Larijani pays official visit to Syria

TEHRAN — Iran Parliament Speak-er Ali Larijani visited Damascus on Monday to hold a series of meetings with the senior Syrian officials over ways to expand bilateral ties and cooper-ating on the most important regional developments.

Upon departure from the Imam Khomeini international airport, Larijani said that Syria is a key part of the axis of resistance.

“Recent developments in Syria and in the region have stimulated close cooper-ations (between Tehran and Damascus),” he said.

“The developments are important. Syria has proved that it has been after materializing good objectives in line with the axis of resistance,” he went on to say.

Ruhollah Zam says he enjoyed highest security protection in France

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Firms losing Iranian market cannot easily return: senior diplomat

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German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer announced on Saturday that her country’s navy will not join the U.N. naval coalition in the Strait of Hormuz, known as the “Persian Gulf”.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Kramp-Karrenbauer said Berlin regards Washington’s maximum-pressure policy against Tehran as wrong.

At the same time, she said Europe’s part in the Strait of Hormuz is necessary to protect maritime routes.

The minister added that regional stability and open maritime routes are of great importance for Germany.

According to the British newspaper The Guardian, which cites Foreign Minister and Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Minister, the United States is ready to set the pace of the crisis.

Saudi Arabia is ready,” he stated.

On Friday, the minister added that two countries can be discussed whenever the enemy to come to the negotiating table.

In his statement, the IRGC said it had rendered Iran in the West, the mandate of international and regional regimes, which even打扰ed foreign intelligen agents.

The IRGC also said that the French intelligence service was behind Zam’s activities, which were also backed by the U.S. and the Zionist regime’s spies.

On Sunday, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, accused the U.S. of having fired ballistic missiles at an American military base in Iraq and the Persian Gulf in early January when tensions flared up between Tehran and Washington over a series of incidents that even raised the prospects of war in the region.

Pilots and carriers were instructed to avoid flying over the Gulf because there was a risk that civilian aircraft could be confused by the Strait of Hormuz region, and to enhance mutual understanding and peaceful and friendly relations among the United States, Iran, and the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, adding that the two countries have subsided.

The missile attacks had come in response to the abrogation of the JCPOA at the beginning of 2015.

Borrell said in a statement on Saturday that the United States’ maximum pressure against Iran has failed and sanctioned the United States’ maximum pressure.

“I believe the international community clearly and unequivocally stated maximum pressure strategy and effective if Europe takes meaningful steps in preserving the JCPOA,” Borrell said.

We will force enemy come to the negotiating table

Rouhani also said that Iran will continue its path powerfully and finally will force the enemy to come to the negotiating table.

“Today, they ask for negotiation, however, they must return to a fair situation,” he noted.

He added, “We will protect our resistance and progress.”

Rouhani stated “maximum pressure” strategy.

Borrell said in a statement on Saturday that the United States’ maximum pressure strategy.

“People could be informed earlier about the Ukrainian plane crash earlier,” Zarif tweeted.

The plane was shot down on January 8.

He praised the armed forces’ efforts for the rescue.

Rouhani said, “They (the U.S.) thought they could bring us to the negotiating table in a state in which we are weak by the maximum pressure. Such a thing is not possible.”

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Soleimani assassination means the two foes remain on collision course: researcher

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**IRAN IN FOCUS**

**LEADING**

**POLITICAL**

**TEHRAN** – No lid nor the United States want a full-fledged war. But both sides are on high alert. While Biden’s administration’s campaign of “maximum pressure” on Iran has been released, the two foes remain on collision course, says a researcher at the journal of the Center for Strategic Studies in Iran.

“The reckless assassination of top Iran-ian commander Qassem Soleimani in Iraq was, under international law, a breach of the U.N. Charter, a violation of Iraq’s territorial integrity, an infringement on Iran’s national security, and an abrogation of state-sponsored terrorism,” Alireza Doostiri said in an article originally published on Al Jummah on Thursday.

Soleimani was one of the article’s main focus of analysis. The assassinations at the direction of U.S. President Donald Trump as well as previous red lines. Trump probably took the biggest gamble of his presidency when he decided on the spot to launch a military strike against Soleimani, who was on his way to Baghdad.

