achieved through cooperation with the private sector.

**ECOMONOMY MINISTRY to set up taskforce on free trade with Eurasia**

Minister of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, Mohammad Shabbir, said: “To have free trade with the EAEU countries, we need to set up a taskforce jointly with the chamber to specify our needed commodities, in order to get the needed commodities, we need a good potential for trade”.

According to the official, the value of Iran’s total (preferential and non-preferential) trade with the EAEU members reached $14.2 million and 95,000 tons of commodities through preferential trade, Mehr Media group reported.

As announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran’s total (preferential and non-preferential) trade with the Eurasian Economic Union was reported at $21.22 billion and 1.2 million tons of products in the mentioned period, while the total imports reached about 1.6 million tons of goods.

“In the current situation [the U.S. sanctions], the Eurasian economic union and other countries have a very good potential for [free] trade that we need to find a way for the development of trade within this country of high significance for the EAEU member,” Shabbir said.

Finding the free trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade between the two sides.

According to the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran’s preferential trade with Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) reached $14.2 million and the trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union was implemented in July 2020.

In the mentioned period, Iran reported $8.1 billion of free trade exports with the EAEU members, while the imports reached $13 billion and 1.2 million tons of goods.

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Tehran's daily gas consumption falls 11%}

The expansion of Qatar's LNG facilities is considered one of the most significant infrastructure projects of the current Oil Minister's tenure. With a massive 3.2mn tons per year (TPY) expansion underway, Qatar is on track to become one of the largest producers of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the world, contributing to the global gas market's growing demand for cleaner and more sustainable energy sources.

Qatar, the world's largest exporter of LNG, is set to add four new trains to its existing facilities. This significant expansion is expected to boost Qatar's annual production capacity from the current 1.14mn TPY to 46.6mn TPY by 2025, making it a major player in the global LNG market.

The new trains are scheduled to be operational in the next few years, with the first one expected to start production in 2023. This expansion is anticipated to strengthen Qatar's position as a leading LNG supplier in the global market, contributing to the country's economic growth and diversification strategy.

Qatar has also been working on reducing its carbon footprint through the introduction of renewable energy projects and the development of carbon capture and storage technologies. This commitment to sustainability aligns with Qatar's vision of becoming a carbon-neutral country by 2060, in line with the Paris Agreement targets.

In the longer term, Qatar aims to diversify its energy export portfolio, reducing its dependence on LNG and exploring opportunities in other sectors such as offshore wind and solar power. This strategic diversification is expected to enhance Qatar's energy security and position the country as a leader in the global transition to cleaner energy sources.

In summary, Qatar's LNG expansion is a significant milestone for the country and a testament to its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global leadership in the energy sector.
45 mass killings leave 211 dead as United States hits horror mark in 2019

**Terrorism, conflict resolution, borders and immigration among issues expected to continue to dominate continent in 2020.**

**terror in Africa faces major challenges in 2020**

The United States has seen more mass killings in 2019 than any year since the 1970s as the nation again fell victim to a wave of violence.

Thirty-three of the 41 mass killings—listed in a data set compiled by The Associated Press and Northeastern University, which considers “an intentional mass killing of at least four people who have been killed, excluding the perpetrators or shooters.”

The second most-mass killings in a year prior to 2019 was 38 in 2006. The 41 people killed in this year’s cases is still eclipsed by the 224 victims in 2017, when the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history took place in Las Vegas.

The mass shootings this year included three in August—one at Walmart in El Paso, Texas, another at Dayton, Ohio and a workplace shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where 12 were killed.

James Delaney, a criminologist and professor at Northwestern University, in a database confirmed and mirrored what his own research had shown.

“What makes this even more exceptional is that mass killings are going at a time when overall homicides, are going down,” Mr. Delaney said. “As a percentage of homicides, these mass killings are also accounting for more deaths.”

Some have been victims of war, Pittsburgh. But close to a dozen has occurred in other situations, including those of mainstream, in one of the worst instances of a shooting at a gathering of Hells.

Even more mass killings have occurred in countries such as Germany, France, Italy and the UK, with a total of 123 in those nations. In Europe, the United Kingdom has seen the most mass shootings, with 22.

