Iran must become powerful to prevent war

By Salman Parvizi

Iran does not consider Saudi Arabia as an enemy. For Iran the U.S. and Israel are enemies, Saudi Arabia is a neighbor and Iran has been trying to improve relations with Saudi Arabia. While President Rouhani came to power, Saudi Arabia has tried to reduce tensions with the U.S. government. The problem is that the Saudis are not interested, especially after (Saudi Crown Prince) MBS came to power and started a confrontational rule policy, creating tensions between neighboring states and the region. However, Iran’s low profile and well-aimed foreign policy have been effective in reducing tensions and shifting regional dynamics.

Steel products output rises 97% in 10 months on year

TEHRAN — Iran’s major steel companies produced over 1.27 million tons of steel products during the six-month period from March 23, 2019 to January 20, 2020, marking a 97% jump compared to the same period in the previous year, ISNA reported on Saturday.

The country’s steel products output hit a 1.48 million tons in the tenth Iranian calendar month (March 23, 2019-February 22, 2020) and the figure increased to 2.95 million tons in the eleventh Iranian month of February 23, 2020-January 21, 2020.

Parachutists jump from Milad Tower

TEHRAN — A group of parachutists jumped from the Tehran's 453-meter Milad Tower on Friday to mark the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

They displayed their skills and readiness by parachuting from the iconic tower. Their flight was a celebration of the 13th anniversary of the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.
Iran must become powerful to prevent war: Leader

By Borrell Europe says Iran must benefit from nuclear deal

Iran, UN hold talks over crisis in northwestern Syria

Zarif meets UN special envoy for Syria

Iran, Hungary vow to expand mutual cooperation

Structural reform of budget feature at Rouhani-Larijani-Raeisi meeting

Iranian families lost members in terror fight to sue U.S. leaders

POLITICAL TEHRAN – The Supreme Council of Economic Supervision (SCES) held a meeting on Saturday at the presence of President Hassan Rouhani, Morteza Solali, Ali Larijani and Eshaq Jahangiri at the SCES headquarters.

A structured reform of the budget was the main subject of the session. Decisions were also made for coordinating the three branches to optimize the executing bodies in a way that led to more efficiency.

The top officials also called on the people to attend the 22nd rallies (Feb. 11) marking anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, and said the country’s unity and integrity” against the United States’ economic war.

Iran’s newly-appointed ambassador to the United Nations, Ahmad Saebi, delivered a speech to world leaders.

"I would like to mention that the Israeli government has been largely successful in diverting the world’s focus from the intensifying conflict in the Middle East," the official said.

"With regard to the current situation, I believe that the time has come to make an effort to stop the war and achieve a sustainable solution to the conflict," he added.

POLITICAL TEHRAN – A senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations’ Joint Commission on the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) met on Saturday to talk about the latest developments in the war-hit region around the crisis in Idlib and Aleppo provinces.

In the meeting, Ali Agah Kajeh, the sec- retary of the Joint Commission of War, special political affairs, and Geir O. Pedersen, undersecretary of state for political affairs as the Norwegian, discussed the war-hit region, including recent bloody conflict in Idlib, control of the working group for exchange of detainees and kidnappings, Wafa, the issue of displaced people and other humanitarian issues.

They also discussed the cooperation between Iran and the UN to settle the crisis in Syria and the ongoing humanitarian aid.

Pedersen, who has traveled to Iran within the framework of consultation with the re- gional countries, appreciated Iran’s efforts to support the Korean constitution committee’s mission.

On Thursday, Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Javad Zarif, came up for a meeting with UN High Representative for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, who is important in the situation in Idlib, Takht-Ravanchi said. "The meeting focused on the important role of the JCPOA committee."

"The meeting took place shortly after Syria's UN Ambassador said that he had been sent special missions from the occupied Golan Heights to the Syrian border with Israel, to talk about the current crisis in the Al-Kwea area, Marj al-Sultan, Baghdadi Bridge and South of Isra’ between the capital, Damascus’.

The current U.S. administration has openly declared that it has imposed the severest economic sanctions in history against Iran. This follows Donald Trump’s unilateral 2018 nuclear agreement in May and imposed sanctions on Iran. The U.S. has imposed a total ban on Iran’s oil exports.

"We are in agreement not to go directly to a strict time frame in step by step to ‘defend the interests of the great Iranian nation in the face of arrogant power’. We must resort instead to a comprehensive and step-by-step mechanism with the aim of achieving the goals of the JCPOA,” Vaezi said.

PoliticS

In response to the Times report, Jamal bin Abdul Mahdi, president of the UN Security Council, said: “We are not going to stop the process to the end of the JCPOA’s implementation.”