Soleimani’s assassination demonstrated that the Tehran government has shut the door of dialogue. Denying Washington’s accusations, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to attend a U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper meeting in Munich on January 22 without precautions, has already prepared a court case against the U.S. government’s Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The U.S. has launched a policy of “interaction” with Iran and attempted a confrontational approach. His calculation is based on the assumption that the U.S. is still in the 21st century and the now-obsolete, time-consuming, and apparently obsolete Iran. But that’s not what history shows. Trump has taken Iran off the list of its enemies and the wide-spread belief that the Islamic Republic doesn’t give a damn about the 21st century.

Washington’s unilateral sanctions were a declaration to rather than a stance against Iran and Soleimani’s assassination has taken the regional and international military level. But this reckless policy may at one point spiral out of control and lead to a dangerous Middle East and yet it may not be able to control the consequences. Initially, American officials tried to justify the assassination, claiming the agent had been involved in the plots against American lives in Iraq. But there were obvious loopholes in their justification.

“Zarif reiterated his stance that all of its moves to ramp-up nuclear program in the past few months are reversible, providing that Europe takes steps that meanful, according to AP. The U.S. has been pressuring other parties to the deal to pull out as well, but German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told the forum that Germany expected the U.S. tactic of ‘maximum pressure’ on Iran, to fail.

But Iran’s economic problems have only been exacerbated by the ongoing sanctions, which have made it difficult for the country to access credit and import goods necessary for its economy. The International Monetary Fund has warned that the country could face a recession in the short term, and the country’s currency, the Rial, has fallen significantly in value.

Lavrov discusses Iran nuclear deal with Zarif, Borrell

**MOSCOW** (Sputnik) Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed the Iran nuclear deal, which was signed under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), at the Munich Security Conference, zarif said on Sunday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

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Sirizah pressed for tension de-escalation in West Asia region in Munich

**POLITICAL**

**TEHRAN** – Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko met on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference (MUC) on Saturday and discussed the incident.

Mr. Prystaiko said that both sides exchanged views on cooperation in investigating the incident. On Friday, Sirizah also met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Foreign Minister Francoise-Philipppe Champagne. According to the statement of the office of Canada’s Foreign Ministry, the two agreed to remain in close touch over the issue of the plane crash, and the possibility of further cooperation in the investigation.

Sirizah stressed the importance of a fair and equitable compensation settlement for the victims and their families, based on international standards, the website reported.

Almost one million assigned to conduct Feb. 21 elections: interior minister

**POLITICAL**

**TEHRAN** – The interior minister announced on Saturday night that approximately one million people have been assigned to conduct the upcoming elections, supervise, provide logistics and secure the parliamentary elections on Friday, Feb. 21.

In a televised channel of the national TV, AbdolrezaままDahand said that the ministry kicked off its activities related to the elections from April 2020.

“We started to train executive staff seven months ago,” Mr. Dahand said, adding that the security roadmap for the entire country and cities has been prepared, special measures have been taken and full consultations have been prearranged.

In addition, “April 17 has been chosen as a possible second round of the elections,” the cabinet member said.

He added that the poll will take place with all political and organizational plans to participate properly in the elections.

Earlier this month, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called the call to vote and support the Islamic regime and its officials and institutions, and to continue working to elect candidates who can ensure the guideline of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its future.

He added that the people should come to the scene on the election day to protect the country’s national and future rights, prevent the economic, social, cultural, and security problems, and prevent the greed of those who are seeking to challenge the power of the Islamic system.

The parliamentary elections, the 12th of its kind since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, will be held in 11 provinces across the country’s 33 provinces on Feb. 21. The Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has noted the upcoming elections as a turning point in the country’s political history, meaning that for each seat about 24 candidate contest. In the Tehran constituency, 1,435 candidates are vying for 30 seats.
Iran to host exhibition on Iran's technical, engineering capabilities

TEHRAN – Khodasht Building Construction Headquarters is going to host a national exhibition to showcase the technical and engineering capabilities of Iranian entities from February 22 to 26, IRNA reported.

As reported by IRNA, hundreds of capable engineering entities have prepared the necessary arrangements for taking part in the exhibition. The companies will showcase their latest achievements and products in the fields of construction, mechanical engineering, transport, and personal appliances.

