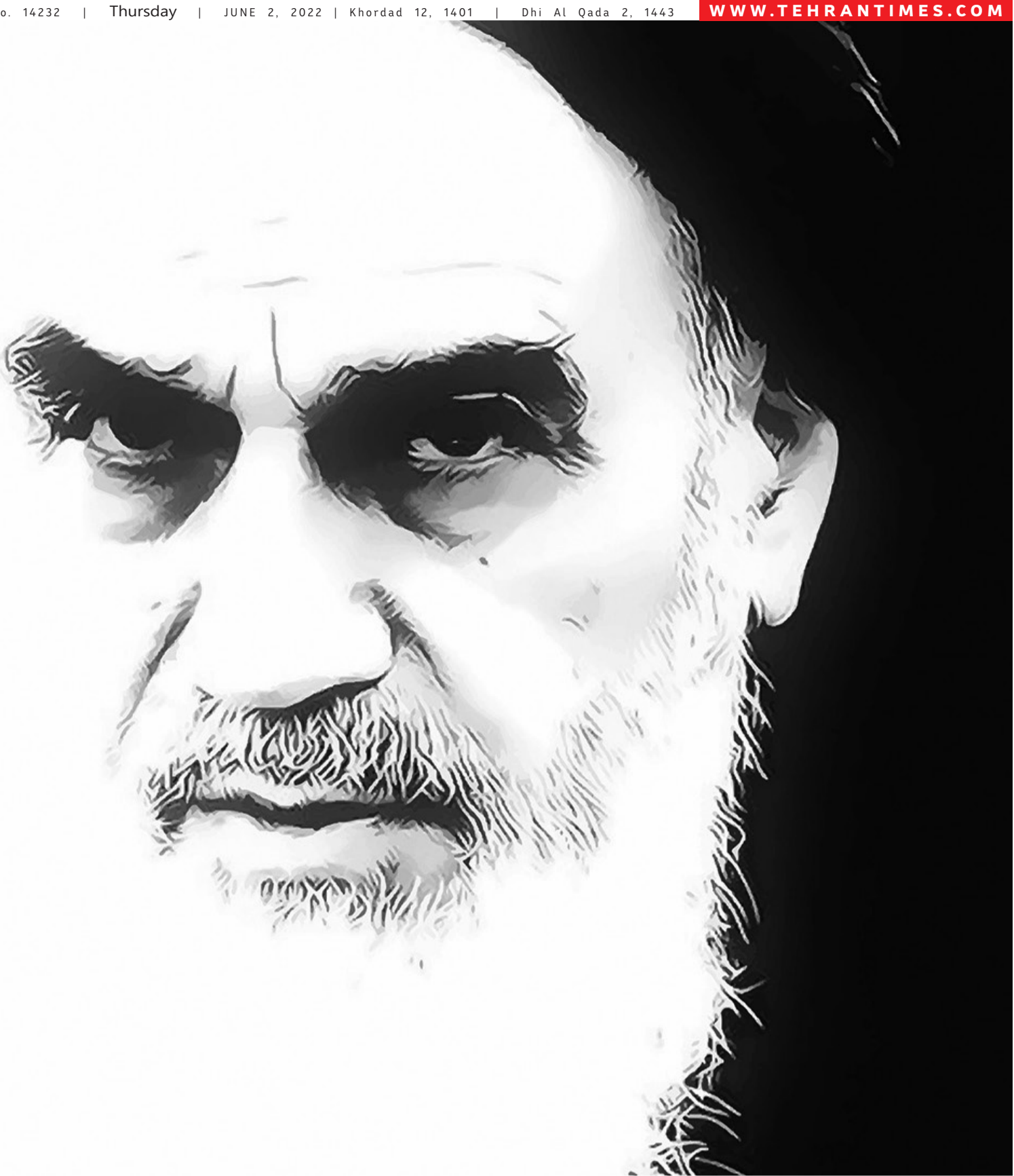


The Man Who Bewildered The West



Report



Johnson bracing for vote of no confidence

The flow of Conservative party MPs publicly calling for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to resign is gathering pace.