"All the indications are that it was Daesh,” Ilan Goldenberg, Middle East security

Iranian families lost members in terror fight to sue U.S. leaders

A group of U.S. Republican senators have called on Twitter to suspend the accounts of the Iranian Financial Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Iran’s Supreme Leader, Meysam Arefi, under the Trump administration.

In a letter sent to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, senators Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham, Rand Paul, Martha Blackburn of Tennessee threatened that the company would be subject to U.S. sanctions if it did not end its service to Iran’s officials.

They argued that allowing Iran’s leaders, and top diplomat to hold court and官方微博 accounts violates as an executive order by U.S. President Donald Trump that prohibits Americans from providing goods or services to the official.

"If the U.S. government is going to provide goods or services to any nation that has been designated as a terrorist country by the U.S. government, it must be able to enforce its laws against such conduct," the senators wrote. Twitter, they added, involves the accounts held by Arefi, Khamenei and Zarif, and of their links to the Iranian government, but Twitter has provided goods or services to the IRA.

On June 24, 2019, Facebook announced an executive order imposing sanctions on any accounts designated by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), saying the company does not have the platform that Tehran's military and intelligence officials have raised discomfort with.

One week later, the U.S. Treasury Department blacklisted Zarif, which it described as Iran’s “primary spokesperson around the world.”

While the “first amendment protects the free speech rights of Americans – the Ayatollah [Khamenei] enjoys zero protection from the United States of America,” the country's foreign ministry added.

The Ayatollah and any American companies providing him services are entirely subject to U.S. sanctions laws.

They claimed that Twitter had not provided the “internet communications systems” to the Iranian government, which the former executive order has had been designated to a terrorist organization.

"It is a sanctionable offense for anyone to have provided, directly or indirectly, services, goods, or advice to the Iranian government of the Revolutionary Guard Corps,” the letter said.

On December 27th, culminating in the attack on December 27th -culminating in the attack on December 27th – culminating in the attack on December 27th – culminating in the attack on December 27th – culminating in the attack on December 27th – culminating in the attack on December 27th — the U.S. military launched a strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRAF) Brigade General Aziz Nasrallah praised

Presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi said on Wednesday, noting that being militarily vulnerable is "not so openly, the current one is following the framework of consultation with the re-
Ruhollah Zam to be tried in coming days: Judiciary

TEHRAN – The spokesman for Iran’s judiciary says that Ruhollah Zam, the operator behind Arab News website and Telegram channel, will be held in the coming days. Gholam-Hossein Esaie said on Saturday that Zam’s trial would be handled by the state’s intelligence agency’s laws and regulations, Tasnim reported, citing IRIB news.

In addition to the main defendant, the five other people who have been arrested and some others have been found involved in the court and their cases are under investigation,” he said.

Speaking on Saturday, the IRGC announced that Zam had been arrested during a complicated intelligence operation. Zam has already been charged by the state’s intelligence agency with running a fake news network and spreading fake news stories and called for violence with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic system.

During the protest rallies in December 2018, he urged the people of Iran to take to the streets and called for the death of the leaders of the Islamic Republic.

In its statement, the IRGC said it lured Zam into Iran using a fake internet address disguised as a Facebook account and providing him with genuine government documents.

The Guard’sPost stated the news of his arrest on Telegram. The Telegram channel called Seday-e Mardom, which is translated as “voice of the people”.

Iran, Pakistan confer on broadening defense ties

TEHRAN – Iranian ambassador to Islamabad Mohammad Rajaee – who has returned to his post in Pakistan following a military coup in October 2019 – is now back in the country to continue cooperation with Islamabad.

The meeting came after a meeting between the Iranian ambassador to Islamabad, Mohammad Rajaee, and the director of the Commission of Communications, Zaheer Hussain.

Pakistan and Iran have long been close partners in the region, with cooperation in various areas such as trade, security and counter-terrorism.

During their meeting, both sides discussed the latest developments in the region and the need for continued cooperation in various fields.

The Iranian ambassador also emphasized the importance of maintaining close ties with Pakistan in order to address regional challenges and promote peace and stability in the region.

Regional situation entails Iran-Russia cooperation: diplomat

TEHRAN — A senior diplomat has said that the regional situation is empty of any kind of dominance, citing Iran-Russia cooperation as an example.

Speaking to Tasnim in the central city of Kashan on Saturday, Brigadier General Kazem Jalali, said on Saturday that the regional situation is empty of any kind of dominance, and Iran-Russia cooperation is an example of this.

Jalali said that the regional situation is empty of any kind of dominance, and Iran-Russia cooperation is an example of this, adding that the countries’ cooperation is based on mutual interests and mutual respect.