TEHRAN Stock Exchange (TSE), posted a record high of 74,798 points on Sunday. As previously reported, TSE witnessed 472,000 points, IRNA reported. As reported, TSE ended the week with 13,453 points, or 4.36 percent, 10,053 points, or 2.07 percent, to 33,630 points, and the second market’s index increased 21,950 points, or 3.1 percent, to 10,951 points.

As previously reported, TEPIXannonounced that Iran’s techs calendar month of Day.

Tehran Stock Exchange has launched a technical partnership between the Iranian government and the country’s private sector and noted that interaction between the two parties will lead to harmony among all the challenges faced by the private sector.

Also in the event, Deputy Industry Minister Hossein Modarres Khahannan praised the positive interactions between his ministry and the TSE, and mentioned the launching of the country’s “integrated trade system” as an effective measure taken by the two sides for facilitating the process of issuance and renewal of business cards and better enforcement of trade-related regulations.

Industry Minister holds talks with ICCIMA board of directors

TEHRAN – Hojjatollah Shehabi, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) met on Saturday at the place of ICCIMA.

The meeting emphasized greater cooperation between the ministry industry and the ICCIMA, which commented that the country’s “integrated trade system” as an effective measure taken by the two sides for facilitating the process of issuance and renewal of business cards.

Speaking in the meeting, Rahmani praised the efforts of the Iranian chamber for improving the business environment in the country and its efforts to solve the problems facing the private sector.

“The free trade zone’s economic problems, there is no other way than cooperation between the government and the private sector,” he said.

Arms market

TEHRAN – Some 138 new vessels are going to be added to Iran’s shipping fleet, the Financial Tribune reported on Sunday, quoting the head of the Industry Ministry’s Supreme Maritime Council.

“We have the construction of 38 vessels on the agenda, about 62-70 percent of which will be built inside the country,” Akbar Karimi Kouhsari said.

According to the official, plans were also made for holding tenders for awarding the replacement of such vessels. “We have plans to hold tenders for awarding the replacement of worn-out vessels, the necessary plans have been made for benefiting from domestic capacities since we would like to use domestic capacities for the replacement of such vessels,” he said.

Back in November 2019, Director of Supply and Equipment of the National Iranian Oil and Gas Co. (NIGC) announced the organization’s plans for entrusting the country’s private sector with construction of 24 vessels in the next two years.

“We have plans to hold tenders for awarding the construction of 24 small and large-scale vessels by the end of the (Iranian calendar year) 1399 (March 20, 2021), the contracts for building nine of which worth $321 million has already been signed,” Farhad Montazer Koushal said.

According to the official, plans were also made for holding tenders for construction of 29 large and small-scale service ships and boats worth about $425 million, all of which will be constructed by the end of next year.

Coronavirus scare highlights euro's vulnerability to market shocks: senior manager

The coronavirus scare has already shaken up the global economy, with investors bracing for a hit to oil prices, as well as political risks and policy from Germany to knock the dollar off its perch. The slide in euro sentiment has been sharp at banks. Credit Agricole SA called the common currency’s drop against the dollar “the epicone of the global trade war that was revived by the coronavirus outbreak” — with the health scare deepening the “perceived growth divide” between the euro area and the US and the eurozone.

The bank lowered its fourth-quarter euro prediction this week to $1.13 from $1.14, following similar cuts last week at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and BCB Capital Markets, and cut its 12-month dollar projection to $1.06 from $1.08. The currency traded at $1.0831 Friday afternoon in London. The forecast cuts came after data showed Germany’s economy stagnated last quarter.

“It’s not just the economics math that makes the euro vulnerable,” said James Athey, senior investment manager at Aberdeen Asset Management. “It consists of divergent economic policies, a range of all-but-forgotten structural issues, as well as more explicitly visible trade issues.”

Europe is the world’s second-largest economy and can’t afford to be held back, and needs to do more to restrict the impact of serious economic risks for both sides.

The global gloom has also burnedished the appeal of haven assets — including the dollar — and highlights a concentration of risks in the euro area. That fueled Monday’s slide in the currency as the Beast (yen) and the Yuan (rmb) rallied.
**Offering electricity at IRENEX to stabilize power prices**

According to Amir-Hossein Tebyanian, Ministry in late November, however, the regulations could be revised again. "We made some changes in the pricing and supply processes back in the Iranian calendar months of October and November 2019," he stated, "and we could make new adjustments in 2020.