**Terrorism**

Terrorist plots were behind the end of 2019, a truck filled with explosives blew up at a highway bridge in the central city of Mogadishu, killing at least 80 people and injuring 149 others.

In September, a truck attack, which also claimed the lives of Turkish expats working in Somalia, was the worst in the last two years in the country, which faces attacks by the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Shabaab terrorist group.

The terror outfit, which has carried out several terrorist attacks beyond Somalia in 2019, was fighting to topple the UN-backed government.

The terror group has wanted to introduce a strict version of Islamic law in Somalia, a country with a majority Muslim population.

Incidents of terrorism are also expected to continue causing havoc in neighboring Nigeria, where the Boko Haram terrorist group is active in the northeastern region—home to many terrorist groups including al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and al-Shabaab/ISB.

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**South Sudan peace talks**

POLITICIANS in peace talks are expected to continue holding talks to form a government. In the first three months of 2020 after parties involved in the conflict failed to agree on a number of issues before the end of the year.

An international leader, who has faced growing pressure from the world community to forge a peace agreement, said he had reached a peace agreement that included a new government, the reduction of the military, and the release of political prisoners.

Conflicts in Libya, DRC, CAR and other conflicts are expected to continue in a number of countries in 2020, including Libya and the Central African Republic (CAR), where several rebel groups are fighting each other for control.

A number of reports, the current conflict in the DRC is the second deadliest on record for 2014-2016 (the so-called “lost decade” that saw more than 11,000 people killed.

**Migration**

Migration due to floods

Recent news in East Africa included floods that saw more than 200 people in the region and displaced at least three million others.

Crop and homes lost. Despite the disaster, fewer people are affected than years past. The region continues to be in a major challenge in 2020 of food insecurity.

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which released its 2020 report, the region continues to face significant challenges, including drought and floods.

**Wild animals, other wild animals**

While the majority of the killings involved people who were killed by mass killings, other killings continue to be a major challenge in 2020 if governments and organizations do not take action to stop them.

**Wild animals, other wild animals**

In the months since, he has stayed clear of crowds and has sought to limit his contact with others. He still drives the same car, still riddled with bullet holes.

One of the most disturbing cases involved a 21-year-old man who was killed in a mass shooting at a shopping center in Oregon, where 21 people were wounded.

The incident in Oregon was one of 18 mass killings in 2019.

While August was the month with the most killings, the majority of the killings were planned in advance, according to the AP data.

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ANTIVIR - On Friday, WikiLeaks released even more internal emails and documents from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the alleged chemical attack in Syria, on April 7th 2018. The release is the fourth leak related to the alleged attack, an incident that was used as the pretext for an airstrike launched by the US, UK and France against Syria.

The emails are highly critical of the role of its Fact Finding Mission (FFM) led by former British diplomat John Hunter, and of its OPCW Chief of Cabinet, Brahim Senhadji, for The Mail on Sunday earlier this month. According to the documents, the FFM was instructed to investigate the possibility of chlorine gas attacks. The emails also reveal that the OPCW's draft report was heavily shaped by an engineering assessment by Ruchman Rizal of the Syrian governmental chemical engineering firm. The emails include emails between OPCW officials and countries on the conditions under which the OPCW would release its report.

Another document released on December 14th is a memo addressed to OPCW Director-General Fernando Arias dated March 14th 2019. In the memo, the author, who is likely Ian Henderson, explains that the final OPCW report was not prepared by the FFM that went to Duma. The memo says the report was prepared by a “FFM core team” that only included a very small number of people with the exception of a paramedic who did go to Duma. “Country X” is likely Turkey since OPCW investigations in the past have included alleged chlorine attacks.

This memo shows that there are two groups that can be distinguished. One that went to Duma and had no say in the final report, and that a team only operated in Country X. Henderson was likely a member of the FFM that went to Duma, whose findings were ignored.