The diplomat added that the regional situation is empty of any kind of dominance, and Iran-Russia cooperation is an example of this, noting that the region is in need of cooperation and coordination to face common challenges.

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In his remarks, the Iranian diplomat also emphasized the importance of maintaining close ties with Pakistan and other regional countries in order to address regional challenges and promote peace and stability in the region.

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Steel products output rises 97% in 10 months on year

The country exported 2.684 million tons of steel during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, registering a 133 percent increase in the same period of time in the past year, IRNA reported on Friday.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Organization (IME) said the country’s annual crude steel production is planned to rise to 11,437 rials and 54,150 rials compared to the last year’s fall from $69.9 million in its preceding year.

Annual trade between Iran, U.S. down 83% in 2019

IRNA — The value of trade between Iran and the U.S. has fallen 83.8 percent less than the figure for the previous year, according to the latest statistics released by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

The trade between the two nations had reached $9 million during 2019, IRNA reported.

The figure was $261 million in 2017, Iran imported 87.153 million tons of commodities worth more than 11,437 rials and 54,150 rials compared to the last year’s fall from $69.9 million in its preceding year.

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European’s new order for offshore wind power installations

Europe installed 3.6 GW of new offshore wind capacity in 2020, according to statistics released by WindEurope. This is a new record in annual installations.

Following its first meeting on 24 November, a major development in the offshore wind sector was that an international joint venture of major players in the offshore wind industry was established. The joint venture, called OCT-SENI, is a new offshore wind farm in Portugal.

The joint venture is a key milestone in the development of offshore wind in Europe. The offshore wind sector has been growing rapidly in recent years, driven by the need to decarbonize the energy sector and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

The new offshore wind farm in Portugal is expected to be commissioned in 2023, and will be owned and operated by the joint venture. The project will have a capacity of 800 MW and will consist of 120 turbines, each with a capacity of 6.7 MW.

The offshore wind sector is expected to play a key role in the European Union’s transition to a low-carbon economy, and to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement.

Putting Mozambique on the global LNG map

Mozambique is an emerging leader in LNG: the country is expected to become the largest LNG producer in Africa (and the fourth-largest in the world) by the middle of this decade. Mozambique’s LNG comes on stream. Mozambique’s NOIC (National Oil Institute Company) wants to develop its business and become an active player in the global LNG market. NOIC CEO Aliabadi in the presence of the Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

The country has a large gas field, the Rovuma basin, which is estimated to contain 300 Tcf of gas, and the company has the potential to become a major player in the LNG market.

With various commercial options available, NOIC is looking for a strategic investor with the right connections, knowledge and experience to help it chart the right way forward.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, NOIC CEO Aliabadi said, “We are looking forward to working with our partners to develop MOZLNG.”

As NOIC moves forward with its LNG development plans, it will need to overcome several challenges, including the need to secure long-term contracts for LNG sales, and to finance the development and construction of the LNG facilities.

The LNG market amply supplied

The LNG market is already amply supplied, with many new projects under development. However, the future of the LNG market remains uncertain, as a result of the energy transition and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The LNG market is expected to remain competitive, with new projects coming online and existing facilities expanding their capacities. However, the future of the LNG market remains uncertain, as a result of the energy transition and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Wholesale energy prices fell 10% in January amid coronavirus fears

The wholesale energy prices in the United Kingdom fell by 10% last month, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to a reduction in energy demand and a decrease in industrial activity.

The price of Brent crude oil, the international benchmark, fell by 9% in January, to $58 a barrel. The price of natural gas, which has been stronger than crude oil, fell by 14% to $3.20 per thousand cubic feet.

The price of electricity also fell, with the price of electricity in the United Kingdom falling by 10% to 5.6 pence per kilowatt hour. This is the lowest price in over a year, as a result of the reduction in energy demand.

The fall in energy prices is a result of the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to a reduction in energy demand and a decrease in industrial activity. The fall in energy prices is expected to continue, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact the global economy.
Tehran Times

A Brief Report on Activities of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) in One Year

From inauguration of $3.5 billion worth of mining and mineral projects since the beginning of the current up to the end of March 2020, the number of strategic objectives that IMIDRO has focused on managing the implementation opportunities to twofold growth of mineral sector since the second half of the year 2007–2008 (from March 21, 2008 to March 20, 2009) up to the present time in a broader sense. IMIDRO does not concentrate merely on steel, rather, this prestigious organization has focused on managing profit of economic enterprises, increasing relevant activities with social responsibilities, fulfilling consecutive dialogues with various organizations, establishing very high dialogues and interaction with the scientific and research centers in order to remove requirements of the aforementioned units, which would have been put atop agenda of the organization.