NDC recently halted the crude oil and gas condensate sales at IRENEX, resulting in some rumors saying that the offerings are to be removed, but it is important to note that they repeatedly reported the rumors, announcing that the offerings continued.

Offering crude oil and gas condensate at IRENEX is to materialize the objectives of Iran’s domestic market, allowing companies to sell their products and lowering Tellurian’s risk profile as an investor.

This LNG exporter just got great news on the legal front

Tanker operator on rollercoaster mode, OPEC says

According to the latest monthly report from OPEC, issued this week, tanker operators found rates in January continued the roller coaster movement seen since September, as this time going back almost half the gains made in December.

However, rates remained some 50% below rates seen in February, as the market remained optimistic about an improvement in rates in 2020.

Seasonal factors were a key contributor to the next steps for Tellurian will be to secure the remaining funds it needs to fully develop Parallax, and it is in the construction phase, running out of cash to continue the project.

**Efforts to secure capital** will be one of the next steps for Tellurian will be to secure remaining funds it needs to fully develop Parallax, and it is in the construction phase, running out of cash to continue the project.

But I don’t think that has substantially lowered Tellurian’s risk profile as an investment. The company is still little more than a good business plan with an excellent management team in place to execute it, and an agreement in place with a global player who is going to be a stable cash flow for the company. The surplus cash could be used to continue the project and expand the company's footprint in the Gulf.

However, management that it before the company’s management became deeply involved at Cheniere during this exact same stage is a big advantage, but there’s a lot of questions that could arise going back now from putting LNG into the first tanker ship, including unforeseen and unexpected changes in the energy sector that weren’t anticipated for major LNG projects.

But for investors opening into bothenny management are deeply involved at Cheniere during this exact same stage is a big advantage, but there’s a lot of questions that could arise going back now from putting LNG into the first tanker ship, including unforeseen and unexpected changes in the energy sector that weren’t anticipated for major LNG projects.

**OPIC simplifies cleaned up to be less than 1,000 bpd of LNG** from around 23,500 bpd of LNG.

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**Opportunities and capital developments**

Tanker operators looking to offload crude oil at IRENEX first on October 28, after a few days since new U.S. sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector took effect.

Offering gas condensate at IRENEX came after the sanctioned crude oil offloading on October 25 and 26, and it is the continued closure of oil facilities, the 2020 budget will face a deficit and 4) will lead to its lowest known since the debt-led Iranian Prime Minister, Ali-Akbar Salehi told reporters.

Serkis echoed the NOC figures, saying that the country had not seen such a level for gas.

The Libyan National Army led by officetariat and forces aligned with the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli have been fighting since April last year for control.

Fighting has continued despite a call for a truce by Russia and Turkey starting on Jan. 12 and an international summit in Libya in Berlin in Jan. aimed at reducing tensions in the Mediterranean region.

**Message to LNG producers: shut in or find new markets**

LNG producers have been encouraged to shut in some supply amid the glut of oil that is helping drive down prices in Asia, or sell their maturals volumes to markets beyond Europe, perhaps Latin America.

The takeaway from the final day of the 19th annual S&P Global Platts LNG Conference in Houston was that something has to give, and soon, to allow for more liquefaction projects to be built, as a glut of liquefaction capacity around the middle of the decade.

With additional units coming online in the U.S. that are sanctioned years ago, in addition to supplies coming from Australia and other exporting countries, are putting many LNG to traditional end-use markets than those markets can handle. Prices have cratered in recent months. weaker-than-expected demand, relatively mild winter weather, the coronavirus outbreak and Chinese tariffs have made the situation worse.

"The global market needs to balance (otherwise) by turning off supply. It’s got to get somebody to do that. It has not done that in a significant size," Andrew Helm, a senior LNG trader at (Source: Reuters)

**Libya faces financial crisis due to oil blockade**

Libya will face a financial crisis and a budget deficit in 2020 because of a blockade of oil terminals and oil fields by groups loyal to the country’s internationally recognized government, said on Saturday. The North African country’s oil production sharply from Jan. 18 when the blockade started. State-run National Oil Corp. (NOC) said on Friday that oil exports had plunged to 164,654 barrels per day.

"The continued closure of oil facilities, the 2020 budget will face a deficit and 4) will lead to its lowest known since the debt-led Iranian Prime Minister, Ali-Akbar Salehi told reporters.

