

Report 

Israeli attack on Gaza Strip an “indirect” use of “chemical weapons”

A prominent rights group has released the findings of its investigation into a “deliberate” Israeli attack on a warehouse storing agricultural and pharmaceutical products amounting to the “indirect deploying of chemical weapons.”

The revelations by Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq follows its extensive 18-month-long probe on the Israeli strike, which the NGO says has left local residents struggling with health problems.

On the evening of 15 May 2021, which coincided with the 73rd anniversary of the al-Nakba, the Israeli occupation forces bombed the Khudair Pharmaceuticals and Agricultural Tools Company in Beit Lahiya, the largest agricultural chemical warehouse in Gaza.

The regime forces is said to have fired artillery shells at the warehouse in the north of the besieged coastal enclave, setting hundreds of tons of pesticides, fertilizers, plastics, and nylons on fire.

The Khudair Warehouse stores around 50 percent of all vital agricultural chemicals used in the besieged strip.

The targeted attack caused a toxic cloud that engulfed an area of 5.7 square kilometers and leaving locals struggling with health issues that include reports of miscarriages as well as indications of environmental damage.

The lengthy report by the respected organization internationally and the leading NGO providing evidence to the International Criminal Court in The Hague investigating Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity analyzed both the attack and its impact, [▶ Page 5](#)

Report 

Tough mission ahead of Iran in AFC U23 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran football team will have a difficult task in the 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup which will begin on Wednesday in Uzbekistan.

Mehdi Mahdavi's men will open the campaign with a match against 2018 third-place finishers Qatar at the Bunyodkor Stadium in Group A.

Iran played two friendly matches with Iraq U23 football team in Baghdad last week as part of preparation for the AFC U23 Asian Cup, where they earned a 1-0 win and lost 3-1 in their second match.

Iran will also play newcomers Turkmenistan and hosts Uzbekistan on June 4 and 7, respectively.

“We know that we have been drawn in tough group. Unfortunately, we just played two friendlies with Iraq and two matches against the Iranian clubs but will do our best to get the results in the tournament,” Mahdavi said in the pre-match news conference.

The AFC U23 Asian Cup has served as a launch pad for some of the biggest icons in Asian and world football, which include Japanese and Liverpool ace Takumi Minamino, Iranians Mehdi Taremi and Alireza Beiranvand as well as AFC Asian Cup™ UAE 2019 winner and top goal scorer Almoez Ali of Qatar, with the 2022 edition well poised to unearth a new generation of future household names.

The 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup will be the 5th edition of the competition, a biennial international age-restricted football championship organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the men's under-23 national teams of Asia.

The tournament was scheduled for Jan. 6 to 24, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and rescheduled for June 1 to 19.

A total of 16 teams will compete in the tournament.

South Korea are the defending champions.

IAEA Report Rebuking Iran Highlights Malley Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

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© File photo

Iranian, Tajik private sectors to expand cooperation

TEHRAN — Iranian and Tajik private sectors inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on bilateral cooperation in Tehran on Monday.

The MOU was signed by Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, the chairman of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA), and Jumakhonzoda Jamshed Jurakhon, the chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan (CCI

RT), in the presence of the two countries' presidents.

The MOU was among the 17 documents of cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, trade, transportation, investment, new technologies, environment, sports, energy, judiciary, education and research, and tourism signed in the presence of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon.

Addressing a press conference held after signing the mentioned MOUs, President Raisi said, “Today's meetings paved the way for good decisions for relations between the two countries.”

“We have good relations with Tajikistan for various reasons, including neighborliness, common culture, religion, language and civilization,” he stated. [▶ Page 4](#)

Iran's chief negotiator visits Norway

TEHRAN— Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs and top negotiator at the Vienna talks visited Norway on Tuesday.

“Today, I departed for Oslo in continuation of recent regional and international consultations. Serious talks over bilateral, regional and international issues are on the agenda of this trip. We stress development of relations between Iran and Norway along with our efforts to secure [our] national interests including the removal of illegal sanctions,” he said on Twitter.

In this regard, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the trip is significant as the ongoing negotiations in Vienna to remove the U.S. sanctions on Iran is also on the agenda.

“It is a bilateral trip to Norway, with regional and international issues, as well as bilateral issues and issues related to the Vienna talks (are on the agenda),” the spokesman said on Tuesday during his weekly briefing.



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Esteghlal lift IPL trophy

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team posed for a photograph after winning title of Iran Professional League (IPL) Monday night.

The Blues, captained by Vouria Ghafouri, won the title after nine years.

Esteghlal also became the first team in history of the competition to win the title without suffering a single defeat.

Eager for a slice of village life? Iran is your taste

TEHRAN – There are numerous remote and off-beat villages on the Iranian plateau that attract throngs of visitors eager for a slice of village life, natural marvels, and a tradition of cleanliness.

Villages in Iran are stunning examples of what ancient Persians were capable of doing. Many of them have long histories and have been around for four-digit year counts.

These superb settlements represent slices of the history, knowledge, culture, art, and lifestyle

of Iran. Iranian villages are the top choices for a weekend gate-away and are much asked for among international tourists.

In recent years, a soaring number of travelers are looking for something different such as spending a day in tranquil countryside, picking fresh fruits, watching rice grow, fishing by the seaside, eating traditional dishes, or even staying with locals.

Moreover, the United Nations World Tourism

Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing.

The UN body aims to turn the spotlight on the “uniqueness” of each village to make tourism a means for further development in rural areas. “We want to recognize the uniqueness of each village and showcase the best initiatives to [▶ Page 6](#)

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Op-ed 

Holy Spider or sick spider?

By Maryam Ansari

For the first time, an Iranian woman won the Palme d'Or for Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival on May 29, 1401. This news could have filled people with delight and pride, but considering the film's features and the image it portrays of Iran and Iranians, it's debatable whether it's anything to be proud of.

The story is based on a true incident. It's directed by Ali Abbasi and portrays Zahra Amir Ebrahimi as the main character. The story revolves around a serial killer named Saeed Hanaei, who became known in Mashhad as “the spider killer,” and takes place between summer 1397 and August 2001. Due to their occurrence in Mashhad and the targeting of addicted women on the streets, these serial killings became extremely sensitive, eventually ending with the killer's arrest on April 17, 2002.

This narrative has already inspired a documentary called “And the Spider Came” and a film named “The Spider,” and Ali Abbasi is the third person to have gone for it. He is accused of plagiarism by Iraj Ebrahimzadeh, and he preferred to shoot his film in Jordan with Iranian and non-Iranian actors, with Germany, Sweden, and France participating.

But why did Ali Abbasi refuse to show the truth, as shown by documents and evidence presented in Saeed Hanaei's court? Why does the content of a detective-police movie about a murderer appear to be more of a political issue against Iranian culture and Islamic values than a movie about a killer?

It can be useful to see the description of Saeed Hanaei's courts. On September 22, 2001, the sitting court requested [▶ Page 8](#)

Census plan for illegal Afghans extended

TEHRAN – A plan on the census of illegal Afghans residing in Iran has been extended until June 22, Majid Mirahmadi, the deputy interior minister, has said, noting that 1.5 million undocumented Afghan refugees have so far been counted.

Afghan immigrants can more easily participate in this project and receive a six-month residence and travel card in Iran, he further announced.

The census of illegal citizens is being carried out for the first time in this style in the Islamic Republic with the aim of obtaining accurate statistical information on the number of these citizens and identifying them, which has been very well received, he explained.

Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. [▶ Page 7](#)

IAEA report disregards Iran's close cooperation: envoy

Mohammad Reza Ghaebi says the report is “one-sided”

TEHRAN- A recent assessment by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, according to Iran's permanent representative to the Vienna-based International Organizations, is one-sided and fails to reflect Iran's considerable cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog.

Mohammad Reza Ghaebi made the remarks on Monday after the IAEA assessed Iran's enriched uranium stockpile had increased to more than 18 times the limit set based on the 2015 nuclear accord signed between Tehran and the 5+1 group.

The 2015 nuclear pact, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), set a maximum of 300 kg (660 pounds) of a certain chemical, which is comparable to 202.8 kg of uranium.

The UN nuclear agency's director-general, Rafael Grossi, also alleged that Iran was continuing to enrich uranium to levels greater than the 3.67 percent limit set in the historic agreement.

It seems that Grossi has ignored that fact that it was Trump's White House that quit the JCPOA in May 2018 in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the agreement. Apparently, he is also oblivious of the fact that Iran remained fully loyal to its commitments even one year after Trump abandoned the agreement and imposed the harshest sanctions in history against Iran in line wit his maximum pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic.

“The IAEA Director-General's report does not reflect Iran's extensive cooperation with the IAEA,” Ghaebi stated.

“The report concludes exactly what the Director-General presented to the European Parliament before the third round of technical talks, even before the end of the steps set out in the joint statement,” he added.

Iran's representative said the report continues to rely on the Agency's predetermined assumptions and presents its one-sided conclusion accordingly, by ignoring the Iranian side's detailed, reasoned, and technical arguments and unfairly dismissing them as invalid.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this approach unconstructive and destructive to the close relations and ongoing cooperation between Iran and the IAEA,” Ghaebi underlined. “And believes that the IAEA should realize the ruinous consequences of publishing such one-sided reports, which could provide the necessary excuse for opponents of Iran-IAEA relations as well as the sworn critics of the revival of the JCPOA.”

In a separate report released on Monday, the IAEA claimed that it still had unanswered issues about previously undeclared nuclear material at three Iranian locations.

Iran has presented the explanation of the “act of sabotage by a third party to contaminate” the locations, according to the report, but no proof has been provided to back it up.

Ghaebi said the Islamic Republic's entire peaceful nuclear activities have been carried



out within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and in accordance with legal compensatory measures in the law adopted by the Iranian parliament following the suspension of Iran's nuclear obligations due to non-fulfillment of obligations by other parties, referring to the IAEA's second report.

“Therefore, the Agency will not gain access to the memory information of its deployed cameras and other information in this regard until an agreement is reached for the revival of the JCPOA,” Ghaebi underscored.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly warned IAEA officials not to reveal detailed information on the country's nuclear activities, citing the importance of the principle of confidentiality in IAEA regulations, according to the senior diplomat, but the issue has not received serious attention from the IAEA.

The report comes as talks in Vienna, Austria, to resurrect the historic 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers are still deadlocked.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's senior negotiator at the Vienna negotiations, responded to the UN agency's reports being leaked to the media, saying that the measure would lead to a lot of speculation before and during the IAEA Board of Governors meeting next week.

“As always, the IAEA Director General's reports on Iran were immediately leaked to mass media today. We can expect a lot of speculations in the days to come and heated debates in the IAEA Board of Governors next week,” Ulyanov wrote.

Since April 2021, many rounds of negotiations between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, and Russia — have been conducted in the Austrian capital to re-enter the pact. American diplomats are not allowed to participate in the negotiations since the U.S. illegally withdrew from the agreement.

The U.S. has refused to repair previous wrongs, including removing Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) off its list of foreign terrorist organizations as well as putting talks on pause since March.

Iran asserts that the designation of the IRGC in 2019 was part of former President Donald Trump's so-called “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran, and that it must be overturned immediately.