- Operationalization of Roadmap

The roadmap of mining and industrial sector includes 72 strategies in a way that IMIDRO is responsible for implementing 15 strategies.

To implement this important roadmap, IMIDRO has defined 145 objectives: in a way that IMIDRO has managed to realize 85 percent of these objectives since the beginning of the current up to the end of Iranian month of Dey i.e. from March 21, 2019 to March 20, 2020.

- Launching Projects

IMIDRO has implemented $3.5 billion worth of mining and mineral projects since the beginning of the current year [started March 21, 2019] up to the present time [ended March 20, 2020].

In other words, IMIDRO has implemented $3.5 billion worth of mining and mineral projects during 10 months [from March 21, 2019 to Jan. 20, 2020].

- Increasing Capital of Mines Insurance Fund, Support for Private Sector

Mining Investment Insurance Fund has issued 3.145 units of investment insurance policy, costing 1.685 billion tomans, since its establishment about 14 years ago. Capital increase is one of the supports of this fund in a way that capital of the organization hit from 450 billion tomans to 350 billion tomans. According to the aforementioned unit, total of which have been put atop agenda of the organization.

- Outlook of Development of Special Zones of Energy-Consuming Industries

In the current year, IMIDRO, in addition to Persian Gulf Special Energy-Consuming Zone, has focused on the development of special zones of Larestan (southern Fars province) and Parsian (southeast Hormozgan province) as well as Kish. Now, Larestan Special Zone is the largest and most modern iron and aluminum production plant (SALCO) and Parsian Zone also is attracting investors in the mineral and petrochemical fields. Iran Petroleum Ministry has put Persian Energy-Consuming Special Zone as the third hub for the implementation of petrochemical projects.

- INNOMINE 2 Festival

IMIDRO field-value-creation ideas festival entitled “INNOMINE 2” in Feb. 2020 in cooperation with the Vice-President for Science and Technology (Innovation and Development Fund) and Tehran University. In this festival, 180 companies showed their tendency to take part in the festival, showing a considerable growth as compared to a year earlier.

Consequently, 15 top ideas were introduced at the end of this event. IMIDRO also followed up the “value creation” in cooperation with scientific and research centers.

- Pilot Launching of Rare Soil Elements

In addition to supporting large and mega-sized investors, IMIDRO has compiled a comprehensive plan [special of valuable and semi-precious elements as well as decorative stones. Presently, various committees are busy act in this sector. This plan will be put into operation with the removal of existing barriers. It has been supposed that Stone’s Market will be set up in Isfahan with the cooperation of provincial officials and private sector activities.

As the sole responsible body for development of mining and mineral sector, IMIDRO supports activities in this field.

This Organization undertakes the role of policy making and facilitating terms and conditions of activity in mining and mineral sector.

- Plan for Transferring Water from Oman Sea

Benefited from the most experienced manpower and also using its experience in implementation of water conveyance project from Persian Gulf to the Central Fields, IMIDRO will make huge investment in cooperation with the private sector for conveying and transferring water from Oman Sea to three eastern provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, South Khorasan and Khorasan Razavi provinces.

After the desalination of water from Oman Sea, the pipeline will enter into the three provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, South Khorasan and Khorasan Razavi.

- Persian Gulf Special Zone and 10 Million-Ton Steel Project

Attaining production capacity of 10 million tons of steel is the salient outline of Persian Gulf Mining and Mineral Industries Special Zone, affiliated to IMIDRO. This plan is underway with the investment of current investors of the region and its consortia has been set up.

- Creating Production Capacity of 10 Million Tons of Steel in MOROCCAN Coastal Areas

In line with the macro policies in increasing production capacity of steel, IMIDRO has implemented the plan for creating 10 million tons of steel production capacity in MOROCCAN coastal areas, located in Chabbar in Sistan and Balouchestan province, wherein this comprehensive program will be done with the cooperation and partnership of the private sector.

By: A. Samiei
Ahead of Iran’s 4th anniversary of Islamic Revolution: Fundamental appraisal

**By Aref Abdolah**

**NIGERIA/ KATISNA** – In the name of Allah Who states “... verily, never will Allah change the condition of a people until they change it themselves with their own souls” Quraysh 17:103.

His Holiness peace and blessings be upon His noble servant, our master Muhammad and his purified progeny.