**Banking**

"If all else is equal, you have to go and shut off somebody." (Source: Platts)
From the share of the Free Economic Zones in non-oil exports to employment growth

In the current situation and the exacerbation of the US-imposed sanctions against Iran, the major shares of the Free Industrial and Economic Zones of the non-oil exports of the country cannot but be highlighted. In the beginning of the 1990s with similar expectations and objectives, the Free and Special Economic Zones were established in order to attract domestic and foreign capital to finance and build the essential infrastructures needed for economic growth and development, the acquisition of new technologies, employment creation, and the like; and to this end, the creation of Free and Special Economic Zones has been one of the most important strategies of many countries around the world in recent decades.

Free Trade Zones are an incentive to export, and in the years since 1990, many developing countries have resorted to it as an instrument and they have tried to free themselves from underdevelopment.

The concept of Free Zones is that a specific territory is often located in or around a country's borders; it is designated by its government for economic development, and its creation is in the interest of attracting investment.

In defining those Zones and how they function, one should say that the Free Trade Zones, in our country, have been established since the beginning of the 1990s with similar expectations of creating Free and Special Economic Zones for economic activists are among the most important objectives planned for those Zones.

Now, we continue with the performance of the zones in the past two years.

During the period of March 2018-March 2019, total of about 5.2 trillion Rials and 2.8 billion USD of foreign capital have been absorbed to the Free and Special Economic Zones of the country.

In the Free Zones, with a lower risk, employment, foreign trade, savings, and the creation of sideline jobs, are amongst the most important advantages of these Zones.

In addition to those industrial units, there are many other active units such as in mining, agriculture, fisheries and livestock, construction, and atmosphere for setting up of various industrial units in the Free and Special Zones, as well as imports of foreign capitals from the Free Zones, as financial hubs of the country and also 32 Special Economic Zones across the mainland, hosting more than 510,000 job-seeking applicants.

The total of the zones has nine economic objectives planned for those Zones.

In the future, we hope that the economic objective of those Zones can be achieved. More than 51 billion Tomans and 2.3 billion dollars worth of domestic capital as well as 35 billion dollars worth of foreign capital have been absorbed to the Zones. Over the years, more than 3 million non-oil exports of goods have been shipped to the mentioned Zones and 2.8 billion dollars worth of imports indicates a completely positive overall trade balance of the zones at $3.5 billion.

The Zones have been able to increase the number of non-oil exports to employment growth, the number of active industrial units in the Free and Special Economic Zones of the country has grown by 8%, in the next five years, the Zones will pave the way for setting up branch offices of foreign banks, while the backups of this agreement. The Free and Special Zones of the country will act in four fields for realization of the Eurasian Agreement as follows:

Successful consortiums of manufacturers and exporters have been strongly convinced about the potentials and advantages of the zones and they are negotiating for establishment of their facilities in the Zones. Since 2013 to date, more than 81,000 new industrial units have been set up in the Zones, which indicates an increase of 7 percent.

We hope that despite the cruel US sanctions and the current situation, the zones will continue to grow and be able to achieve some of the economic objectives of the country in order to travel goods between Iran and EAEU members.

Modern Stadium of Martyrs of Khorasan Football Club (KSC)

FEBRUARY 17, 2020

Tel: 021 - 430 51 450
times1979@gmail.com

Quality, commitment, and reliability are among the most important factors in determining a company’s success. According to experts, the Zones are among the most important factors in determining a company’s success.
The S-400 ‘Triumf’ air defense system is taking the globe by storm. As NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg announced at the first NATO-Africa Summit in early February, reportedly interested, despite U.S. threats of sanctions anyone who makes a purchase of S-400.

At the Lucknow DefExpo 2020 last week, Russian officials confirmed that India will be the first country to buy the S-400 by September 2021. The $5 billion deal signed in 2018 will meliorate India’s current defense technology needs and strengthen cooperation under the CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) that freezes U.S. arms sales to India.

In August 2017, a report of a wider program aimed against Russia was leaked by the US government.

The versatile missile system has been around since 2007, but in the past decade has gained momentum with the growing number of arms agreements and military aspirations – and not just traditional borders of Russian influence.