The final report mentions two consultations with toxicologists, one in September 2019, and one in October 2020, but no details from the consultations are given. The final report says the symptoms of the alleged victims as described by witnesses and in open-sourced videos “indicate exposure to inhalant irritant or toxic substances.” The report also says “it is not currently possible to precisely link the cause of the signs and symptoms to a specific chemical.” If the FFM that prepared the final report had proof that the symptoms of the alleged victims were consistent with chlorine gas, the ultimate conclusion of the report is that an attack using a toxic chemical that contained chlorine likely occurred.

Since these OPCW leaks have been coming out, employees of the investigative research website Bellingcat have been trying to sweep them under the rug (it is worth noting that Bellingcat receives funds from the US government funded National Endowment for Democracy). The OPCW has also released a memo of selectively releasing these documents to fit narrative, and this page is not and should not be cited as evidence, since the leaks clearly support the original findings.

No honest journalist or investigator can look at all these facts and conclude otherwise. Further consulting with the OPCW on the document that would have been made before the OPCW published its report is unlikely to change the conclusions of the report. The OPCW, as a body, would be seen as having failed to do its job in investigating the alleged chemical attack.

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The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common journalistic terminology collected by the daily’s retired staff.

It can benefit a wide range of tastes from students to professional journalists. Persian equivalents have been given for all entries, including idioms and expressions. The glossary also includes example sentences for entries the authors thought it would be a bit difficult to learn.

For more information contact:

Tel: 021-430-51-450

times1979@gmail.com
The Quadrantid meteor shower is coming in soon.

If your New Year’s resolution is to spend more time appreciating the wonder of the world, you won’t have to wait very long to put your plans into action: 2022’s first meteor shower is coming between January 3 and 4.

According to Torrance, the Quadrantid meteor shower consists of limited meteors, which also belong to the Lyrids family and are named after the constellation Quadrans Muralis. The Qua...
Life may have first emerged in phosphorusrich lakes

Phosphorus—one of the six main chemical ingredients necessary for life—forms DNA and RNA molecules, the building blocks of life's genetic code, but until now, scientists assumed the element was in short supply on primordial Earth.

In a new study, published Monday in the journal PNAS, scientists provide evidence that the abundance of this essential chemical has played a significant role in the Earths early development as a prime habitat for life.

The first signs of phosphorus, which is part of the make-up of DNA and RNA, have been found in the earliest known life forms, scientists report. This means that phosphorus was present on Earth when the first living organisms emerged, providing evidence for the existence of life on the planet.

The team found that the earliest-known life forms, which lived about 3.5 billion years ago, contained phosphorus in their DNA and RNA molecules. This evidence indicates that phosphorus was essential for the development of life as we know it today.

Scientists have long debated whether phosphorus was available on Earth during the formation of life. The discovery of phosphorus in early life forms provides support for the theory that phosphorus was indeed present.

The team used a new approach to analyze the phosphorus content in ancient fossils, which are preserved by the formation of silica in oceanic sediments. They found that the early life forms contained up to 50,000 times the levels of phosphorus found in the ocean.

This finding challenges the long-held belief that phosphorus was scarce on early Earth and provides new insights into the development of life on the planet.

The team also found that the earliest-known life forms used phosphorus to assemble their DNA and RNA molecules, which is a key step in the evolution of life as we know it today.

This discovery provides a clearer understanding of the conditions that allowed life to emerge on Earth and highlights the importance of phosphorus in the development of life.
Cuban envoy raps U.S. sanctions, urges continued resistance

In the negotiations, both countries must be respected, both countries must be considered equal, the values of both nations must be protected, the territories of both countries must be respected and integrity of both countries must be recognized," he added.

"And as long as Washington wants to challenge the legal rights of other countries," the Cuban ambassador underlined.

As regards the American soldier who involves isolated countries by fostering unrest and imposing economic sanctions, the envoy said history has proved that the U.S. plans have been a failure.

"Those (American) sanctions have failed, and will fail in the future. Not only sanctions illegal, but sanctions economic, they never produce any good effect to the U.S. or any other country," the Cuban diplomat stressed.

The envoy further reaffirmed Cuba's commitment to support the right to self-determination and sovereignty of all countries, to keep the world out of the crisis in Syria, stressing that "there is one thing we can say now. We can say that all countries vote in favor of this resolution or against it by a majority."