This piece is on the fundamentals of the Islamic Khanate. The Islamic Khanate (The Islamic Republic) clocks four decades despite apparent hatred and persisting oppositions from the Western bloc and other regimes. The piece will provide a comparative analysis with sister events in France, Russia, Spain, China, Iran and other countries. It will examine the multi-dimensional achievements of the Islamic republic especially on cultural, social, economic, security, and technology and general societal reforms, but more on the domestic achievements since the Islamic government as stressed by the Imam (QJ), its founder and guardian for Muslim world.

Like the Imam said one could easily remember how Iran was completely subservient to America in the days of the US presence in the region that killed the oil companies and also its own souls” Quraysh 17:103.

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Iran second most popular destination for Azeri tourists

HERALD TEHRAN – Iran was named the second most popular destination for Azerbaijani tourists in 2019, according to data collected from travel agencies. 

More than 130,000 Azerbaijani citizens visited Iran in 2019, according to a report by the Azerbaijan Travel Agency. This is a 17 percent increase compared to the previous year.

The report noted that most Azerbaijani tourists traveled to Iran to visit family and friends. 

About eight million foreign nationals have visited Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2019), according to Iran’s ministry of tourism.

Tricky wrought-iron cast doubt over fate of Iranian architecture masterpiece

Experts fear Titanic moment could strike Tebriz Carpet Museum in Iran

Heritage – Tebriz Carpet Museum is a four-story edifice in the city of Tebriz in Iran. The building, which is located on the city’s main thoroughfare, is a masterpiece of Persian architecture.

The museum houses the largest collection of Persian carpets in the world, and it is considered one of the most important cultural institutions in Iran. The museum’s collection includes carpets from every region of Iran, as well as carpets from other countries.

Tourism to the Antarctic is booming, but experts fear that the ice caps are melting faster than expected due to climate change. 

According to the report, “Most tourism is concentrated on the Peninsula (in the center of the Antarctic), according to the report.”

The Islamic Republic abolished visa requirements for Azerbaijani nationals some three years ago, while Iranians still have to obtain visas to visit the country. 

About 130,000 Azerbaijani tourists visited Iran in 2019, in addition to a number of Azerbaijani tourists who traveled to Iran for religious purposes.

The Islamic Republic abolished visa requirements for Azerbaijani citizens in 2019, according to a report by the Azerbaijan Travel Agency. This is a 17 percent increase compared to the previous year.

The report noted that most Azerbaijani tourists traveled to Iran to visit family and friends. 

But other travelers whose itineraries never touched Iranian territory have seen their plans altered as well. 

For example, the cruise line that operates the MS Westerdam to dock in Japanese ports. 

More than 20 international carriers have suspended or reduced services to China due to the virus, said the head of the World Health Organization. 

Other cruise companies that operate in Asia declined to confirm whether or not they would be affected by the virus. 

Still, tourists traveling to the country are being advised to take precautions. 

ECO is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the member states. 

Experts fear the Titanic moment could strike Tebriz Carpet Museum in Iran, as the museum’s famous 17th-century Sholeh Lotfollah Mosque in Isfahan, central Iran, is the latest building to be damaged by the coronavirus.

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Heritage – Tebriz Carpet Museum is a four-story edifice in the city of Tebriz in Iran. The building, which is located on the city’s main thoroughfare, is a masterpiece of Persian architecture.

The museum houses the largest collection of Persian carpets in the world, and it is considered one of the most important cultural institutions in Iran. The museum’s collection includes carpets from every region of Iran, as well as carpets from other countries.

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But other travelers whose itineraries never touched Iranian territory have seen their plans altered as well.

For example, the cruise line that operates the MS Westerdam to dock in Japanese ports. 

More than 20 international carriers have suspended or reduced services to China due to the virus, said the head of the World Health Organization.

Other cruise companies that operate in Asia declined to confirm whether or not they would be affected by the virus.

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Iran to cooperate with India, Pakistan and Oman to study tsunami off Makran coast

ENVIRONMENT

TEHRAN — Iran is conducting a joint study with the countries of the southern Makran coast in collaboration with India, Pakistan and Oman, aiming to identify high-risk areas, a faculty member of the National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences has announced.

Makran is a semi-arid coastal strip in Baluchestan Province. While the area has a generally arid climate, narrow coastal plains raise rapidly into several mountain ranges. Off the 1,600-kilometer coastline, around 750 kilometers in Pakistan. Makran is very poorly inhabited, with much of the population concentrated in a string of small ports, including Chabahar, Gwadar, Oman, Bandar Eslam and Oman, and many smaller villages.

Considering the importance of the Makran coast development issues, a project on the tsunami in the region has been defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the project has been launched for an annual period in collaboration with four countries, Mahmoud Reza Akbarpour said. Previous studies have shown that the area is prone to tsunami, so UNESCO took the lead and provided funding for the project, he stated, adding, Iran has cooperated in several UNESCO tsunami studies that examined the Makran coast and its effects on the Iranian coast of Makran.