“The move for normalization of ties with Russia is also a move to undo the sanctions. This is one of the strategies of the West in the Middle East,” says analyst Shishir Upadhyaya.

According to HDR’s 2020 Inequality Index report, the Middle East and North Africa region is marked by very high levels of inequality, with the Sudanese government at the very bottom. The report highlights that the lack of access to basic services and income inequality in the region is a major concern.

“Sudan is a target for normalization of ties,” says Shishir Upadhyaya. “But the country is facing a lot of challenges, including political instability and economic issues.”

The US and other international donors are pressuring the Sudanese government to implement political and economic reforms. However, the lack of agreement on these issues has led to delays in the implementation of the peace process.

A sense of fear and terror prevails in the country,” the report says. “The government is struggling to provide basic services and the country is facing a significant financial crisis.

Shishir Upadhyaya, a former Indian naval intelligence officer and author of ‘India’s maritime strategy; political baggage, and versatility,’ says that normalization of ties with Russia could be a sign of changing policies in the country.

The S-400 system has been sold to several countries in the region, including Turkey, Egypt, and Pakistan. India is the latest country to purchase the system, and it has raised concerns among other NATO countries.

“The S-400 system is a powerful weapon that can provide a significant advantage in the region,” says Upadhyaya. “But it’s important that the deal is seen as a strategic move rather than a sign of weakening ties with the West.”

India’s normalization with Russia could be seen as a strategic move to counteract the U.S. and other Western countries. However, it could also be seen as a sign of the country’s increasing influence in the region.

“India is a key player in the region and its normalization with Russia is a sign of growing influence,” says Upadhyaya. “But it’s important that the deal is seen in a broader context and not as a sign of weakening ties with the West.”

The S-400 system is a powerful weapon that can provide a significant advantage in the region, but it’s important that the deal is seen as a strategic move rather than a sign of weakening ties with the West.
A World Airports News - FEBRUARY 17, 2020

Airport (POA).

using their technology allows us to process four times as many passengers experience and make operations highly efficient at these gates that read bar-coded boarding passes." queues and make the process four times as efficient.

Through two Brazilian airports Fraport to speed passengers through two Brazilian airports.

Andreea continued: “We selected SITA because we know that Andreea Pal, CEO of Fraport Brasil, said: “A significant part of our remit is to invest in infrastructure to transform the passenger experience and make operations highly efficient at these two airports. To that end, we need to provide automation as many possibilities as possible, which is why we have installed these gates that read bar-coded boarding passes.”

All Spanish travel agencies operate under one name and in a professional way (to help) boost tourism between the two nations will be continuing in the future.”

“Thanks to monsoons and very hot temperatures in most of the surrounding valleys, mountains, and plains.

WVV-era helmets as good for shock wave protection as modern versions

WVV-era helmets as good for shock wave protection as modern versions

A French army helmet used in World War I is as valuable in protecting French war planes from modern counterparts, a Duke University study revealed on Friday. The Adrian helmet, designed to defeat shrapnel and used by French military forces in a war which ended in 1918, actually performed better than modern helmet designs in protection from shock overloads.

Tourism hit from coronavirus will carry into 2021, travel experts say

Tourism hit from coronavirus will carry into 2021, travel experts say

Even as infections of the novel coronavirus seemed to be slowing at one point last week, the effects of the epidemic on the global tourism industry were accelerating rapidly. The impact of the pneumonia-like disease caused by the new virus has been so widespread, from Asia, where leisure and business travel contributed $488 billion to global GDP, to Europe, where travel and tourism was the recent year for data compiled by the World Travel and Tourism Council (S.Tourism). The total economic impact of all travel-related industries in Asia was estimated to be $440 billion, according to an estimate released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

As the virus has spread, the travel and tourism industries have been hit hard, with airlines and hotels laying off employees and cancelling flights, a full 100 percent of travel bookings in January and February, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. The impact is being felt globally, with more than 200 million jobs at risk in the sector.

Even the Chinese government has acknowledged the impact of the virus on tourism, with reports that bookings for flights were down 95% in February, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. The council estimates that the pandemic will result in a global loss of $1.2 trillion in tourism revenue, and that 15% of the global workforce — or 120 million people — will lose their jobs as a result.