The ambassador further denounced the U.S. international community's role in the crisis in the world, if only we would live up to our ideals and show the real meaning of the sovereignty and independence.

"Our goal should be the only Latin American country that deployed a military group to Syria and fought against the Zionist regime."

The ambassador further denounced the U.S.' meddlesome policies on Bolivia, the Cuban ambassador said, "Latin America, referred to by some as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) to form a minority coalition government," the envoy added.

He went on to say that the U.S. government seems to force whenever it encounters pressure. "I believe that tough times are ahead, and I think the countries in the region (Latin America) must unite together and make efforts."
Convert half of UK farmland to nature, urges top scientist

Boyd said the public were subsidising the livestock industry to produce an environmental damage. The professor spent seven years at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs before stepping down in August. Half of farmland, mostly uplands and pasture, produces just 20% of the UK’s food and wrecks better health for cats and dogs, he said.

Boyd, who became vegetarian during his time in Defra, said farmers were potentially “sitting on goldmines” in terms of the potential for improving their health and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

He said: “We’ve got a great potential transformation and we need to do it quickly, in the next decade. You can tick an immense number of boxes very quickly.”

Farmers argue that uplands and pasture where livestock are reared cannot be used to grow crops. But Boyd said: “It would be much better to store carbon and water, grow trees and make the land more suitable for the local people’s mental and physical health and wellbeing.”

He said the 20% of food production lost by converting half of farmland could be made up by the creation of vertical farms, where food is produced indoors and controlled in more efficient conditions. Boyd said there are big companies looking at how to really scale this up.

A series of studies have concluded that people in rich nations need to eat much less meat to tackle the climate emergency and improve their health. “Most of the livestock production in the UK is unaffordable without public subsidy,” Boyd said. “The public are subsidising the production of livestock to produce huge environmental damages, all the way from greenhouse gas emissions arising from livestock to the meat that is eaten by the population.”

According to the latest census conducted in 2016, the population of Caspian seals has reached less than 70,000; while their population once stood at about one million in the 1940s. Oil spill, industrial waste as well as heavy metals, agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells are among the measures Hart has taken in Iran. The population of the valuable species in Iranian Caspian Sea has also fallen sharply, which is mainly caused by being caught in the fisherman’s net, he lamented.

During the past hunting seasons (beginning on October 21), a number of Caspian seals were caught in fishing nets, and the Caspian seal reach its lowest state due to illegal fishing activities.

In Iran, these patients are known as MPS patients. Although food and medicine are claimed to be exempted from U.S. sanctions, especially Caspian seals, which are recognized as being home to a unique species of marine mammals, experts say that the U.S. sanctions have limited the life-saving medicine and trade which harshly targeted the patients suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disease that causes painful blistering of the skin.

Although food and medicine are claimed to be exempted from U.S. sanctions, especially Caspian seals, which are recognized as being home to a unique species of marine mammals, experts say that the U.S. sanctions have limited the life-saving medicine and trade which harshly targeted the patients suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disease that causes painful blistering of the skin. Across the country, 700 people have been diagnosed with EB, but considering that EB is estimated to occur in a newborn per 50,000 live births, it is suggested that in Iran 1,200 people are suffering EB.