The Joe Biden administration disagrees, despite admitting on several times that Trump's maximum pressure policy has been a disaster. It has kept the IRGC designation and economic penalties as leverage in negotiations.

Foreign Ministry: Israelis must be worried, even in their beds



TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has issued a stark warning to the Israeli regime.

Speaking at his weekly press briefing held on Tuesday, Saeed Khatibzadeh said, “We know who carried out the assassination of martyr Sayyad Khodaei, and who the third party is, and from the ways in which it should have received the desired messages, and it must know that it will receive a crushing response.”

In response to a question about the travel

warning notice of the Israeli regime to Turkey due to fear of an Iranian revenge in response to the assassination of Khodaei, the spokesman said, “They should be worried even in their beds.”

“U.S. not united in words and actions”

Elsewhere in the briefing, Khatibzadeh responded to a question on the Vienna talks.

He said that the United States is continuing with all components of the failed “maximum pressure” campaign on the Iranian people while sending a message and pretending to the world that it wants to return to the JCPOA.

“We are not facing a party that has a single decision, voice and behavior, and this has made the Vienna talks difficult, complicated and slow. The fact is that the window of opportunity will not remain open forever. We both know that the United States and Europe know that this window of opportunity will not be open forever,” he underlined.

Iran FM: I told Harris in Munich to let us know if rioters are to rule WH after Biden

TEHRAN — Speaking at a seminar titled “Balanced Foreign Policy in Imam Khomeini's School” on Tuesday, Iran's foreign minister revealed the message he had given through an intermediary counterpart to U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris during the Munich Security Conference in February.

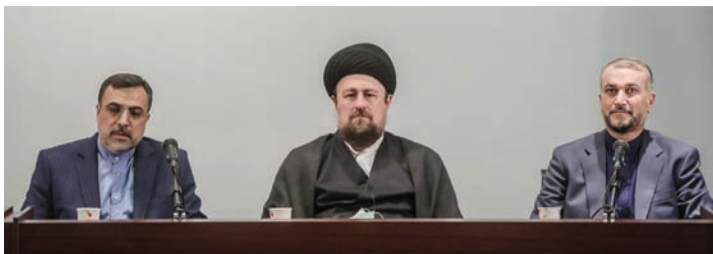
Hossein Amir Abdollahian also said the negotiations in Vienna to remove the sanctions on Iran by the United States are still underway, and non-papers are still being exchanged between Iran and the U.S. through the EU coordinator, Enrique Mora.

At the beginning of his remarks, the Foreign Minister referred to “Neither the East nor the West” slogan used by Imam Khomeini at the early stages of the Islamic Revolution, noting, “When we speak of neither the East nor the West, which is something explicitly stated in the Constitution, we mean neither isolationism nor distance from East and West, nor negation of the East and the West. In the foreign policy of this government, it is stated that the main goal is not to be dependent on either the East or the West.”

Amir Abdollahian said that after expressing the approach of looking at Asia with the priority of neighbors in the new government, some criticisms were raised.

“We are not selling the country to China or Russia,” he told the seminar held at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini in southern Tehran.

He then said, “After the Ukraine war, when I traveled to Russia due



to a misunderstanding in the Vienna talks, I told Lavrov clearly that we are independent in our foreign policy.”

According to the foreign minister, during the Ukraine war, the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal told Iran that even if an agreement is reached and approved by Tehran, Russia would not approve of the deal due to the Ukraine war and the consequences it might face.

“I immediately contacted Lavrov, and a few days later we met in Moscow on the basis of an appointment we had made, and we made clear to Lavrov Iran's position that we were acting completely independently in our foreign policy, in accordance with our national interests. Our goal is that Russia would play a constructive role in the talks whenever we reach an agreement, as Russia did from the beginning of this round of talks. Of course, we said that we are clear and cannot bear anything against the national interests of the country,” he elaborated.

Amir Abdollahian added that overall, Iran gained confidence that the assumption of some Western countries cannot be entirely true.

“Even at a press conference, Lavrov explicitly stated, and in our

diplomatic talks, it was stated that at any point of time the Islamic Republic of Iran declares that we approve the content of the agreement, Russia will immediately be present in Vienna alongside the other member states of the agreement and will declare its support,” the foreign minister noted.

According to the foreign minister, the pause in the Vienna talks is due to the Americans' unilateral sanctions.

“Our negotiations and the exchange of messages are done through Mora, the EU representative, constantly. There has barely been a week that we have not exchanged at least one or two indirect messages between us and the United States to clear up any ambiguities and obstacles on how to lift the sanctions,” he noted.

Amir Abdollahian added, “Less than three months ago, when I was in Munich, senior U.S. officials present in Munich were interested in having a direct conversation with the Iranian Foreign Minister, and their message was that we could use the current situation to take the negotiations one step forward and fix the deal”

He underlined that in order for Iran to respond to the other side, the first point he made was that the United States must put into practice the

message that Biden repeatedly sends through the European Union and some regional or European foreign ministers that he has good faith.

“Biden says he disapproves Trump's approach and he must show this in practice, and we must see the difference between Biden's approach and performance in comparison to Trump in practice,” Iran's top diplomat said.

“I asked the foreign minister who was trying to broker a negotiation between me and U.S. officials to tell the senior U.S. officials in Munich, both Kamala Harris and (Anthony) Blinken, why in the negotiations, with all the effort that has been put in, you often say that we cannot guarantee that what we will agree can be fulfilled by the next government. I told the said foreign minister to tell Ms. Kamala Harris that if there was going to be a group of rioters ruling the White House after you, please let us know.”

He added the even if there was a group of rioters in the White House, based on international law, they should adhere to international commitments.

“It is not legally or even politically acceptable for a stable government to come to an agreement, but to say before returning to the agreement that it has no obligation regarding the next government. This may be acceptable to some, given the realities of the American structure, but we have made it clear to them that we are committed,” Amir Abdollahian underscored.

Greece warns oil tankers to avoid waters near Iran

TEHRAN – Greece has warned oil tankers and other vessels flying the country's flag to avoid sea waters close to Iran following the seizure of two Greek-flagged oil tankers by Iranian forces last week.

Ioannis Plakiotakis, Greece's shipping minister, told the Financial Times he had issued a “strong recommendation” to Greece-flagged vessels to avoid all “sea waters under Iran's jurisdiction” in a move that had the potential to destabilize tanker markets at a time when oil prices were already at the highest level in a decade.

Greece is a shipping powerhouse with almost a

quarter of all oil supertankers sailing under its flag. The Strait of Hormuz, which separates Iran from the Persian Gulf states, is just 21 miles wide at its narrowest point and accounts for about a third of all seaborne global oil trade daily.

Last month Athens seized the Pegas oil tanker for carrying Iranian crude. U.S. authorities are reported to have last week taken the Iranian crude from the tanker. Iran has indicated its action in seizing the tanker was designed primarily to discourage other countries in helping the U.S. seize its oil.

Officials in Tehran has said the seizure was in retaliation for Greece's move in seizing the Pegas

tanker off its coast and then transferring its cargo to the United States. However, Iran has indicated it has no intention to antagonize Greece.

“Our ties [with Greece] must not be hampered by deeply shortsighted miscalculations, including highway robbery on the command of a third party,” said Saeed Khatibzadeh, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a post on Twitter on Saturday.

In July 2019, Iran also captured a British-flagged ship in the Strait of Hormuz. The move was in response to the seizure of the Iranian oil-carrying vessel Grace 1 by Britain near Gibraltar nearly two weeks earlier.

Iran's Qalibaf and Tajik president push for closer ties

TEHRAN- In a meeting late on Monday, Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon stressed the need to strengthen connections with an emphasis on more political, economic, scientific, and technical collaboration.

Ghalibaf said while ties between

the two nations have improved significantly in recent months, they are still far from where they should be.

He expressed optimism that economic relations between the two countries will improve in the near future, particularly with the private sector's activation.

The Tajik president said Iran had

made significant progress in recent years. “The progress of the Islamic Republic in peaceful nuclear technology and the ineffectiveness of sanctions shows the progress of your country and we are ready to cooperate with Iran in various fields,” the Tajik leader pointed out.

President Rahmon made a two-day trip to Iran starting on Sunday

afternoon. Leading a high-level delegation, he met lengthy talks with President Ebrahim Raisi, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber.

During his stay in Tehran, 17 cooperation documents were signed between the two countries.



IAEA report rebuking Iran highlights Malley self-fulfilling prophecy

TEHRAN – In what appeared a concerted effort to turn up the heat on Tehran, the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog has released a new report admonishing Iran for allegedly not giving answers to questions raised indirectly by Israel.

While talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), still hang in the balance due to U.S. stonewalling over a range of issues raised by Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released its fresh report on the state of cooperation with Tehran. It accused Iran of not providing credible explanations on three sites in which uranium particles have been allegedly found.

“Iran has not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the Agency’s findings at those locations,” the report said according to Reuters. It added, “The Agency remains ready to engage without delay with Iran to resolve all of these matters.”

The report couldn’t come at a more delicate moment for the state of play between Iran and the IAEA. Next week, the IAEA’s 35-nation Board of Governors will meet. And some media and diplomatic circles are already pushing for a censure against Iran in the meeting. Reuters said that development could set up a new diplomatic clash with the West.

Iranian officials said the IAEA report does not reflect the level of cooperation between Iran and the Agency. Mohammad Reza Ghaebi, the acting head of Iran’s permanent representative to the Vienna-based International Organizations,



said the report is one-sided and fails to reflect Iran’s considerable cooperation with the IAEA.

In its first reaction to the report, France called on Iran to provide answers to the IAEA questions on its past nuclear activities.

The report, coupled with an Israel-orchestrated campaign targeting Iran-IAEA relations, seems to be part of a plan aimed at tightening the loose on Iran amid growing frustrations over the Vienna talks.

On May 24, the Wall Street Journal claimed that Iran used secret IAEA records to evade nuclear probes. Citing Middle East intelligence officials and documents, the paper alleged that “Iran secured access to secret United Nations atomic agency reports almost two decades ago and circulated the documents among top officials who prepared cover stories and falsified a record to conceal suspected past work on nuclear weapons.”

It didn’t identify its “Middle East intelligence officials”, but it seems that they were from Israel.

On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett published alleged Iranian documents that are very much aligned with the Journal report.

The kerfuffle over Iran-IAEA cooperation comes at a time when the Vienna talks over reviving the JCPOA have come to a standstill, with American officials getting filled with dismay by the never-ending lull in the talks. And this lull is the direct outcome of the U.S. behavior in the Vienna talks.

The U.S. accused Iran of presenting demands that fall beyond the scope of the 2015 nuclear pact, an allegation Iran denies. Iranian officials said that they demanded the U.S. do certain measures to enable Iran to fully benefit from any sanctions relief under the JCPOA.

The U.S. blame game has now brought the talks to a halt. In his recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the U.S. Special Envoy for Iran stuck a pessimistic note on the Vienna talks.

“As I speak to you today, we do not have a deal with Iran and

prospects for reaching one are, at best, tenuous,” Rob Malley told senators. He blamed the lull in talks on Iran, saying that if Iran maintains demands that go beyond the scope of the JCPOA, there will be no deal.