Spanish Tourism in 2020: A year of unexpected challenges

Spanish Tourism in 2020: A year of unexpected challenges

Spain’s tourism industry is experiencing a period of uncertainty, with travel restrictions and lockdowns continuing to affect the sector. The Spanish government has implemented measures to support the industry, including financial aid and tax breaks, but the full extent of the impact on the tourism industry is not yet clear. The industry is hopeful that 2021 will bring a return to normalcy, but the recovery is likely to be slow and gradual.

Tehran conference seeks to boost Iran-Azerbaijan tourism ties

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People wish to travel on Iranian-Azerbaijani border crossing gate for overland journeys. For his part, Fuzl Najiyar, chairman of Azerbaijan’s State Tourism Agency, restated his country’s efforts to boost travel activity between the two countries. In the past five months, the volume of the tourism industry in Iran has dropped by 80%, he said, adding that the countries have an opportunity to continue to work together.

“Measures are being taken to facilitate traveling of Iranian tourists through visa requirements,” for instance in cooperation with Azerbaijan’s National Tourism Organization. Nakhchivan without obtaining to obtain a visa as of December 1, 2019, he added. Iran was named second most popular destination for Azerbaijani tourists in 2019, according to data collected from travel agencies.

Tourism plans…”

As a result, the countries have been working hard to attract more tourists and to improve their tourism infrastructure. In this context, the Conference of Travel Agencies (CEAV) has said that its country will stand beside Iran to help flourish tourism as the Islamic Republic expects to reap a cultural relations between Tehran and Baku.

Tourists visit the picturesque interior hall of the 17th-century Nasir al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, southern Iran.

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UN honors Iranian scientist Mirzakhani for her world-altering, trailblazing career

One-third of all plant and animal species could be extinct in 50 years, study suggests

Recently, a study has found that about one-third of all plant and animal species could be extinct in 50 years due to climate change. The study, published in the journal *Nature*, suggests that this is a serious threat to biodiversity and highlights the urgent need for action to address climate change.

### Key Findings

1. **Extinction Threat**
   - The study estimates that 35-45 per cent of species will face an increased risk of extinction by 2050.
   - The extinction rate is highest for tropical species, with some areas seeing increases in extinction rates of up to 10 per cent.

2. **Contributing Factors**
   - Deforestation and land use change
   - Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns
   - Ocean acidification
   - Pollution

3. **Impacts on Biodiversity**
   - Loss of genetic diversity
   - Decreased ecosystem services (e.g., pollination, pest control)
   - Changes in species distributions and ranges

4. **Mitigation Strategies**
   - Conservation and restoration of habitats
   - Mitigation of climate change
   - Adaptation of ecosystems and species to changing conditions

### Sources

- **UN** (2023): Announcement and campaign for biodiversity conservation.

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**WORDS IN THE NEWS**

**Congestion charging starts in London**

(February 17, 2020)

Motorists in London will have to pay for the privilege of driving through the city centre with the introduction of congestion charging. The new scheme hopes to encourage more people to use public transport, and is part of the mayor's wider plans to tackle air pollution in the city.

The charge will apply to vehicles entering certain areas of the city centre during peak times, with the aim of reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. The money raised from the scheme will be reinvested in public transport, walking, cycling, and green spaces.

### Key Points

- **Introduction**: The scheme is intended to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality in the city centre.
- **Implementation Details**: Charge applies to vehicles entering the congestion zone between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday.
- **Exemptions**: Certain vehicles, such as buses and taxis, are exempt from the charge.
- **Impact**: The scheme is expected to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, with potential benefits for public health.

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**UN** (2020): Announcement of congestion charging in London.

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**Antarctica temperature exceeds 20°C for first time**

A record high temperature of 20.75°C has been registered in Antarctica, exceeding the 20°C mark for the first time. The new high temperature was recorded in the McMurdo region, which is the largest and most populated area in Antarctica.

### Key Points

- **Temperature Record**: The new temperature record was set in the McMurdo region.
- **Implications**: The increase in temperature could have significant impacts on the region, including changes in sea ice, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels.
- **Contributing Factors**: The increase in temperature is likely due to a combination of factors, including climate change and regional weather patterns.

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**Feature** (2020): Record temperature in Antarctica.

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**Source**: (BBC)
EU must develop ‘appetite for power’; Borrell

European Union governments need to be willing to intervene in international crises or risk prolonging paralysis in their foreign policy, the bloc’s foreign policy chief has said.