Exemptions for humanitarian trade (medical supplies or medicine equipment) have not been effective in protecting Iranian patients from accessing to imported medicine, such as the bandages used for EB patients’ treatment. Two or three years ago, access to wound dressing was relatively easier for EB patients, but with increased U.S. sanctions, over a year (May 2018-May 2020), 15 patients covered by EB Health House lost their lives like Ava, a two-year-old girl in Shahr-e Kord, Bardsir, who had died of infection and lack of skin care.
Dozens of protesters broke into the U.S. embassy compound in Israel, near the capital Jerusalem, on Tuesday, setting fire to a reception area, prompting Israel to deploy a number of its own security forces. At least 21 protesters were injured, some of them seriously, and four police officers were hurt. The incident comes amid ongoing protests against Israel's annexation plans for the West Bank, which Israel often refers to as the “Judea and Samaria” region. Israel has been deeply divided over the issue, with some Israelis supporting annexation as a way to strengthen the country's borders and others opposed to it as a violation of Palestinian rights. The demonstrators gathered outside the embassy, chanting slogans and throwing stones. Israeli police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd. The protest was organized by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Palestinian political group that has been designated as a terrorist organization by several countries, including the United States. The group has a history of carrying out armed attacks against Israeli interests. The incident is likely to further strain relations between Israel and the Palestinian territories, and it comes at a time when the Israeli government is facing pressure to cancel plans to annex parts of the West Bank. If the annexation move goes ahead, it is expected to spark more protests and potentially lead to an increase in violence in the region.
Rooney (is available) you have to be very happy and glad he is as Monaco coach. I have coached since I was 14 and obtained a team in seventh place in Ligue 1 and 17 points behind leaders acrimonious November departure from the Spanish national team. At this point in my career when I have that feeling, to compete. It is the reason I came to France to be a part of Monaco. It is the reason I want to stay in football and develop champions PSG.

"The Monaco project had the best guarantees and conditions," he said after signing a deal until June 2023.

"I knew that I wanted to work at a high level and I wanted a project that matched this dream. Coming here means growing as a coach and a person." (Source: Mirror)

Rangers say striker Morelos ‘racially abused’ in win over Celtic

Scotland’s Rangers have said striker Alfredo Morelos was racially abused during their 2-1 Scottish Premiership victory at Old Firm. Morelos is not due to return to Celtic Park since 2019, clos- ing the gap on the league gap after scoring a goal in a game at the weekend. Colombian striker Morelos was sent off in stoppage time after receiving a red card for diving in the area.

Rangers said a group of fans made a gesture with his hand across his neck to Celtic fans following his dismissal. "We believe Alfredo was racially abused and we would expect now that all measures will be taken to identify and deal with those responsible,” said a Rangers spokesman.

Celtic said in a statement that they had not received any re- ports that the 23-year-old striker had been racially abused. "We are aware of the gestures made by the player towards Celtic supporters," Celtic said. "We have received no reports of any racial abuse but would fully investigate any accusations he brought to our attention." (Source: Goal)

Rooney gets starting nod from Derby boss

England’s Euro 2020 hopes will receive a significant boost if Wayne Rooney makes his first start in more than six months for Derby. Rooney, 34, joined Derby as a player-coach from MLS side DC United for his second spell at the club.

"I am excited to be a part of this project," said Rooney, who previously spent seven years playing for the club between 2004 and 2011 before his move to the Premier League. "I am excited to see how we can compete. It is a great opportunity for me to come back to the club and contribute to a successful season." (Source: Daily Mail)

Arbalets better place to wipe out cheats, chiefs say

The French National Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) will host the 2020 Olympic Games and the 2022 World Cup. Only handpicked Russian athletes will be able to participate in the competition, but even under a neutral flag and without the national anthem being played.

WADA estimated that Russia had ‘manipulated’ its Moscow anti-doping laboratory which were trans- mitted to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) before an unscheduled raid in a scandal which started with the revelations in 2016 of institutional doping practiced since 2011 and involving around 1,000 athletes and trafficked urine samples.

The significant number of state-sponsored doping in Russia, notably between 2011 and 2015, was revealed in an independent report led by Richard McLaren released in 2016. WADA has today taken a colossal blow to the post-Soviet Russia as a major antidoping agency.

"I am pleased to see that Russia has now become notorious for the number of doping violations by Russian professional athletes," (Source: AFP)

Raïola claims Manchester United could ruin Diego Maradona or Pele

"Paul needs a team and a club, one like the first, Juventus." (Source: Reuters)

Arsenals against united recalls brilliant for faded giants

Arsenal are at the back of Manchester United's clash with the Gunners as he continues his return from a three-month injury absence. Former goalkeeper Levered lost Bradford United on Thursday, looking to maintain their unbeaten run and taste of|
Kolakovic optimistic about securing spot at Olympics

SPORTS

TEHRAN – Irans volleyball head coach Igor Kolakovic is optimistic that his team can secure a berth at the 2020 Men’s Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

The coach, who will be in Tehran from March 23 to April 2, 2020, brings 16 Asian teams together at the Azadi Hall.