This assessment is similar to what he said in a previous, closed-doors briefing in Congress in which he said that he wouldn’t bet on any successful conclusion of the talks.

This is while many pundits and officials believe that the conclusion of the talks depends on the U.S. making political decisions required to resolved some outstanding issues.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Permanent Representative of Russia to International Organizations in Vienna, said Tuesday that the ball is now in the U.S. court. “The #ViennaTalks on #JCPOA remain on pause since March 10. According to mass media reports, Iran during the recent visit of the #EU Coordinator to Tehran demonstrated certain degree of flexibility and now waits for a response from the US side. The ball is in #Washington’s court,” he said on Twitter.

However, Iran continues its diplomatic efforts. Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran’s chief negotiator, left Tehran for Oslo on Tuesday. “Today, I departed for Oslo in continuation of recent regional and international consultations. Serious talks over bilateral, regional and international issues are on the agenda of this trip. We stress development of relations between Iran and Norway along with our efforts to secure [our] national interests including the removal of illegal sanctions,” he said on Twitter.

Greece detained Iranian oil tanker to curb Iran oil exports: lawmaker

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has said that in the new alignments taking shape in the region Greece sided with Saudi Arabia and detained an Iranian oil tanker with the aim of reducing Iranian oil supplies.

The lawmaker, Ahmad Ali Reza Beigi, called the Greek seizure of the Iranian oil tanker a “piracy” that was part of regional rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Nearly a month ago, Greece seized an Iranian-flagged oil tanker off its coast and then transferred its cargo to the United States. Reuters reported Thursday that the United States has confiscated Iranian oil held on a Russian-operated ship near Greece and will send the cargo to the United States aboard another vessel.

The Iranian-flagged ship, the Pegas, was among five vessels designated by Washington on Feb. 22 – two days before the start of the war in Ukraine for sanctions against Promsvyazbank, a bank viewed as critical to Russia’s defense sector, according to Reuters.

The Greek move was quickly rejected by Iran as “piracy.”

“What Greece has done is part of regional rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Greece detained the Iranian oil tanker due to its relations with Saudi

Arabia,” Beigi said. “In the new alignments that has taken shape Greece sided with Saudi Arabia and this move was aimed to restrict the possibility of Iran supplying the global market with oil”

He called on the government to react to the Greek move because if this move goes unanswered Iran’s oil exports will be disrupted.

Yaghoub Rezazadeh, another lawmaker who is member of the Iranian parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, called on the Iranian Foreign Ministry to take “the Greek piracy” to international institutions.

“The Greek government seized Iran’s oil tanker without considering international relations, development of friendship and interaction with Iran,” he said, according to ICANA. “Unfortunately, European countries, at the instigation of the United States, have taken actions against Iran in violation of international law.”

Rezazadeh said the Greece should certainly be held accountable for its seizure of the Iranian oil tanker. “Confiscation of the Iranian oil tanker in high seas is condemned in the international arena. However, the Greek government is not in a position to take any action against the interests of our country, and we will certainly respond to this unfriendly action of the Greek government,” he added.

No date set for next round of talks with Saudi Arabia: spokesman

TEHRAN – Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said on Tuesday that no date has been set for the next round of talks with Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, Khatibzadeh said, “The date of the sixth round of talks with Saudi Arabia has not been determined yet, and we have to see in which direction the agreements reached are moving.”

He added, “In the field of Hajj, agreements have been implemented and we hope that our pilgrims will have a peaceful Hajj. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the relevant institutions, has made every effort, despite the time constraints, to provide a peaceful and pleasant Hajj for our pilgrims with the cooperation of different parts of Saudi Arabia. We need to see how we move forward in other areas of the agreement and then talk about it.”

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Sunday that a Foreign Ministry team

has been tasked to facilitate Hajj pilgrimage by Iranian citizens.

“The Consular and Iranian Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has dedicated all its capacity to facilitate the Hajj pilgrimage for the pilgrims and the executive officials of the pilgrimage from the beginning to the end of their departure,” Amir Abdollahian said in a meeting with officials from the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization and Foreign Ministry.

At the meeting issues related to sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia to perform the 145th Hajj ritual were discussed.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the efforts of the Foreign Ministry at various levels to facilitate the departure of Iranian pilgrims for this year’s Hajj and to participate in this great divine ritual.

Iran’s top diplomat also stated that the ministry under his leadership will send a consular delegation to Saudi Arabia for this purpose.

Amir Abdollahian expressed the

hope that this year’s ritual would be glorious and peaceful with the help of Saudi officials.

The fifth round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia was held on April 21 in Baghdad with the presence of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. The talks had been put on hold since September last year.

The Iranian delegation was led by Saeed Irvani, an assistant to the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council for international affairs. And the Saudi delegation was headed by Khalid al-Humaidan, the director general of the General Intelligence Directorate.

The Arabic service of Russia Today quoted an Iraqi source as saying that al-Kadhimi attended the meeting between the Saudi and Iranian security delegations in Baghdad.

The source added that “the two sides agreed to end the security negotiations, and they will move to diplomatic negotiations.”

The source pointed out that “it is expected that the sixth meeting will

be held on Iraqi soil.”

The source continued, “The meeting was positive, and they agreed on a set of points of de-escalation between Riyadh and Tehran.”

Iran has hailed the talks as “positive” and “forward-moving.”

“The fifth round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia in Baghdad was held last Thursday with the efforts of the Iraqi government and the preparations and assistance of the Omani government, and the talks were forward-moving and positive,” Khatibzadeh said in April.

He added, “The frameworks that have been pre-planned were thoroughly discussed in these talks. And the talks were serious. If they are upgraded to the political level a bit, we can rapidly witness serious progress in various fields within the framework of the negotiations.”

The spokesman also raised the possibility of a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia. But he said, “We are not there yet.”

Iran’s air pistol team win gold at ISSF World Cup

TEHRAN – The Iranian men’s air pistol team won the gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup 2022 in Baku on Tuesday.

Iranian men’s air pistol team with Javad Foroughi, Mohammad Rasoul Efati, and Sajjad Pourhosseini defeated Italy’s Paolo Monna, Luca Tesconi and Federico Nilo Maldini 16-10 in the final.

The bronze medal went to Germany who beat Uzbekistan 16-6.

The competition has brought more than 700 athletes from 66 countries together in Azerbaijan capital.

Iran cancels women’s volleyball training camp in Vancouver

TEHRAN – Iran volleyball federation announced the training camp of the county’s women’s volleyball team in Vancouver, Canada has been canceled.

Iran was scheduled to hold a preparatory camp in late June in Vancouver but the federation has called off the camp.

Team Melli was due to play two friendly matches with Canada and Mexico as part of preparation for the 2022 Asian Women’s Volleyball Cup in the Philippines.

Iran is in Group A along with the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam and China.

Iran volleyball federation has canceled the camp in response to Canada Soccer’s decision to cancel the friendly match with Iran football team in Vancouver slated for June 5.

Head of Iran football federation to be elected on Aug. 30

TEHRAN – The head of Islamic Republic of Iran Football Federation (IRIFF) will be elected on Aug. 30.

The assembly of the football federation was held in Tehran’s Olympic Hotel Tuesday morning and the representatives of FIFA and AFC as well as IRIFF’s members attended the gathering.

Shahaboddin Azizi Khadem was removed from the presidency of IRIFF in February, a year later he had been appointed as president.

The federation is running by Mirshad Majedi as acting president.

Iran names -20 man list for FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Newly-appointed head coach Saeid Armaghani has invited 20 players to Iran basketball team for the third window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers.

The window is inching closer and closer and with that, national federations from competing nations have begun to announce player rosters.

Iran are scheduled to play Kazakhstan and Syria on July 1 and 4, respectively in Group D.

*Iran squad:

Sajjad Mashayekhi, Sina Vahedi, Rasoul Mozafari, Ehsan Dalirzahan, Behnam, Yakhchali, Navid Rezaeifar, Navid Khajehzadeh, Amir Taherkhani, Mohammad Jamshidi, Amirhossein Yazarloo, Matin Aghajanpour, Arman Zangeneh, Jalal Agha Miri, Mohammad Yousofvand, Masoud Soleymani, Hamed Haddadi, Arsalan Kazemi, Salar Monji, Mohammad Hassanzadeh, Aaron Geramipoor

The top three teams from all groups will be grouped in two groups of six teams, where each team will face teams from another group. Results from the first round will be carried.

The top three teams from each group, along with hosts Japan and the Philippines, will qualify for the World Cup. However, if hosts Indonesia manage to qualify by virtue of making through the quarterfinals of the 2022 FIBA Asia Cup, only the top two teams from each group, along with the best third-place team will qualify.

Khatoon Bam win Kowsar Women Football League

TEHRAN – Khatoon Bam claimed the title of the 2021/22 Kowsar Women Football League.

A total of 12 teams competed for top honor and Khatoon won the title with one match remaining with 58 points, followed by Shahrdari Sirjan (54 points) and Sepahan (50).

Khatoon, formerly Shahrdari Bam, are the most decorated team in the league, winning eight titles out of 14 editions.

Khatoon Bam will represent Iran at the 2022 AFC Women’s Club Championship.

Women’s football in Iran is very popular. Football has been a part of life for Iranians for many decades now and is played in schools, alleys, streets and football clubs nationwide.

Women in Iran are increasingly inclined to play football, and with this increasing popularity it is only a matter of time before a more secure infrastructure develops.

The Iran women’s national football team compete internationally.

The national team participated at the 2022 AFC Women’s Asian Cup for the first time ever.

Friendly: Iran to play Uruguay on June 12

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will reportedly play Uruguay on June 12 in Montevideo.

The match will take place at the Estadio Centenario.

Iran was scheduled to play Canada in Vancouver on June 5 but Canada Soccer canceled the match last week.

Iran is drawn with England, the US and one of Scotland, Ukraine or Wales in the 2022 FIFA World Cup while Uruguay is in Group H with Portugal, South Korea and Ghana.

Qatar U23 coach Cordova satisfied with his team’s preparatory

TEHRAN – Qatar U23 coach Nicolas Cordova says they have a good young generation ahead of the match against Iran in the AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022.

Qatar will meet Iran on Wednesday in Group A in Tashkent. The likes of Almoez Ali and Akram Afif first impressed in the 2018 AFC U23 Asian Cup before going on to steer Qatar to the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 title and Cordova, who took over the reins from Felix Sanchez, is confident his new generation of players can make their mark as well.

“We know that it’s going to be a tough tournament,” said Chilean Cordova. “The qualification itself was tough. All the teams have the potential to win the tournament.

“We have a good young generation. Still, we have to take into consideration that we’re participating with a younger team than usual, which is part of our long-term project to prepare them. I’m sure the future will be the same, where we have good players moving to the national team.”

Cordova said Qatar, who finished third in 2018, had prepared well for the tournament, including having played several friendlies.

“We are generally satisfied with the games (friendlies), because we always look for opportunities to improve and be better. The teams in this tournament are very good, but it’s about ourselves and competing in our best way.

“We can’t talk about the minimum (target), but the maximum target is to prepare for each game in the best way and to be ready and competitive. If we are well prepared, we can aim to go far.”