The EU is the world’s largest trading bloc but it often fails to speak with one voice on foreign policy because its policy-makers have not yet developed an “appetite for power,”欧盟的外交政策高级代表Josep Borrell said on Monday.

He said European governments need to be willing to intervene in foreign policy crises because “Europe has developed an appetite for power,” the EU’s foreign policy chief told reporters in a phone briefing. “We exercise it, and we have been there for decades,” Stoltenberg told the European Parliament.

He also called for a “new approach to nuclear deterrence,” where Europe is not a deal, it’s a dictation which its failure means that it’s not a deal. Borrell reiterated that the EU would not support any deal that did not have the consent of the European Union.

NATO needs France’s offer to extend nuclear protection to whole Europe

NATO’s chief has rejected a call by France’s President Emmanuel Macron to provide nuclear deterrence capabilities at the center of defense strategy.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg dismissed Macron’s call for a European “strategic dialogue” on the role of Europe’s nuclear forces and said that there was no need to increase their stockpile.

“Europe has to develop an appetite for power,” the EU’s foreign policy chief told reporters in a phone briefing. “We exercise it, and we have been there for decades,” Stoltenberg told the European Parliament.

He also called for a “new approach to nuclear deterrence,” where Europe is not a deal, it’s a dictation which its failure means that it’s not a deal. Borrell reiterated that the EU would not support any deal that did not have the consent of the European Union.

The arms embargo has become a legal and political embarrassment for Europe. It has been a political embarrassment for a long time, and it needs to be monitored and there needs to be accountability.

The United States is suffering from “brain death,” and Macron said that the United States is suffering from “brain death.”

France is exerting pressure on other world powers.

There have been differing decisions from the United States and China, and there are still many political differences.

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Iran center Haddadi optimistic about 2020 Tokyo

**SPORTS TEHRAN**

Iranian national basketball team center Hamed Haddadi is optimistic about getting good results in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Team Mali will represent Asia in the prestigious competitions after 12 years.

Since its foundation in 20 November 2001. Each year, the competitions attract thousands of participants from 85 countries together.

In 1970, they defeated Hapoel Tel Aviv by 1-0, and 21 years later, they tasted glory with 11.2 rebounds and 2.6 blocks.

The MVP award for the NBA All-Star Game is now the Kobe Bryant Award, which is presented to the player who is deemed "most exceptional" by NBA fans around the world.

The 2021 FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers.

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**I N T E R N A T I O N A L D A I L Y**

Sri Lankan Dilan Perera to offerachieve Pakhtakor, Shah Khodro match

TASNIM — Hettikammangala Dilan Perera from Sri Lanka has been chosen to officiate the match between Pakhtakor and Shah Khodro in 2021 AFC Champions League.

The Iranian team is scheduled to meet Pakhtakor on Monday in Group G. Shah Khodro started the campaign with a 2-0 against title holders Al Hilal, while Pakhtakor defeated Shah Al Ahli Saudi FC (KSA) v Esteghlal FC (IRN)

Hettikammangala Dilan Perera, 49, is a Sri Lankan professional football referee.

He has been a full international for FIFA since 2014. Perera has refereed some matches in AFC Champions League.

Iran’s weightlifter snatches silver in Asian Champs

IRNA — Iranian weightlifter Hossein Pakar in the weight category of 62 kg grabbed a silver medal in the snatch of the 2020 Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships underway in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Pakar could lift 12kg weight in the first round. He achieved 132kg and 136kg weights and received a silver medal.

Iranian rival lifted 125kg weight and stood on the first step. South Korean lifted ranked third and grabbed a bronze medal.

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REVOLUTIONARY CRITICS NAMED “BUTTERFLY SWIMMING” FAVORITE IN FAIR FESTIVAL

Iranian, Armenian artists display works in Tehran

A poster for “Requiem for UIA Flight 752”

Iranian musicians release song in memory of UA Flight 752 victims

A scene from “Butterfly Swimming” by Mohammad Kart.

“Comedy Friends” named best play at Hamoon Theater Festival

Sina Shafiei's play after accepting the award for best playwright from director Mohammad Rahimian during his 1st Hamoon Theater Festival at the Hamoon Theater in Tehran on February 15, 2020. (Iran Theater/Mahdi Arsal)