His players have already qualified for the FIVB World Cup qualification. The top four teams will book their places at the World Cup in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Iran have never participated in the last five editions of the FIVB World Cup.

FIVB U16 Asian Championship is an under-16 volleyball championship in the International Basketball Federation’s FIBA Asia zone. The event started in 2009 and will be held annually.

Iran won a bronze medal in the first edition held in 2009 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

The volleyball training camp for the competition has been held in Azadi Hall.

Speaking about the new Vision and Mission, APC President Majid Rashed said: “The Paralympic Movement in Asia has been growing rapidly, fueled in part by having para-sports at the Olympic Games for the first time in 2020 Tokyo, in which athletes from across the country participate to achieve the title. Through the competition has ancient roots, its modern form has been handed down since 1944. Winner of this title is called Pahlavan and wears the special Banehshah (Armshield).”

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) registered Pahlavan and Koryaksubasts in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014.

Iran chosen to host FIBA U16 Asian Championship title

Asian Paralympic Committee launch new Strategic Plan

The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) launched its new Strategic Plan which will take the organization through to 2022 and follows the launch of the International Paralympic Committee’s new plan which was unveiled in July.

Work began on the new plan in February at the APC’s General Assembly and Conference when the NPCs who make up the APC are members of a panel facilitated workshops. These identified the key challenges that the Paralympic Movement in Asia faces and outlined the APC’s vision for the role the APC should play in meeting these challenges.

The process, led by an outside expert, Hatin Alabould, has seen the APC launch a new Strategic Plan, develop a new Vision, Mission and Values for the organization and set five new strategic priorities with targeted outcomes.

The new vision is “Make an inclusive Asia through Par-a-sport” which aligns closely with the new APC vision “Make for an inclusive world through Par-a-sport.”

The new mission is “To lead the Paralympic movement in Asia, deliver successful and sustainable Asian Para Games and support the NPCs to enable Para-athletes to achieve sporting excellence from grassroots to elite level” reflects the role of the APC as its representative in the region and organizer of the Asian Para Games, the largest multi-para-sport event outside of the Paralympic Games.

The APC also identified three new values for the APC: Solidarity, Diversity and Sustainability. These are designed to specifically meet the needs of the region whilst complementing the Paralympic Values.

In addition, five new Strategic Priorities have been developed. These are:

1. Enhance the positive impact of the Paralympic Movement in Asia
2. Improve the standard of the Asian Para Games and leave a legacy
3. Drive a cultural change through Para-sport for an inclusive Asia
4. Strengthen APC and Asian Para Games brands
5. Develop resilience in our organization, operations and governance

FIBA-TEHRAN – Jaber Sadeghizadeh retains Iran’s Pahlavan title

TheAPC’s newly elected president Majid Rashed said: “The Paralympic Movement in Asia has been growing rapidly, fueled in part by having Para-athletes at the Olympic Games for the first time in 2020 Tokyo, in which athletes from across the country participate to achieve the title. Through the competition has ancient roots, its modern form has been handed down since 1944. Winner of this title is called Pahlavan and wears the special Banehshah (Armshield).”

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Lee, Paik out of Korea Republic squad

Korea Republic will be without Lee Kang-in and Paik Seung-cho for their challenge in AFC U23 Championship Thailand 2020.

The Korean Football Association announced on Monday that CF midfielder Lee and SV Darmstadt 98 midfielder Paik Seung-cho will be available for the tournament which also serves as a test for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Head coach Kim Hak-bum had announced his 22-man roster last Tuesday, leaving out the two Manchester United loanee who have helped their side in the group stage only, whereas Korea Republic wanted the 20-year-old for the entire competition.

Korea Republic have already qualified for the AFC U23 Championship Thailand 2020, which will be held in Thailand in January 2020.

The Blues also want to hire Zob Ahan striker Arsalan Motahari. Esteghlal at fifth in Iran Professional League, five points behind leader Persepolis.

Iranian top sports officials to meet IOC chief

TASNIM – Irans National Olympic Committee President Reza Salehi Amiri and Sports Minister Masoud Soltanifar plan to travel to Lausanne, Switzerland by Jan. 19.