ICCIMA Chairman Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and CCI RT Chairman Jumakhonzoda Jamshed Jurakhon sign co-op MOU in Tehran on Monday.

Iranian, Tajik private sectors to expand cooperation

From page 1 ► Pointing out that good steps have been taken in other areas, especially the implementation of the memorandums signed in Dushanbe, Raisi said, “The two countries have a serious determination and will to develop political, economic, trade, cultural and interaction in the fields of energy, tourism, water and natural resources and science and technology.”

According to Raisi, improving the level of bilateral relations can lead to the strengthening of regional and international interactions.

“The development of relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries can be promising for the two nations and interests of the two countries,” the Iranian president stated.

For his part, Tajik President Rahmon expressed satisfaction with his visit to the ancient land of Iran.

He described the meeting and the talks in Tehran as a continuation of the ongoing bilateral efforts to expand relations in line with the interests of the two countries.

The official said, “Today, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and respect, we had fruitful discussions and discussed the most important topics for relations between Tajikistan and Iran.”

Referring to the long-term cooperation document between the two countries which is set to end on 2030, Rahmon noted, “During today’s visit, good agreements were signed in various economic and trade fields, as well as the activities of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Council and the Joint Investment Committee.”

“I am confident that these agreements will give new momentum to the two countries’ cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, trade, investment and culture,” he underlined.

Concluding his remarks, Rahmon said, “Bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation between the two countries within the framework of regional and international organizations can help address common concerns of the two countries in these areas.”

More than 25m tons of steel products produced in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, 25,205,100 tons of steel products was produced in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), falling five percent from the output in year 1399.

Also as announced by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the country exported 3.406 million tons of steel products in the past year, while the figure was 2.832 million tons in year 1399.

Iran has maintained its place as the world’s 10th biggest steel producer during January-March 2022, according to the latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA).

Production of crude steel in Iran reached 6.9 million tons during the mentioned three months, registering a 4.4 percent decline year on year, the report said.

Iran’s monthly crude steel output stood at 2.3 million tons in March, falling 6.1 percent compared



to the figure for March 2021.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world’s top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world’s top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

Over 33m tons of goods loaded, unloaded in ports during 2 months

TEHRAN – As announced by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, 33,060,309 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports of Iran during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21).

The ministry’s data show that 16,117,273 tons oil products and 16,943,036 tons of non-oil commodities, as well as 382,270 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container goods were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the two-month period.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, loading and unloading of goods in the ports

of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

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

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

The loading and unloading of



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

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

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports

and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country’s ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of the country’s ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

Iran, India to diversify channels of payments to expand trade: envoy

TEHRAN- Iran and India are trying to diversify the channels of payments to expand the bilateral trade, Iranian ambassador to India stated.

In an exclusive interview with Financial Express Online, Ali Chegeni said, “We are trying to diversify the channels of payments and accordingly wish to extend and expand an already existing mechanism in order to cover all of the goods and services including all of non – oil goods and to achieve this”.

During the past two years, because of Covid restrictions, we pursue the issue via virtual dialogues and currently our officials are following the matter through the exchange of delegations, the envoy stated.

Answering to a question that if Iran is ready to export crude oil to India, the ambassador said that Iran has always been a reliable energy partner to its customers and is ready to resume its normal export of its oil, gas and petrochemical products to international markets. To India, Iran has also been a major exporter of oil until imposition of illegal, brutal and unilateral sanctions.

In the current situation and after the recent events which has had some impacts on oil and gas market, and henceforth the intense increase in oil global prices, countries like India urgently need to diversify the suppliers, and without any doubt, Iran can play a significant role in meeting parts of the needs and requirements of the global market, he added.

It is worth noting that the exportation of Iran oil has never been disrupted and we are still selling our oil to the customers. More importantly, current oil supply shortages make Iran oil even more indispensable than before. Indian companies either from the public or private sectors are also fully aware of Iran’s capacities and readiness in this respect and of course, it is upon them to take forward the necessary steps, the envoy stated.

“We want to develop our economic and trade relations beyond energy and petrochemical products. Since due to the complementarity of Iran and India economies, an extensive range of non – oil trade exists between two sides including



trade on goods and services, investment, tourism, education and ... which may pave the way for multiplying our economic relations ten times more than current relations in mid and long terms”, Chegeni said.

It’s worth noting that Iran as an old friend of India never participated in any sanction against it and accordingly the reasonable, least expectation of Iranian people is to see the same act from their Indian friends, he further underlined.

In terms of Iran-India cooperation in development of Iran’s Chabahar Port and the railway line that was under discussion with India, the Iranian ambassador said, “Let me begin by answering the second part of your question. More than 70 percent of the Chabahar – Zahedan railway has been finished and is ready for utilization. The remaining part has still been advanced by Iran authorities and certainly it will be completed soon with or without the other’s participation. However, we would rather terminate this project with the close association of our Indian friends particularly in developing superstructure equipment”.

“On Chabahar Port, first of all, I should underline the great extent of the recent developments as such we cannot view Chabahar solely as a port and it is better to name it a “zone” in order to consider its vastness and the great facilities embedded in it”, he answered.

Moreover, Chabahar port is not limited to itself and indeed it is a small but of course important part of INSTC which connects Caucasus, Eurasia,

central Asia and south Asia landlocked countries to the Indian Ocean. Regarding this, various countries have announced their readiness to cooperate with Iran in developing this project and in fact Iran has begun its collaboration with several countries like Russia and Azerbaijan, he explained.

“Two grand ports of Chabahar, meaning Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari have been operationalized and IPGL Company of India is installing some superstructures in Shahid Beheshti dockyard and ships actually use both ports to load and unload their convoys. In this regard we have witnessed the significant multiplication of transportation capacities during the last three years. By these potentials and capabilities, we are sure Chabahar will be much more active and operational than before”, the ambassador further highlighted.

Recently the Indian Government appointed a new active team for IPGL in Shahid Beheshti port of Chabahar that is a good signal to promote the activities and quality of services for said company in its functions, he announced.

“Despite these great achievements, both countries’ leaders expect us to speed up our efforts and hence we must accelerate our activities to end the project as fast as possible, particularly in an urgent situation in which we witness rapid regional and global changes”, he said, adding, “For instance the credit line which has been pledged by India for financing Chabahar related projects has not been fully realized yet. Naturally by preparation of the mentioned infrastructure in near future, Indian friends can contribute in developing the railroad by supplying the required superstructure equipment”.

In this regard, the exchange visits of different officials and high-ranking delegations of the two countries will be a great opportunity to find ways to accelerate the process of cooperation as well as to promote the use of this “golden gateway” for both countries and the region, the envoy concluded.

ICOFC to benefit from scientific capacities of Kermanshah to nullify sanctions

TEHRAN- The managing director of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) said his company will benefit from the capacities of the scientific institutions and knowledge-based enterprise of the western Kermanshah province properly to fill the gap created by the sanctions.

Making the remarks in a meeting with the governor-general of Kermanshah province on Monday, Mehdi Heidari also stressed that ICOFC takes all its efforts to implement the upstream oil and gas development plans based on the policies of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Addressing the meeting, which was held to explore and discuss the issues related to the development of the fields in the west of the country, Bahman Amiri-Moqaddam, the governor-general of Kermanshah province, expressed readiness of the officials for any cooperation to use the oil and gas capacities of the province.

ICOFC’s managing director has previously underlined that his company

is moving from being a just production company toward a production-development one.

Mentioning the motto of the present Iranian calendar year, which is “Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating Production”, Heidari has said that to materialize this motto, the R&D Department of the company has close cooperation with the knowledge-based companies and hold continuous meetings with them and with the producing companies, during which the lists of required items, to be produced domestically, are offered and discusses.

Iranian Central Oil Fields Company is one of the five oil and gas producing companies and the second producer of gas in Iran.

The company is developing offshore fields in Lorestan, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Markazi, Qom, Ilam, Khorasan, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Fars, Bushehr, Hormozgan, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province

MOU on stock exchange co-op signed between Tehran, Dushanbe

TEHRAN- Iran and Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding

(MOU) on stock exchange cooperation in Tehran on Monday.

The MOU was inked by Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Majid Eshqi and Tajikistan Minister of Finance Fayziddin Qahhorzoda in the presence of the two countries’ presidents.

The document was signed with the aim of expanding and deepening cooperation between the capital markets of the two countries in order to interact and exchange information on the development of securities markets and stock exchange activities.

The MOU was among the 17

optimism that was influenced by the nuclear talks and this event affected the whole market,” he added.

According to Mir-Moeini, in the new year, however, some of the optimism about the Vienna negotiations waned, and this resulted in a decline in market transactions, but the stock market index continued its upward trend due to the debate over the privatization of the country’s automakers and offering their shares in the market.

“There is still optimism about the nuclear negotiations, and this could be a major factor in removing sanctions and improving the activities of companies, which will greatly improve

the capital market transactions,” the market analyst stressed.

Noting that the capital market will react to real changes in macroeconomic indicators, he said: “Companies are experiencing good profitability under the influence of increasing access to international markets, and this indicates that economic growth is on the horizon for the country.”

“In the next one or two years, we will experience good economic growth, which is in favor of the capital market and we will see its positive impacts in the market as well”, Mir-Moeini added.

documents of cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, trade, transportation, investment, new technologies, environment, sports, energy, judiciary, education and research, and tourism signed in the presence of Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi and Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rahmon.

TEDPIX rises 5,300 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 5,331 points to 1.542 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 5.915 billion securities worth 36.847 trillion rials (about \$141.7 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market’s index rose 4,012 points, and the second market’s index gained 10,407 points.

A capital market expert said that the Iranian economy is expected to experience significant growth in the next two years, adding: “This will be a good thing for the capital market and

we will see a positive effect on the market as well.”

In an interview with IRNA on April 25, Hamid Mir-Moeini pointed to the return of growth to the trend of stock exchange transactions and the factors affecting it, saying: “After the downward trend in the past [Iranian calendar] year (ended on March 20), the capital market finally returned to an uptrend in the last days of the year, paving the way for some optimism in the market for the current year.”

“The resumption of growth in the stock exchange transactions over the last week of Esfand (last month of the Iranian calendar year) was due to the

EU agrees to ban 90% of Russian oil by year-end

European Union leaders agreed Monday to embargo most Russian oil imports into the bloc by year-end as part of new sanctions on Moscow worked out at a summit focused on helping Ukraine with a long-delayed package of new financial support.

The embargo covers Russian oil brought in by sea, allowing a temporary exemption for imports delivered by pipeline, a move that was crucial to bring landlocked Hungary on board a decision that required consensus, AP reported.

EU Council President Charles Michel said the agreement covers more than two-thirds of oil imports from Russia. Ursula Von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive branch, said the punitive move will “effectively cut around 90% of oil imports from Russia to the EU by the end of the year.”

Michel said leaders also agreed to provide Ukraine with a 9 billion-euro (\$9.7 billion) tranche of assistance to support the war-torn country's economy. It was unclear whether the money would come in grants or loans.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, responded to the EU's decision on Twitter, saying: “As she rightly said yesterday, Russia will find other importers.”

The new package of sanctions will also include an asset freeze

and travel ban on individuals, while Russia's biggest bank, Sberbank, will be excluded from SWIFT, the major global system for financial transfers from which the EU previously banned several smaller Russian banks. Three big Russian state-owned broadcasters will be prevented from distributing their content in the EU.