The fresh rebellion in the aftermath of the Sue Gray report and shocking defeats in the local elections has made conservatives feeling unease toward their leader’s heading into the General election.

Reports vary on the number of MPs questioning Johnson’s leadership with some indicating at least 40 have publicly expressed opposition while at least 28 Tory MPs have publicly stated they have written a letter of no confidence.

Senior Conservatives are said to bracing for the possibility of a vote of confidence as soon as next week. ▶ Page 5

Op-ed



U.S. School Shootings: A post-modern form of child sacrifice?

By Yuram Abdullah Weiler

“Dismissing the idea of child sacrifice stops us seeing the bigger picture.”

—Dr. Josephine Quinn of Oxford University

Nineteen more American school children have been sacrificed on the altar of the U.S. Constitution to the god of gun ownership rights, rekindling the incendiary debate between gun rights supporters and gun control advocates. Such acrimonious argumentation and harried handwringing regularly occurs after each mass school shooting in the U.S.; it is a political rite in a culture where the right of gun ownership is sacrosanct, and gun owners tenaciously cling to their 2nd Amendment rights, even when it results in the slaughter of young school children. ▶ Page 5

Non-oil exports rise 37% in 2 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of Iran’s export of non-oil products increased 37 percent during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 -May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) showed.

Iran exported 17,014 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.516 billion in the said

two months, also registering a 1.6-percent rise in weight as compared to the first two months of the previous year, the data indicated.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran traded over 22,196 million tons of non-oil products worth \$16.631 billion with other countries in the mentioned period, IRNA reported.

The Islamic Republic imported 5,182 million

tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.115 billion in the first two months of the present year, with a 24-percent growth in value and a 3.37-percent decline in weight year on year.

Among the country’s non-oil export destinations, China was the first, importing \$2.720 billion worth of products, the United Arab Emirates was the second with \$1.502 billion worth of imports, ▶ Page 4

Report



Eternal fear: How do U.S. officials involved in General Soleimani assassination deal with their fear?

Many of former U.S. officials involved in the assassination of former Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Qods Force Commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani have been gripped by deep fear.

From 1998 to 2020, General Soleimani was the commander of the Quds Force, an IRGC elite division primarily responsible for overseas operations. On January 2, 2020, then-U.S. President Donald Trump made a decision to order his assassination. Consequently, the U.S. targeted the commander by a drone in the midnight of January 2, 2020 in Baghdad. ▶ Page 3

Iran held by Qatar at 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran were held to a 1-1 draw by Qatar in the opening match of the 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup on Wednesday.

Ahmad Al-Ghane scored for Qatar in the 87th minute and Erfan Shahriari equalized the match in the 90th minute.

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

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.

The 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup is 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 compete in the tournament.

Iran, Syria sign MOU to combat SDSs

to contain the phenomena.

Under the MOU, a joint working group will be formed to hold regular meetings at least once a year in Iran and Syria in order to plan and take action in this regard.

Moreover, measures such as educational cooperation and transfer of experiences, as well as the implementation of joint projects as pilots in various areas; dealing with, managing and adapting to the SDSs are envisaged.

From Inside



- FM Amir Abdollahian invited to China **P2**
- Washington obstructing Vienna negotiations: Russia FM **P3**
- Kazakhstan’s trade delegation to visit Tehran in late June **P4**
- High-ranking Nigerian trade delegation to visit Iran on June 6 **P4**
- Ancient petroglyphs discovered in eastern Iran **P6**
- Historical fort in Yazd being restored to former glory **P6**
- 43% of wetlands to become dust-rising hotspots **P7**
- Over 520 earthquakes shook Iran in a month **P7**
- Culture minister: Persons in Iran linked to “Holy Spider” face punishment **P8**
- “What Children Need to Be Happy” at Iranian bookstores **P8**

Interview



Delay in restoring JCPOA is extremely regrettable: Kimball

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN – Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association (ACA), says a delay by Iran and the U.S. to return to their commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal is “extremely regrettable”.

Kimball believes this will not meet the interests of the two countries and the international community at large.