“We have so far performed several maneuvers; and the organization has also specified, he said. He went on to highlight that as the first wave of tsunami reached and lasted 15 minutes, training on how to evacuate the area at this time is crucial. Moreover, we have held 7 to 8 workshops in India and Oman, and some workshops will be held in Oman in March, and one in the university of India. These issues also need to be taught in schools, so we published the tsunami book and distributed to all schools in provincial areas. It is a book that teaches children images and stories about what to do in the event of an earthquake and tsunami,” he noted.

India and Pakistan have been highly prone to earthquakes, yet the tsunami, so UNESCO took the lead and provided funding for the project, he stated, adding, Iran has cooperated in several UNESCO tsunami studies that examined the Makran coast and its effects on the Iranian coast of Makran.

“A distinct feature of the region is that the population has already done this survey, but now they are going to work together, he added. Since the earthquake magnitude for the region is not clear, it is very important to be prepared if it is to occur and the facility will help taking effective action in this regard, he stated.”

Families with multiple births to receive monthly allowances

SOCIETY

TEHRAN — In line with population growth policies, families with triplets or more will receive monthly allowances of up to 3 percent (more than the official rate of 42,000 rials), head of Welfare Organization has announced.

The allowances would be paid when the children are born till the age of six, IRNA quoted Vahid Ghoshali as saying on Saturday.

Some 17,000 households with three or above children receive such allowances across the country, he stated.

In the last four years, the population growth has been recorded 1.35 percent in the last Iranian calendar year 1395 (March 2016-March 2017), 1.15 percent (March 2017-March 2018), 1.12 percent (March 2018-March 2019) and nearly 1.1 million births were registered in the country, 1.12 percent in the same period in which 1.6 million births have been recorded in the country,” he said.

According to the data released by the National Institute of Statistics, the estimation of six children, compared to the previous year, decreased 0.5 percent. In 100,000 homes, whose births were registered last year, while 41,419 births in 100,000 homes, and 52,385 births have been registered in the five years of 1390 to 1394 (2011-2016), a decrease of roughly 1,000,000 births has been recorded.

Several socioeconomic factors led to fertility rate decrease and reproductive behavior in the country, including urbanization, education, economic issues, first marriage age, as well as increased access to the contraceptive methods with increased time gap between the first and second birth.

In August 2019, in a letter to the heads of medical sciences universities and colleges across the country, Health Minister Saeed Namaki ordered the formation of a special task force to make a survey for population from declining. “To prevent the decline in this line, it is necessary to identify and expand pertinent cases in less developed areas, as well as to provide postpartum care in deprived areas, as soon as it is necessary to quickly reverse the demographic and social indices,” he stated.

The development of infertility treatment centers to cope with such cases is also necessary, so that all medical universities should establish an infertile treatment center and inform the residents about the establishment. Whole services at these centers should be free of charge. Required resources will be provided by the Ministry’s headquarters.

It is essential to form an expert team to encourage and educate couples who face childbearing years after marriage, in addition to informing them of the possibility of infertility in the years ahead.

Highlighting the benefits and positive effects of having a second child in single-child families, using the capacity of psychologists and experienced health professionals, especially in the field of mental health, is necessary.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Donald Trump has been the worst president for our environment in history, one group of environmental organizations has said.

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The FAO Food Price Index rose 5.5 percent, propelled by strong demand for grain (corn and rice) and lower sugar output in several major producing countries.

FAO Food Price Index rises for the fourth consecutive month

World food prices rose for the fourth consecutive month in January, FAO said Monday.

The FAO Food Price Index, which measures monthly changes in the international prices of a basket of food commodities, averaged 182.5 points during the month, up 6.7 percent from December and 13.3 percent higher than the same month of 2018.

Vegetable oils, sugar, and wheat were the chief drivers of the index’s rise in January, the FAO said in a report released Monday.

The FAO Sugar Price Index rose 7.6 percent for the month, hitting a three-year high as prices for palm, soy, sorghum, and sugar rose in January, the report said.

The FAO Meat Price Index, meanwhile, reversed a 14-month streak of declines in December and rose 0.1 percent during the month because of reduced purchases from China and the Far East as well as large exports of US meat.

FAO raised its forecast for world cereal utilization in 2019/20 to 2.77 billion tonnes, up from the previous year.

World cereal stocks by the close of seasons in 2020 are expected to remain marginally lower than their opening levels. The resultant global cereal stock-to-use ratio is now projected at 39.0 percent, a comfortable level by historical standards.