“We want to stop Russia's war machine,” Michel said, lauding what he called a “remarkable achievement.”

“More than ever it's important to show that we are able to be strong, that we are able to be firm, that we are able to be tough,” he added.

Michel said the new sanctions, which needed the support of all 27 member countries, will be legally endorsed by Wednesday.

The EU had already imposed five previous rounds of sanctions on Russia over its war. It has targeted more than 1,000 people individually, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and top government officials as well as pro-Kremlin oligarchs, banks, the coal sector and more.

But the sixth package of measures announced May 4 had been held up by concerns over oil supplies.

The impasse embarrassed the bloc, which was forced to scale down its ambitions to break Hungary's resistance. When European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed the package, the



initial aim was to phase out imports of crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of the year.

Both Michel and von der Leyen said leaders will soon return to the issue, seeking to guarantee that Russia's pipeline oil exports to the EU are banned at a later date.

Hungarian Prime minister Viktor Orban had made clear he could support the new sanctions only if his country's oil supply security was guaranteed. Hungary gets more than 60% of its oil from Russia and depends on crude that comes through the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline.

Von der Leyen had played down the chances of a breakthrough at the summit. But leaders reached a compromise after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged them to end “internal arguments that only prompt Russia to put more and more pressure on the whole of Europe.”

The EU gets about 40% of its natural gas and 25% of its oil from Russia, and divisions over the issue exposed the limits of the 27-nation trading bloc's ambitions.

In his 10-minute video address, Zelenskyy told leaders to end “internal arguments that only prompt Russia to put more and more pressure on the whole of Europe.”

He said the sanctions package must “be agreed on, it needs to be

effective, including (on) oil,” so that Moscow “feels the price for what it is doing against Ukraine” and the rest of Europe. Only then, Zelenskyy said, will Russia be forced to “start seeking peace.”

It was not the first time he had demanded that the EU target Russia's lucrative energy sector and deprive Moscow of billions of dollars each day in supply payments.

But Hungary led a group of EU countries worried over the impact of the oil ban on their economy, including Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. Hungary relies heavily on Russia for energy and can't afford to turn off the pumps. In addition to its need for Russian oil, Hungary gets 85% of its natural gas from Russia.

Orban had been adamant on arriving at the summit in Brussels that a deal was not in sight, stressing that Hungary needed its energy supply secured.

Von der Leyen and Michel said the commitment by Germany and Poland to phase out Russian oil by the end of the year and to forgo oil from the northern part of the Druzhba pipeline will help cut 90% of Russian oil imports.

The issue of food security were to be on the table Tuesday, with the leaders set to encourage their governments to speed up work on “solidarity lanes” to help Ukraine export grain and other produce.

Israeli attack on Gaza Strip an “indirect” use of “chemical weapons”

From page 1 ► The large-scale investigation involved analysis from munitions and fluid dynamics experts, using 3D modeling of the warehouse to determine the circumstances of the attack. Al-Haq also analyzed mobile phone and drone footage and CCTV plus dozens of interviews with residents.

Legal experts have concluded from Al-Haq's findings that while conventional weapons were used in the bombing, “the shelling of the warehouse, with knowledge of the presence of toxic chemicals stored therein, is tantamount to chemical weapons through indirect means. Such acts are clearly prohibited... and prosecutable under the Rome Statute of the international criminal court.”

Chris Cobb-Smith, a munitions expert, has been quoted as saying by the NGO “there is no military justification for [advanced smoke projectiles] to be used here. It is inherently inaccurate and unsuitable for use in an urban environment.”

It is also the first publication by Al-Haq's recently established forensic architecture investigation unit, a first-of-its-kind collaboration in West Asia with Forensic Architecture, the research agency based at Goldsmiths, University of London, which carries out analysis for international human rights cases.

Al-Haq and Forensic Architecture worked closely together to create a newly established Forensic Architecture Investigation Unit for the NGO's investigation.



This investigation marks the launch of Al-Haq's In 2019, the international criminal court (ICC) opened an investigation into possible war crimes committed by Israeli forces in the occupied Palestinian territories.

During the eleven-day war last May, Israeli forces killed 256 people in the besieged Gaza Strip while retaliatory attacks by the Palestinian resistance left 14 Israeli settlers dead.

Al-Haq said the strike on the Khudair warehouse was the first in a series of attacks “deliberately targeting Gaza's economic and industrial infrastructure. About half a dozen other factories and warehouses had also been systematically bombed.”

Eight weeks after the attack on the agrochemical warehouse, Esra Khudair who lives with her husband and two children 40 meters away from the site suffered a miscarriage in the fifth month of her pregnancy.

Her husband, Ihab, says “for months the smell was unbearable, like a car engine mixed with burnt oil, sewage, and cooking gas, so of course, we knew it could be harmful.”

“I have had skin rashes since and so have most people here. We washed the house five times, and the furniture, but the smell stayed. It was like an oil on the walls... eventually in the winter the rain washed a lot of it away from the rubble of the warehouse,” he said.

Ihab adds “we are worried for our health now. One of my cousins, who is only 19, and my aunt also, got cancer recently and we think it is related to what happened here.”

Al-Haq says the warehouse is composed of six rooms totaling 2,700 square meters and is surrounded by Palestinian homes and agricultural fields.

The precise circumstances of the strike were initially unknown as none of the CCTV videos the NGO sourced contained an accurate timestamp.

Seeking time indicators, the rights groups conducted shadow analysis to determine the approximate time of the attack.

It then synchronized the videos to determine the timing of events and established the time of the first canister to hit the site at around 5:46 pm, likely from the south-east.

The group says this was followed by a second canister three seconds later, and at 5:48 pm, four other canisters followed.

It identified three of these canisters in the interior of the warehouse landing inside Room 1 and Room 4. By 5:56 pm, a plastic stockpile opposite to the south entrance caught fire, and a minute later another fire started inside Room 4.

Photos of munition collected from the site by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights show the remains of cylindrical canisters, around 15cm in width.

Al-Haq says the dimensions and the smoke tail match the M150 Smoke HC 155mm ammunition developed by the Israeli regime's weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems: an ‘advanced smoke projectile’ and a new type of shell designed to splinter into five separate canisters, all of which emit high-density smoke.

Cobb-Smith explained that M150 artillery is designed to create smoke screens to mask troop movement. However, on May 15 there were no reported occupation forces on the ground in Beit Lahiya. Cobb-Smith added that “there is no military justification for the M150 to be used here.”

In total, the fire affected over fifty tons of hazardous chemicals stored on the site.

Fluid dynamics expert Dr. Salvador Navarro-Martinez measured the concentration and spread of the hazardous chemicals stored in the warehouse for Al-Haq. He explained that the air

concentration of some of the chemicals crossed Accute Emergency Levels or AEGL.

Areas hundreds of meters away from the warehouse had sulfur dioxide and phosphorus pentoxide concentrations of above AEGL-2, indicating a high risk of irreversible damage to human health.

Navarro-Martinez further stated that: “When exposed to several chemical substances at the same time, as with the fire at this Warehouse, toxic emissions have the potential to amplify each other's impacts.”

In the face of an all-out blockade since 2007, the Gaza Strip's water, sewage, and electricity infrastructure have all but collapsed, leaving at least two million residents struggling to deal with increasing levels of air, soil, and water pollution in what the international community describes as the world's largest open-air prison.

Al-Haq, which operates in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, has also come under attack from the regime. Last year, the NGO was one of six leading civil society and human rights organizations working in the occupied Palestinian territories which Israel designated as a terrorist organization.

The decision has been widely condemned by the United Nations, western governments, and prominent international organizations such as Amnesty International.

In a statement, Rula Shadeed, the head of Al-Haq's monitoring and documentation department, said “without our professional documentation based on legal standards [Palestinians] cannot call for accountability and justice. Introducing new methodologies to enhance and complement the standard documentation and presentation of our work is very crucial.”

“We are very proud that despite the illegal attacks and difficult times Palestinian civil society is facing, we still manage to continue and advance in our work, due to our strong belief in the importance of exposing the violations against our people and to hold perpetrators accountable,” Shadeed added.

Despite the regime's pressure tactics, Al-Haq says it will continue monitoring and documenting Israeli war crimes and apartheid.

Physicists predict Earth will become a chaotic world, with dire consequences

Humans aren't just making Earth warmer, they are making the climate chaotic, a stark new study suggests.

The new research, which was posted April 21 to the preprint database arXiv, draws a broad and general picture of the full potential impact of human activity on the climate. And the picture isn't pretty.

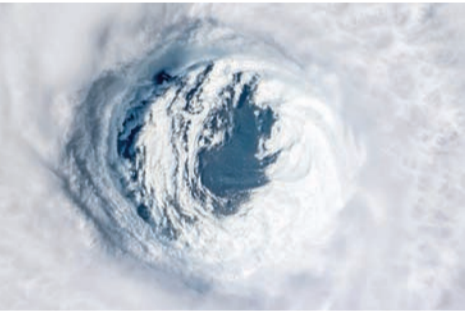
While the study doesn't present a complete simulation of a climate model, it does paint a broad sketch of where we're heading if we don't curtail climate change and our unchecked use of fossil fuels, according to the study authors, scientists in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Porto in Portugal.

“The implications of climate change are well known (droughts, heat waves, extreme phenomena, etc.),” study researcher Orfeu Bertolami told Live Science in an email. “If the Earth System gets into the region of chaotic behavior, we will lose all hope of somehow fixing the problem.”

Climate shifts

Earth periodically experiences massive changes in climate patterns, going from one stable equilibrium to another. These shifts are usually driven by external factors like changes in Earth's orbit or a massive surge in volcanic activity. But past research suggests we are now entering a new phase, one driven by human activity. As humans pump more carbon into the atmosphere, we are creating a new Anthropocene era, a period of human-influenced climate systems, something our planet has never experienced before.

In the new study, researchers modeled the introduction of the Anthropocene as a phase transition. Most people are familiar with phase transitions in materials, for instance when an ice cube changes phase from a solid to a liquid by melting into water, or when water evaporates into a gas. But phase transitions also occur in other systems. In this case, the system is Earth's climate. A given climate provides for regular and predictable seasons and weather, and a phase transition in the climate leads to a new pattern of seasons and weather. When the climate goes through a phase transition, this means that Earth is experiencing a sudden



and rapid change in patterns.

Logistics problems

If human activity is driving a phase transition in Earth's climate, that means we are causing the planet to develop a new set of weather patterns. What those patterns will look like is one of the most pressing problems of climate science.

Where is Earth's climate headed? That depends significantly on exactly what our activity is over the next few decades. Drastically reducing carbon output, for example, would lead to different outcomes than changing nothing at all, the researchers wrote in the study.

To account for the different trajectories and choices that humanity could make, the researchers employed a mathematical tool called a logistic map. The logistic map is great at describing situations where some variable — such as the amount of carbon in the atmosphere — can grow but naturally reaches a limit. For example, scientists often use the logistic map to describe animal populations: Animals can keep giving birth, increasing their numbers, but they reach a limit when they consume all the food in their environment (or their predators get too hungry and consume them).