The Iranian officials will travel to the Swiss city to meet International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach.

A total of 1800 athletes aged 13-18 from 80 countries will compete in the 2020 Youth Olympic Games, which will be held from Jan. 9 to 22.

North Korea pulls out of women’s 2020 soccer qualifiers in South

North Korea has withdrawn its womens soccer team from the final round of 2020 Tokyo Olympics qualifiers being staged in South Korea this week.

The Koreans have withdrawn after a flurry of diplomatic relations between the two Koreas in recent months.

The two Koreas ranked technologically at war after the Korean War (1950-53) and not a peace treaty, and while there was a flurry of sports diplomacy between the neighbours last year however had ceased following an inter-Korean meeting on the Northswards border on Jan. 10.

The APF confirmed that DPR Korea Football Association sent a formal letter to withdraw from the Womens Olympic Football Tournament 2020 Asian Qualifiers Final Round, the APF said in a statement.

The third round of group stages matches for the qualifying tournament will be held in the group stage only, with South Korea and China.

North Korea were drawn in Group A alongside hosts South Korea, Vietnam and Malaysia. Australia are in Group B with hosts China, Taiwan and Thailand.

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National unity newspaper comes into bookstores after 100 years

As the managers have their origins in western Iran, the articles published in the newspaper about the impacts of World War I on the region are still informative.

Rotterdam festival picks movies from Iran

TEHRAN – Three Iranian films will go on screen in the various sections of the International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

The festival, which was changed into “The newspaper is an independent national newspaper”, was launched on 3rd edition onward.

The book has been published with help from media scholar Mohdi Khiari.

Iranian feature-films will premiere in the New Look category.

Front cover of the Italian version of “The Water Urn” by Iranian children’s author Hosang Moradi Kermani.

A scene from “The Night” by Kurosh Ahari.

A scene from “Just 6.5” by Iranian director Saeid Rustai.

Moradi Kermani’s “Water Urn” published in Italian

The ITALIAN version named “L’Anfora” has been rendered into Italian by Daniela Monoghi, an associate professor at the Department of Studies on Asia and Mediterranean Africa of Ca’ Foscari University.

Having been translated into different languages, “The Water Urn” has so far gained several international awards.

Successful documentarian Mohammad Mohseni Kourk’s directorial debut feature film “Butterfly Strokes” and Mohammadreza Lotfi’s “Reset” are other entries to the New Look category.

The 38th Film Festival will be held in Tehran from February 1 to 11.

Iran Music Association, Turkish universities sign MOU

TEHRAN – The Iranian Music Association, which has signed two memorandums of understanding (MOU) with Turkey, plans to expand bilateral musical cooperation on music.

The MOUs were signed in Tehran on Monday by Iran Music Association’s director Ataollah Safarzadeh Madani and his Turkish counterpart Yavuz Selim Kafkasyali.

The MOUs will help facilitate the participation of the countries’ musicians in each other’s festivals.

Based on the MOUs, the association and the academic centers will organize research panels on Iranian and Turkish music, and some albums of Iranian regional music will be recorded in Tehran.

According to the MOUs, the Iranian Music Association will collaborate with some musical centers in the Turkish cities of Istanbul and Istanbul University.

Ali Kafkasyali is the founder of the Union of Ashiqs in Turkey and the writer of “Anthology of Iranian Turkish Literature.”

Yavuz Selim Kafkasyali teaches at the Department of Education of Karabuk University.

UK publishes celebrity home addresses by mistake

LONDON (AP) — British officials have apologized after mistakenly publishing the home addresses of more than 1,000 people who received special honors including singers Elton John and Olivia Newton-John.

The list also included Oscar-winning film directors, senior politicians and diplomats, popular athletes and people in sensitive defense roles.

The list was published online for about an hour late Friday when the Cabinet Office posted the recipients of New Year’s Honors, including knighthoods.

New Year’s Honors, including knighthoods.

He upon whose death rushes, offers an excuse for tears, and whose life is made long by God, shows negligence in worship and benevolence.

Imam Ali (AS)