World trade in cereals in 2019/20 is anticipated to rise to 3.24 percent to 4.40 percent, a million tonnes, the second highest on record, largely due to shipments of wheat from the European Union and Ukraine to Asia. (Source: FAO)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has said.

“Countries in this area need at least 111.5 million tonnes of wheat output in the current season to match the consumption needs.”

The FAO Dairy Price Index rose 0.9 percent, buoyed by strong demand in Asia and Europe, as well as reduced output in New Zealand.

The W ilderness Society was one of the groups that helped in the creation of the new bill, which calls for more protecting of public lands, wildlife, and oceans; no long-term, temporary modifications to existing laws and regulations that would lead to a reduced emphasis on conservation; and the creation of a national climate-justice fund.

Prioritize the development of infertility treatment centers to serve couples who need assistance, he stated.

The job of cleaning out the caves is now underway.

The workers are Bedouin who used to make their living selling crafts, but now they work for the national organization that combats illegal tourism in the area. (Source: Euronews)

Families with multiple births to receive monthly allowances

20% of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, according to a head of Iran’s ancient monuments and heritage. The FAO Dairy Price Index rose 0.9 percent, buoyed by strong demand in Asia and Europe, as well as reduced output in New Zealand.

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Iraq, Russia discuss strengthening military ties amid U.S. tensions

Iraq and Russia have discussed reinforcing military ties amid growing U.S. pressure on Tehran and Moscow, according to the head of a branch of the Syrian National Army. The talks were held in the wake of U.S. assassination of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani and Russian anti-terror commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said on Monday that the parliament had approved a new peace plan, during the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) conference in Beirut. Berri expressed appreciation for the re-settlement of Palestinian refugees, which would be a positive move in the region. The AIPU is focused on achieving peace and stability in the Middle East peace plan according to the AIPU press agency.

Despite the talks, there are no signs of a resolution of the conflict, with tensions remaining high. The talks between the two countries have been characterized by an atmosphere of optimism, with both nations expressing a desire to strengthen their ties and work towards peace in the region.

Iraqi PM Haidar al-Abadi said on Monday that the talks were an important step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. He said that the talks were aimed at boosting cooperation in various fields, including security, economic and cultural.

The talks come amid a number of developments in the region, including the continued presence of U.S. forces in Iraq and the ongoing conflict in Syria. Both countries have been actively involved in efforts to resolve these issues.

Mahathir says Trump’s Middle East plan unacceptable

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Monday that the U.S. plan for peace in the Middle East was unacceptable and would not work.

“Israel has been an obstacle to peace,” Mahathir said. “The Trump plan will not work because it is not fair to the Palestinians.”

The Malaysian leader has repeatedly criticized the Trump administration for its pro-Israeli policies, including its decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and its recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Trump launched a strong attack on Mahathir, calling him “a failed leader in a failed country.”

“Before we had to fight hard against the Israelis to get our land back,” Mahathir responded. “Now we have to fight against the US government to get our land back.”

The comments come amid a growing rift between the two nations, with Mahathir accusing the Trump administration of being more interested in economic gains than in building a lasting peace.

American dies of coronavirus in China

A 60-year-old American has died of the coronavirus in China, the first confirmed non-Chinese death of the illness, U.S. officials said on Monday. The man, who was in Wuhan, died over the weekend.

The death of the third American to die from the novel coronavirus in China came as the virus continued to spread worldwide, with more than 400,000 cases and over 9,200 deaths reported globally.

Trump launches revenge, fires impeachment witnesses

U.S. President Donald Trump has fired two top military officers who provided the impeachment witnesses that led to his acquittal in the Senate. The two officials were fired on Wednesday.

The deaths of the two officers — Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman and Mr. Grenell — came on the same day that the Senate voted to acquit Trump of the charges of obstruction of Congress.

The moves come amid growing tensions with Iran, which has repeatedly threatened to retaliate against the U.S. in response to the killing of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.

Yemen’s Houthis gain more ground against Saudi-led militaries in Marib

The Houthi separatists have gained more ground against the Saudi-led coalition in Marib province, according to reports.

The coalition, backed by the United States, is fighting the separatists in an effort to end the war in Yemen. The Houthis have made significant gains in recent weeks, with reports indicating that they have captured several key locations.

The latest gains come amid growing tensions between the coalition and the Houthis, who have been fighting a war in Yemen since 2015.

The Houthis have been able to capitalize on the weaknesses of the coalition, which has struggled to coordinate its efforts and has been unable to effectively stop the Houthis’ advances.

The Houthis’ gains come as the United Nations has called for a ceasefire to end the war, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions from their homes.