Our influence on the environment is definitely growing, and it has been for over a century. But it will naturally reach a limit, according to the researchers. For example, the human population can only grow so large and can only have so many carbon-emitting activities; and pollution will eventually degrade the environment. At some point in the future, carbon output will reach a maximum limit, and the researchers found that a logistic map can capture the future trajectory of that carbon output very well.

Everything is chaos

The researchers explored different ways that the human logistic map could evolve, depending on a variety of factors like our population, introduction of carbon reduction strategies and better, more efficient technologies. Once they found how human carbon output would evolve with time, they used that to examine how Earth's climate would evolve through the human-driven phase transition.

In the best cases, once humanity reaches the limit of carbon output, Earth's climate stabilizes at a new, higher average temperature. This higher temperature is overall bad for humans, because it still leads to higher sea levels and more extreme weather events. But at least it's stable: The Anthropocene looks like previous climate ages, only warmer, and it will still have regular and repeatable weather patterns.

But in the worst cases, the researchers found that Earth's climate leads to chaos. True, mathematical chaos. In a chaotic system, there is no equilibrium and no repeatable patterns. A chaotic climate would have seasons that change wildly from decade to decade (or even year to year). Some years would experience sudden flashes of extreme weather, while others would be completely quiet. Even the average Earth temperature may fluctuate wildly, swinging from cooler to hotter periods in relatively short periods of time. It would become utterly impossible to determine in what direction Earth's climate is headed.

“A chaotic behavior means that it will be impossible to predict the behavior of Earth System in the future even if we know with great certainty its present state,” Bertolami said. “It will mean that any capability to control and to drive the Earth System towards an equilibrium state that favors the habitability of the biosphere will be lost.”

Most concerning, the researchers found that above a certain critical threshold temperature for Earth's atmosphere, a feedback cycle can kick in where a chaotic result would become unavoidable. There are some signs that we may have already passed that tipping point, but it's not too late to avert climate disaster.

(Source: msn.com)

Imam Khomeini’s personal items on show in Qom



TEHRAN – Personal items that once belonged to Ayatollah Seyyed Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of Iran's Islamic Republic, have been put on show in Qom.

The exhibition titled “One Hundred Years of Sun Presence” showcases a collection of rarely-seen items that once belonged to Imam Khomeini and his son Seyyed Ahmad Khomeini, IRNA reported.

“This is the first time some of these items have been exposed to the public and people can see and touch them up close,” according to the Institute for the Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini’s Works.

The exhibition, which will be running through

June 2, is held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Imam Khomeini to the holy city of Qom, the report said.

Imam Khomeini was a Muslim cleric and Marja, and the political leader of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran which overthrew Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran. Following the Revolution, Imam Khomeini became the Supreme Leader of Iran — the paramount figure in the political system of the new Islamic Republic — until his demise.

In 1921, Imam Khomeini commenced his studies in Arak. The following year, Ayatollah Haeri-Yazdi transferred the Islamic seminary to the holy city of Qom and invited his students to follow. Imam Khomeini accepted the invitation, moved, and took up residence at the Dar al-Shafa school in Qom before being exiled to the holy city of Najaf in Iraq. After graduation, he taught Islamic jurisprudence (Sharia), Islamic philosophy, and mysticism (Irfan) for many years and wrote numerous books on these subjects.

Imam Khomeini died of cancer on Saturday, June 3, 1989, at the age of 89. Many Iranians mourned his death and packed the streets. More than 10 million people from across the country attended Imam Khomeini’s funeral to form one of the largest ever funerals in the world.

the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Some restoration works are planned to be commenced on the historical fortification and are estimated to be completed by the end of the current Iranian calendar year 1401(March 2023), Nasrollah Ebrahimi explained on Tuesday.

A budget of 15 billion rials (\$50,000) will be allocated to the project, which involves flooring, plastering, and repairing the

Eager for a slice of village life? Iran is your taste

From page 1 ▶ make tourism a means for a better future in rural areas. As we restart tourism, we work to ensure that we leave no one – and no village– behind,” according to UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili.

Alike agritourism, rural tourism is seen as a win-win situation both for local communities, and post-modern travelers who are in search of unique experiences.

Here is a selection of popular Iranian villages:

Uramanat

Some of the most astonishing villages in Iran have been shaped on the slopes of high mountains and steep grounds. Uramanat village is an example of the unique architecture of these villages, same as Masuleh in Gilan province.

Located in the western mountains of Iran, with houses on top of each other forming a waterfall shape, this striking village is a prominent example of how humans truly integrate with nature and the surrounding environment.

At an altitude of 1450 meters above sea level, the village enjoys mild weather in spring and summer, and cold weather during fall and winter. Uramanat is a vast and mountainous area of Zagros, which includes the entire south of Kordestan province.

Meymand

If you’re looking for a historical cave village in Iran, halfway through a hot desert located in the heart of Iran, then Meymand is your next destination.

As one of the most spectacular villages of Iran, masses of historical



sites and archaeological ruins are within any wanderer’s eye-shot that visits this awe-inspiring village in Iran.

According to sources, Meymand has been continuously inhabited for 2,000 to 3,000 years, making it one of Iran’s four oldest surviving villages.

With rocky caves made of layers of magma stocked on each other over a long time, Meymand is a natural eye-catching dwelling settlement and a gold mine for those interested in Iran’s history and rocky settlements.

Ziarat

Ziarat village is situated in the heights of Alborz mountains with some nice verdant jungles, rural roads, and a small-sized stupendous waterfall at the end of the village that attracts many nature lovers annually.

The best time to visit this historical village is mid-spring and early summer, while the weather is not too hot and you can still feel a few cold breezes brushing against your face in the morning and at night.

Ziarat village can be described as

a calm, relaxing, conservative, and ancient environment for everybody.

Kandovan

Kandovan village is one of the most stunning and mesmerizing rocky villages in Iran with unique architectural design, scenic views, and hundreds of limestone caves, still used for shops or houses.

Just like Meymand, houses in Kandovan are tucked in within a mountain environment.

It is said that this attractive village has been partially formed by volcanic remains from strong Mount Sahand eruptions some hundreds of years ago.

Also, there is a rocky hotel in Kandovan that has rack-carved rooms and spaces.

Abyaneh

Claimed the title of the red village because of its red soil and its houses, Abyaneh is an ancient Iranian village located 70 kilometers south of the city Kashan in Isfahan province. The village is small and pinched into the slopes of the mountainside. Roofs of some

houses are courtyards of other ones, the same way that other villages in Iran like Meymand in Kerman or Masuleh in Mazandaran are designed, the integration of housing into the natural environment on steep slopes.

Dating from some 2000 years ago, the village embraces an exquisite historical establishment, going way back into the past when the Sassanian empire ruled over Iran.

Interestingly, its residents always dress up in their traditional clothing to show their respect for the customs inherited from them by their ancestors.

Masuleh

Home to some of the most stunning landscapes in the country, Masuleh is a one-thousand-year-old stepped village and a major touristic destination in Iran.

According to experts, its history can be traced back to a site that now lies six kilometers northwest of modern-day Masuleh.

Here, nature, architecture, and the community flourish together in northern Iran. This is a village built not by trained architects, but by the inhabitants themselves. Most extraordinary of all, however, is Masuleh’s ingenious use of public space: with no marked boundaries, all rooftops double as courtyards, gardens, and public thoroughfares for the inhabitants on the level above.

Masuleh rises as one massive interconnected and multi-leveled public space that blends of stairways, narrow alleys, and LEGO-shaped houses to one another.

Bid to restore Siraf fort to former glory

TEHRAN – Historical Nasouri fortress in Siraf, southwestern Bushehr province, is scheduled to undergo rehabilitation works in

the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Some restoration works are planned to be commenced on the historical fortification and are estimated to be completed by the end of the current Iranian calendar year 1401(March 2023), Nasrollah Ebrahimi explained on Tuesday.

A budget of 15 billion rials (\$50,000) will be allocated to the project, which involves flooring, plastering, and repairing the

wooden windows, the official added.

Located on the north shore of the Persian Gulf, Siraf was Iran’s most important port from the Sassanid period to the 4th century AH. It bears plentiful evidence of Persian mastership and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with other near and far cultures and civilizations.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf,

which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa between 800 CE and 1050.

The ancient port city had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small area.



Mazandaran tourism in need of clear, inclusive roadmap, official says

TEHRAN – The newly-appointed deputy tourism chief of Mazandaran says the northern Iranian province requires a clear and comprehensive roadmap in the realm of tourism development.

“We still do not have a comprehensive plan or roadmap to define the provincial tourism management through an integrated and balanced view,” IRNA quoted Mohammad-Ali Shafiei as saying on Monday.

Shafiei made the remarks during his inauguration ceremony, adding “The tourism industry, particularly in Mazandaran, is very complicated and it cannot be seen one-dimensionally. For this reason, the priority that I am pursuing, with the help of colleagues, is to develop a comprehensive tourism plan for the province.”

“Although we have many tourism-related events in Mazandaran, which draws millions of travelers every year, we do not have a comprehensive strategy



that integrates the events in the field of tourism.”

Of course, over the past couple of years, several (provincial) authorities have made attempts to formulate such a plan, but it did not come to fruition for various reasons, including lack of credit.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official reminded one of the World Tourism Organization’s mottos “Accessible Tourism for All,” saying “Achieving this goal requires a precise definition of tourism and the optimum use of all available capacities in the province.”

Earlier this year, domestic vacationers made almost 14 million overnight stays across Mazandaran during the two-week

Noruz holidays (started March 21).

Sandwiched between the towering Alborz mountain range and the Caspian Sea, Mazandaran has a rich yet turbulent history. An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The northern section of the region consists of lowland alongside the Caspian and upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

Tourism development a high priority for Iran, official says

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to develop its tourism industry as one of its high priorities, Leyla Ajdari, a tourism ministry official in charge of foreign tourism marketing has said.

She made the remarks on Monday during the international conference of “Iran and the 30-year-old BSEC: Prospects for Cooperation” held in Tehran’s Institute for Political and International Studies.

The conference was attended by a number of the officials of the foreign and tourism ministries as well as Lazar Comanescu, the Secretary-General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

(BSEC), and the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Khosro Nazeri, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Among its plans for the future, Iran prioritizes the development of tourism and seeks to strengthen and expand tourism relations with other countries, Ajdari explained.

Tourism is vital to the economies of many countries in the world today, she said.

In addition to stimulating inclusive growth and job creation, tourism can also aid in poverty reduction and promote

sustainable development and peace, she explained.

A strategically located country, Iran is a link between the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and the Caspian Sea, through neighboring countries such as Turkey and Russia to the Black Sea countries, she noted.

For goods transit, especially through railways, this capacity is easily accessible and reasonably priced, which can be used by the tourism sector, she added.

The countries of the Black Sea region are among Iran’s target markets for tourism, she concluded.

Golestan to boost tourism sector

TEHRAN – The Iranian government has allocated some 1.1 trillion rials (\$3.7 million) to the tourism and handicrafts sectors of the northern province of Golestan, the provincial tourism chief has said.


This budget is set aside for 55 projects in the areas of tourism, cultural heritage, and handicrafts, Rahman Farmani explained on Tuesday.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and

natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

First Announcement



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Mn	78 %	Min
S	0.02 %	Max
C	7.5 %	Max
P	0.30 %	Max
Size Of Pieces	20-60 mm	Min 90 %
	<20 mm	Max 10 %
Packing	Bulk in Container	
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Mr.M.sajadi

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No new wave of coronavirus for next three months

TEHRAN – There will not be a new wave of coronavirus and a significant increase in the incidence of this disease over the next three months, Hamidreza Jamaati, secretary of the National Scientific Committee of Coronavirus, has said.

At present, in Asia and Europe, the incidence of Covid and its mortality is steady and declining, while in some African and American countries, there is a growing trend of omicron variants such as BA4 and BA5, which have not spread in Iran.

Various studies have shown that in the first trimester after two doses of the vaccine, there is a 70 percent and after six months, about 50 to 60 percent effectiveness against omicron and its subtypes, so our emphasis is on completing the vaccination.

In addition to reducing infection, hospitalization, and death, the vaccine can be effective in reducing post-coronavirus complications, which may even occur up to one year after infection, he noted.

The country will not face a new



wave of the pandemic over the next three months, while it is difficult to predict a new wave in the cold seasons of the year, he stated.

Iran has been able to reduce the Covid mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, and this successful experience of the Islamic Republic was made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said on May 27.

So far, about 150 million doses of vaccine have been injected into the Iranian population and the coverage of vaccination in the

total population is about 75 percent, he highlighted.

Following the decision of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control and President Ebrahim Raisi, all universities affiliated with the ministries of science and health, and schools, started education in person on April 3 as the new cases of the disease have notably reduced.

However, Hamid Sour, an epidemiologist had predicted in April that the seventh wave of COVID-19 may hit the country as health experts warn of a rebound due to the New Year (Noruz) holidays which started March 21.

The seventh wave is likely to occur in mid-May, as it probably takes between two to six weeks to appear, he explained.

Regarding the formation of the seventh wave of the disease in the country, he said that “Wherever the density of contacts is higher, we are more likely to see an outbreak of the new strain, but the main foci of infection are important. At present, there seems to be a combination of omicron and Delta variants in the country.

Following the decision of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, all universities and schools started education in person on April 3 as the new cases of the disease notably reduced.

Tribes in Iran

Part 17

Outside Khuzestan, the Il-e Arab of the Khamasa confederacy is an important tribe; it is divided into two sections, the Shaybani and the Jabbara, and numerous tirehs.

They migrate annually from Lorestan in the south of Fars to the Eqlid district in the north, where their summer quarters are flanked on the east by those of the Persian-speaking Baseri, another Khamsa tribe.

(e) Baluchi and Brahu'i tribes

Most of the Baluchi and Brahu'i tribes of Iran live in the ostan of Sistan-Baluchestan, but Baluchi groups have also settled in other provinces: in Hormozgan (Bandar-e Abbas), in Kerman, mainly in the bakhsh of Kahnuij in the shahrestan of Jiroft, in Khorasan, and in Mazandaran in the Torkman Sahra (the plain between the Gorgan and Atrak rivers).

The majority of the members of the Sarani, Rakhshani, Barani, Jahandida, and Malekze-hi tayefehs, who lived mainly in the bakhsh of Miankangi in the shahrestan of Zabol, have now emigrated to the Torkman Sahra.

The Baluch of Khorasan are in general sedentarized and intermixed with the local people, but some distinct communities still remain, scattered from Sarakhs in the northeast to Birjand and Tabas in the south.

In the last-named districts, tirehs called Nuqani, Deh Morda, and Brahu'i remain, sometimes living together with other groups such as the Timuris. Some of the Baluchi tayefehs of Sistan, such as the Naru'i and the Brahu'i, migrate annually to the highlands of Nehbandan, and Birjand in Khorasan.

In the Qajar period, many parts of Baluchestan were ruled de facto by the chiefs (sardars) of the Naru'i tribe. When the central government began to establish its authority, the sardars moved to the Nikshahr-Bent-Fannuj area in the southwest of the province and kept control there.

The leadership of the tribe was held by three families, first the Shirkanzadeh, then the Shirkanzehi, and finally the Shirani who still live in the area. Another section of the Naru'is is domiciled in Sistan and in the northwest of the shahrestan of Zahedan, where its sardars have their seat in the bakhsh of Nosratabad.

The Rigi tribe, one of the biggest Baluchi groups in Iran, has an extensive territory stretching from Zahedan and Mirjaveh to Khash and onward toward Iranshahr; it is divided into several tirehs, among which are the Bolakzehi, Shahkaramzehi, and Isazehi.

Another tribe in the Zahedan-Khash belt is the Esmailzehi (formerly Shahbakhsh), which arose from the union of the Esmailzehi and Hasanze-hi tayefehs; its members are now engaged in stock-



breeding in a small area in the Nosratabad district.

The Yar Ahmadi (Shahnavaizi) and Gamshadzehi were apparently once tayefehs of the Damani tribe, but are now more or less independent. Yar Ahmadi tribes-people, based around Gazv in the Khash district, migrate annually from the west side of the Posht-e Kuh to Taftan, and then to palm groves in the Mashkel lowland for the date harvest.

The Gamshadzehis, whose abode lies to the southeast around Gosht and Jalq and in the foothills of the Kuh-e Safid, are made up of the Dadkhodazehi, Moradzehi, Mohammadze-hi, and several more tirehs.

The Rigi, Esmailzehi, Yar Ahmadi, and Gamshadzehi rank as the four main tribes of the Sarhadd (i.e., the northern part of Iranian Baluchestan).

Further south, in the shahrestan of Saravan, lies an area occupied by the large Dohani tribe centered at Multan; they likewise migrate annually for the date harvest.

The Barakzehi (also called Baranzehi) tribe in the shahrestan of Iranshahr, and the Bolida'i tribe in the bakhshes of Rask in Iranshahr and Dashtyari and Qasr-e Qand in the shahrestan of Chahbahar, have now become sedentary.

The last-named tribe has the leadership (siadat) of sections of the Ra'isi and Rend tribes-people. In addition to these, the area is the home of the Darzadagan, who were described in 1307/1928 and later as the Darzada gholams (i.e. servants) and are evidently the survivors of an old system of slavery, and of the Zayn-al-dinis, who are dependents of the Mobaraki sardars.

Scattered over the bakhsh of Dashtyari down to the coast are some more or less independent tayefehs of the Sardarzehi tribe, namely the Jadgal, Jat, Latik, Kusa, Mir, Sitar, Saber, and Lagur. The Hut tribes-people are settled around Konarak.

The Ra'isi tayefeh is an important one, living at Sarbaz, Chanf, and Pip in the east of the bakhshes of Nikshahr and Qasr-e Qand. In past times the Ra'is had a firm alliance with the Mobarakis, who reside at Chanf, but this has lapsed.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Envoy clarifies Iran-India co-op in health, anti-narcotics



TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to India, Ali Chegeni, has elaborated on cooperation between the two countries in the areas of health as well as anti-narcotics.

In the health and pharma sector, the precedence of our co-operations dates back to ancient times when we had a great exchange of ideas and science on traditional medicine. Currently, we are expecting to sign two important MoUs on cooperation in the health sector in the coming weeks, he said in an interview with Financial Express Online.

One of these documents is focused on the cooperation in the field of traditional medicines between the research centers of two

countries and the other one is related to cooperation in normal medicine between the drug standard authorities and relevant regulatory bodies of both countries which will pave the way to remove some non-tariff barriers in the medicinal trade.

Meanwhile, regarding the fight against narcotics, Iran has been and still is at the forefront of combating drug trafficking in West and Southwest Asia, the envoy stressed.

On the other hand, Iran has been unfortunately one of the main victims of this dirty and illegal business and it has dedicated too many martyrs and incurred huge costs in its sacred fight against the international smugglers.

But unfortunately, some media disregard Iran's important role and sacrifices in fighting against narco-trafficking and instead, disseminate distorted reports and baseless allegations.

However, I must underline that drug trafficking knows no nationality and no bound-

ary and the traffickers may use any territory and direction to smuggle their narcotics.

Having said that and noting that drug trafficking as a global issue requires joint and collective efforts, it is necessary to address this phenomenon through genuine cooperation and sincere partnership among all forces in the region.

The traffickers attach no respect to humanity, nor to the national territories or their victim countries.

The anti-narcotics police forces in both India and Iran have made enormous sacrifices. They have also initiated a commendable dialogue and cooperation which we expect to form a solid base for deeper dialogue and cooperation at the regional level soon.

Recently Iran and India have held very successful meetings. Both sides agree on the main issues and we will witness more consistent and consolidated cooperation in fighting against this dirty phenomenon.

Iran has been and still is at the forefront of combating drug trafficking in West and Southwest Asia.

Census plan for illegal Afghans extended

From page 1 ► Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran – some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees are living in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

Diverse services

Without any discrimination, Iran has provided various services to a large number of refugees and foreign immigrants in the fields of education, health, treatment, livelihood, vocational training, and employment, with minimal assistance from the international community.

In light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary

health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain has said it is a great achievement for Iran that the government is vaccinating every Afghan refugee going to the vaccination center even before receiving COVID vaccines from Humanitarian Buffer (COVAX).

Some 170,000 refugees residing in Iran are now covered by health insurance, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Iran's universal public health insurance scheme, known as Salamat Health Insurance, covers hospitalization, para-clinical and outpatient services, including doctor's visits, radiology, lab tests, and medication costs at any public hospital affiliated

with the Ministry of Health.

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$65 million) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education Gholamreza Karimi said in March.

Over 474,000 Afghan national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, he added.



ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

Two herbal drugs that are effective in healing the symptoms of COVID-19 have been permitted to be produced domestically.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that “none of these drugs are a cure for COVID-19, but they have effects to reduce the symptoms of this disease and should be further investigated.”

The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و داروی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخل با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید ۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا گفت: هیچکدام از این داروها داروی درمان کووید ۱۹ نیستند اما اثراتی برای بهبود علائم این بیماری داشته اند و باید مراحل بررسی بیشتر را طی کنند.

وی گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید ۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 31

New cases	232
New deaths	5
Total cases	7,232,034
Total deaths	141,315
New hospitalized patients	35
Patients in critical condition	524
Total recovered patients	7,049,442
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,245,557
Doses of vaccine injected	149,928,345

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JUNE 1, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best form of devotion to the service of Allah is not to make a show of it.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:02 Evening: 20:36 Dawn: 4:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:50 (tomorrow)

Arabic elements in Persian

Part 3

In a few nouns ending in alef maqsura this syllable has assimilated via a spelling-pronunciation (ya' as -i, as in ma'ni 'meaning', pronounced /ma.ni/), but is pronounced in the literary register as /ma'na/ and written before ezafa as alef, followed by ya': ma'na-ye "an" 'the meaning of it'. In the case of da'wa 'dispute, litigation' and da'wi 'claim, pretension' the different pronunciation and orthography have been lexicalized as two distinct words.