The Houthis’ advances come amid growing international concern about the war, with the United Nations and other organizations calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

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Olympic gold medalist Schoeman blames contamination for positive test

**SPORTS**

**TEHRAN** — Iran blind 400m relay team head Belzad Zadaliasghari is not happy with Iran NPC’s decision.

Zadaliasghari not happy with Iran NPC’s decision

A remarkable performance by the 20-year-old super-heavyweight Ali Davoudi has brightened Iran’s prospects of making the weightlifting podium at Tokyo 2020.

There was more good news for Iran with an encouraging on the improvement of Sudanese Moradi, one of the nation’s two weightlifting champions at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Not so good was another bomb-out by the other gold medalist for Iran in the 109kg, Navid Afkari, who was placed in prison last July.

Moradi, who has only lost left the junior ranked, made 440kg at the Fight Cup in Rash, near the Iranian capital Tehran – a silver qualifier for Tokyo.

This performance, which would have been good enough for bronze at last year’s International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup Championships, put Davoudi in pole position for a medal at the Olympic Games.

Apart from the apparently unbreakable gold medal favorite Linus Tahkakanda of Georgia, only one man has made a bigger total in Olympic qualifying and he is expected to miss Tokyo.

Mr. Davoudi has now been given a chance to make the most of this opportunity to continue his rise by training under the experienced coach Mansour Rostami.

Middle Asia and Central Asia’s most successful weightlifter, Steel was the first to win a world title – he was 19 when he won the 2011 world title.

He has been given an extended period to train, which is a huge positive for the Iranian weightlifting team.

The team has been targeted positives for the prohibited substance GW501516, a hormone and metabolic modulator, at an out-of-competition test on May 18 last year.

Davoudi, who weighed in at 120kg, issued a statement on Saturday, blaming his positive test on a contaminated batch of supplements, adding the items found were trace amounts and he took them immediately before and after the positive result were clear.

“I was last year taking a variety of supplements, all carefully selected, to avoid any possibility of doing on something not allowed,” his statement said.

“I did not know for any specific substance and was not aware of taking the prohibited substance GW501516,” he added.

“Shoulder pain and back injuries continue to occur, heart attack and stroke risks.”

Schoeman believes the fact he was handed a one-year ban, rather than the usual two-to-four year suspension, “is a very encouraging update on the fitness of Sohrab Moradi, we are determined to improve our position in the upcoming Games.”

“We received an overall good evaluation from our delegation in Tokyo, however we should not put our athletes under pressure for winning medals,” he concluded.

**SPORTS**

**TEHRAN** — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has confirmed that Iran will continue to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Games despite serving a one-year ban.

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“I had tested negative for any such contamination in the week prior to my event on April 8. I believe that IJF President Vanesa Mirei has convinced Mollaei to compete under a refugee flag at Tokyo 2020. Our athlete has been taken hostage by Iran, with their vision for the future.

Iranian weightlifter Mollaei has been allowed to compete under a refugee flag at Tokyo 2020.

**SPORTS**

**TEHRAN** — Iranian National Olympic Committee (NOC) President Reza Salehi Amiri says it is still an ambition for gold medalist Roland Schoeman to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

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Iranian actor Faramarz Qaribian attends the 38th Fajr Film Festival in February 2020. (ISNA/Hadi Zand)

Critics’ remarks draw ire of protest film “Exodus” director Hatamikia

Hatamikia’s “Exodus”, a political statement

Tehran fair to display Turkish, Persian books

China film industry’s ‘bleak winter’ deepens as coronavirus adds to censorship woes

NEW YORK (Reuters) – The one with the long-awaited reunion. Warner Bros is finalising deals with the cast of “Friends” for a reunion special that will likely be used to launch the HBO Max streaming service in May. The Wall Street Journal reported on wedsis/22bPbP20 on Thursday, citing people familiar with the matter.

There have been a flurry of media reports about a potential reunion since Jennifer Aniston, who portrayed Rachel in the hit sitcom series, hinted that something might be underway.

But Qaribian said: “I believe this film is the highlight of my acting career. I’ve read lots of screenplays during the past seven years but I didn’t like any of them. I was waiting for something valuable to end my career with,” said Qaribian.

“I know playing this role would be very difficult, but as it was the role of Imam Ali (AS), I’ve been playing protective characters since the beginning of my career in movies like Mir-Kamal and Ebrahim Hatamikia’s films. I’ve become weary of the negative attitude of Iranian cinema toward me as an actor, I’ve been anointed by coarseness,” he stated.

Faramarz Qaribian bids farewell to acting with “Exodus”