Action nouns (masdar) and other deverbal derivatives may form Persian verbs in one of two ways: by suffixation of the Persian past stem and infinitive, as fahm-idan 'to understand' (the original way of forming denominal verbs in Persian, cf. nam-idan 'to name'); or by combining with a dummy verb such as kardan 'to do, make' or shodan 'to become, be done', as jam' kardan 'to gather' (jam' 'collecting'), qabul shodan 'to be taken on, accepted, to pass (examination)' (qabul 'acceptance').

The former (synthetic) strategy was favored in earlier Classical Persian, and is still productive in Tajik; the latter (analytic) is preferred in Standard Persian.

The meaning may be refined by use of an auxiliary with some semantic weight: qabul dashtan 'to agree, concur (in argument)' (dashtan 'to have, hold'; here metaphorically 'to hold to be, consider as').

Besides the varied, unpredictable forms of the masdar of Theme I (the basic sense) of the Arabic verb, there are ten fixed morphological patterns (qaleb) representing systematic semantic extensions of the meaning of the verb which have been extensively borrowed into Persian and commonly form compound verbs of the above type.

Thus from the triliteral root SLH '(being) right, fit, proper, harmonious' are derived the following Arabic verbal nouns that also appear in Persian, often as verbs or verbal idioms: solh 'peace', salah 'honesty, propriety, fitness', salah danestan 'to deem appropriate, see fit', maslahat 'interest, expediency', maslahat didan 'to deem prudent', eslah kardan 'to improve, correct, edit; shave', mosalehat 'reconciliation', estelah and mostalah (pl. -at)(technical) term, idiom'.

There are also the plural masaleh 'benefits, interests' (in Indo-Persian, and hence Hindi-Urdu, 'materials, ingredients, spices'), the adjective (originally an Arabic active participle; also a personal name) saleh 'wholesome, beneficial', the compounds salah-kar 'charitable' and eslah-na-pazir 'irremediable'.

There are many such multiple root-cognates in the Persian lexicon, conditioning the educated reader by alliteration to the connection of a particular consonant combination with a certain semantic field, even though he may not know Arabic as such.

Other fixed patterns identify nouns of place, as madrasa 'school' (place of teaching, cf. the cognate loan dars 'lesson'); of instrument, as mezbab 'plectrum, dulcimer hammer' (cf. zarbat 'blow, beat'); and of habitual activity or occupation, as raqqas 'dancer' (cf. raqs 'dance').

They express several sorts of adjectives (sharif 'noble', faaal 'active') and derive quality nouns from adjectives (nejasat 'impurity', cf. najes 'impure'). Several patterns, notably the elative and diminutive, do not normally appear as loanwords except as names (Akbar, Hossein).

Adjectives: Apart from participles, the largest class of morphologically salient Arabic adjectives in Persian comprises the derivatives with the nesba or relative suffix -i (< -iyyun), as makki 'Meccan', shakhsi 'personal'.

This suffix coincides in form and meaning with NPers. -i (< MPers. -ik), as shirazi 'of Shiraz', khaki 'earthen, light brown'. The latter is highly

productive, and may be added directly to any class of nouns, including assimilated Arabic loanwords: e.g., tejarati 'commercial', shiei 'Shia' (where the orthography shows that this is not an Arabic form).

In many cases, however, it is not obvious whether an adjective in -i represents an integral Arabic borrowing or a Persian derivative (in, e.g., akkasi 'photographic' the suffix is technically Persian, since the arabicate akkas 'photographer' was coined in Ottoman Turkish, whence it passed into Persian; neither word is used in Arabic).

The coincidence also results in homographs such as dudi 'smoky, smoked' (Pers. dud 'smoke' + -i) and dudi 'wormlike, peristaltic'(< Ar. dud 'worm' + -iyyun).

Participles: There are eighteen Arabic participial patterns (active and passive) commonly occurring as Persian adjectives and/or nouns.

Thus from Theme I of the verb 'to know' (the masdar of which is the loanword "elm" 'knowledge, science') comes the active participle alem 'knowing, learned; sage, scholar', and the passive ma'lum 'known', pl. ma'lumat 'data'; from Theme II, mo'allem 'teacher' (active).

A striking systematic function of many participles is in correlating with their cognate verbal nouns to form grammatically complementary verbal idioms, thus: entezar dashtan (lit., have expectation) and montazer budan (lit., be expecting) 'to expect, wait'; tasmim gereftan (lit., take determination) and mosammam shodan (lit., become determined) 'to determine, decide'.

Adverbs: A few dozen Arabic adverbs originating in the tanwin accusative comprise the only morphologically unique class of adverbs in Persian, e.g., rasman 'officially', waqe'an 'really, actually'.

These retain the Arabic orthography of a final alef with double fatha; a few with the feminine ending do not end in alef in Arabic, but may do so in Persian by accepted solecism (e.g., in nesbatan 'relatively').

This characteristic ending has become productive, forming adverbs even from native words: janan 'wholeheartedly', nacharan 'willy-nilly, of necessity'.

The very common hala 'now' is of this class, though assimilated via a spelling-pronunciation (in Afghan Persian, further assimilated as /ale/).

Pseudo-loans: The degree to which not only individual loanwords, but also their characteristic patterns, entered Persian consciousness is shown in a number of common Persian words coined on an Arabic morphological pattern from a native Persian or other lexical base: thus kaffash 'cobbler' (< Pers. kafsh 'shoe'), nezakat 'daintiness' (< Pers. nazok 'dainty'), Tajikpartiaviat '(Communist) Party loyalty' (< Rus. Partia 'party', on the analogy of partinost').

Arabicized forms of Persian words borrowed into Arabic were also accepted back, as fehrest 'list, register', originally MPers. pahrist, and fars, farsi, which may also be regarded as a blend of MPers. parsik and Ar. farisiyyun.

Loanwords with the feminine ending: The grammatically feminine marker in Arabic is realized phonetically as either /-at/ (in pre-juncture position) or /-a/ (pausal form), according to the contextual syntax of Arabic, but written with a single graph (the ta' marbuta).

The syntactically determined variation in Arabic (though in context it may initially have suggested a model) was irrelevant to Persian, where these loans needed to be lexicalized in stable forms: accordingly, some were written with regular final t (e.g., hekmat 'wisdom, philosophy') and others with non-linking final h (as in kerqa 'rag, dervish's cloak').

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Holy Spider or sick spider?

From Page 1 ► the most severe sentence for the accused, citing the existing evidence, reconstructing the murder sites, discovering the corpses of the victims, stealing, forging the Basij card, and committing 13 cases of rape.

The accused's personality, according to the head of the Khorasan province's forensic doctor, has conflicting characteristics and anti-social problems, and there are no indicators of insanity in him, according to the interviews done with him and his brain scan. Another renowned quote claims that the killer's motivation was revenge for harassing a driver for his wife.

With these historical references, it appears that this film is more than just a crime movie about a murderer; it is a movie about an Iranian Muslim individual, whose the filmmaker assumes is anti-social, anti-social, anti-feminist, and murderous by default.

Mental disorders, which are common throughout the world, are attributed to religious causes in Iranian society, to the point where such an incidence, which

has been very rare in Iran but has been repeated in many Western countries, has resulted in a sentence against Iranian culture and civilization, which, like a spider web, encompasses all women, and the hub of this spider web, the holy shrine of Imam Reza, is shown in the film teaser.

They also chose an actress for the lead role in this movie who immigrated to France after one of

her personal videos was released, even though she was still eligible to work in Iranian cinema.

Interestingly, neither her personal video has been released by the religious community, nor has Iranian cinema reprimanded her, but she has been recognized as an exiled artist and a victim of the Iranian government in recent years.

It's unclear if Zahra Ebrahimi's

performance was so good that she received the Cannes Film Festival award, or whether the film won the award more for the festival's dark political nature than for its artistic values!

Finally, given all of these considerations, winning this prize under the guise of being anti-religious and anti-Iranian, rather than as a source of joy, is sad and disappointing!

Avini institute plans “Gando” sequel

Actor Payam Dehkordi portrays Jason Rezaian in the Iranian TV series “Gando”.

TEHRAN – The Avini Art and Cultural Institute said on Tuesday that plans to make a sequel to “Gando”, a controversial docudrama that revolves around the spy case of Iranian-American

journalist Jason Rezaian.

The director of the institute, Mehdi Naqavian, said that a team of writers is working on the script for “Gando 3”, which follows a spying story in the country.

He said that President Ebrahim Raisi's government has provided spiritual support for “Gando 3”, easing the obstacles in the way of organizations trying to produce such a series.

The institute also plans to make an animated movie based on the Gando story. In addition, the story will be turned into a computer game.

Two previous seasons of the series were directed by Javad Afshar.

Both projects were produced by Mojtaba Amini, who then was selected as president of the Fajr Film Festival.

Rezaian served as Tehran bureau chief for the Washington Post. He was arrested in Iran in July

Writer: Iranian young adults prefer scary stories

TEHRAN – Children's book writer Ahmad Akbarpur has said that scary stories are Iranian young adults' first choice.

Talking to the Persian service of ISNA, he made the remarks based on a preliminary investigation he conducted at several schools before the outbreak of COVID-19.

“Sometimes when I was invited to give a talk for children at schools, I usually would ask them which literary genre they prefer,” Akbarpur said.

“Their first choice was horror books, and then love stories and funny novels were their next favorites,” he added.

“I could never find the reasons behind the choice, because our official institutions do not promote scary stories or movies. Schools never discuss such topics and families keep their children away from these subjects. It seems that our children get their cultural nourishment elsewhere; from

Children's book writer Ahmad Akbarpur in an undated photo.

institutions other than schools, Iranian TV and their families,” he explained.

Akbarpur said that we need to consult with a psychologist about the children's choice.

However, he added, “Maybe, the children's attitude refers to the inherent tendency of the modern life, in which children are facing some fears, which they want to experience in novels and movies,” he stated.

“Unconsciously, there some pressures on families in modern life, which raise children's fears and lead them towards scary books,” added Akbarpur, who is the writer of “I Was a Deer”, which won a Golden Apple of the 2017 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava for its illustrations by Narges Mohammadi.

Although Akbarpur has not produced any graphic novel, he talked about his desire to work in this field.

New Persian rendition of “Ikigai” published

TEHRAN – A new Persian translation of “Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life” has come to Iranian bookstores.

The book co-written by Héctor García and Francesc Miralles has been translated by Sara Moqimpur-Bijani. Shurafarin is the publisher of the book.

The people of Japan believe that everyone has an ikigai – a reason to jump out of bed each morning. According to the residents of the Japanese island of Okinawa – the world's longest-living people – finding it is the key to a longer and more fulfilled life.

Inspiring and comforting, this book will give you the life-changing tools to uncover your personal ikigai. It will show you how to leave urgency behind, find your purpose, nurture friendships

and throw yourself into your passions.

In researching this book, the authors interviewed the residents of the Japanese village with the highest percentage of 100-year-olds—one of the world's Blue Zones.

“Ikigai” reveals the secrets to their longevity and happiness: how they eat, how they move, how they work, how they foster collaboration and community, and—their best-kept secret—how they find the ikigai that brings satisfaction to their lives.

It also provides practical tools to help you discover your own ikigai, because who doesn't want to find happiness every day?

Another Persian translation of the book by Qasem Yusefi was published in 2020 by Torang.

A poster for the latest Persian edition of “Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life”.