“The delay in restoring compliance is extremely regrettable and does not advance the interests of the United States, Iran, or the international community,” Kimball tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

The prospects to revive the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is now looking grimmer than ever before. ▶ Page 2

‘We have to be open to’ lifting terror label on Iran military wing, Republican senator says

TEHRAN - As the negotiations to re-enter the Iran nuclear deal drag on in a stalemate, one of the main sticking points has reportedly been Iran's demand that its Islamic Revolution Guard Corps be removed from the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations, Responsible Statecraft reported on May 25.

One of the primary obstacles standing in the way of the Biden administration moving forward with that concession is its fear of domestic political blowback. But one Republican U.S. senator said during a hearing on May 25 that U.S. negotiators need to seriously consider it.

“I think we have to be open to it,” Sen. Rand Paul told President Biden's Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley, adding that he thinks — given the likely domestic political attacks Biden will be forced to endure for delisting the IRGC — any proposals for what the United States asks for in return should be made public.

“I think it's important that if we do want negotiations and the only way we're going to get any behavioral change is through negotiations, ... actually lessening sanctions is the only way you get it,” Paul said. “So even things such as labeling them as a foreign terrorist organization have to be negotiated.”

The Trump administration designated the IRGC a terror group as part of its failed “maximum pressure” campaign primarily, as its advocates have openly admitted, to serve as a poison pill aimed at making it politically more difficult for any future administration to return to the JCPOA. Indeed, the Senate passed a non-binding measure earlier this month prohibiting President Biden from delisting the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization.

Experts have noted that the designation is purely symbolic and that delisting the IRGC would have little or no practical consequences, a point that Sen. Paulechoed during the hearing.

“I think people should realize that even if we got rid of the foreign terrorist organization label, the IRGC has been ... under sanctions at least since 2007 for funding Hezbollah in Lebanon, so there still would be sanctions,” he noted, adding, “But we have to at least think this through. The only way you get anywhere is you have to give something they want and they give something we want.”

Malley also appeared to contradict reporting this week that President Biden has made a final decision not to remove the IRGC as an FTO, suggesting that the door may still be open to resolving the issue if the Iranians are willing to make concessions in return.

“We made clear to Iran that if they wanted any concession on something that was unrelated to the JCPOA, like the FTO designation, we needed something reciprocal from them that would address our concerns,” he said. “Iran has made the decision that it's not prepared to take the reciprocal step.”

Biden has fallen into Trump's Iran trap

In a commentary for the Responsible Statecraft published on May 19, Ryan Costello, an American politician and former member of the House of Representatives from the Republican Party, wrote “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran has clearly failed, but Biden seems to fear “political blowback” if he makes certain concessions to rejoin the JCPOA.

FM Amir Abdollahian invited to China

TEHRAN — In a meeting on Tuesday, External Security Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Cheng Guoping invited Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to visit his country.

The two officials also exchanged views over the latest state of the strategic partnership between Iran and China and its implementation.

Cheng extended the greetings of his country's foreign minister, Wang Yi, to Amir Abdollahian and also his invitation of Iran's chief diplomat to visit China.

He also expressed satisfaction with the rising

“It is August 2022 and the Biden administration is still focused on Ukraine as the war there enters its seventh month. The Biden administration and the Democrats are increasingly worried about their grim prospects in the upcoming midterm elections. And lurking behind these dire scenarios, the United States and Iran have been operating in a tense truce for months in the absence of a nuclear deal,” Costello commented.

He added, “Iran has abstained from weapons grade enrichment while the Biden team has declined to reduce or rigidly enforce the Trump-era sanctions they inherited. There is still some discussion of reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, but for all intents and purposes it is in a coma, never to be revived. President Biden and his advisers believe if they can just get through to the midterms, they'll finally move to resolve that pesky Iran file.”

The former Republican Congressman went to say, “Assuming the Biden administration and Iran fail to clear the last hurdle in the nuclear negotiations, which is in fact a Trump-era poison pill that was designed to push Iran out of compliance with the deal and block a Democratic administration from restoring it, a crisis could be sparked from any number of directions.”

Costello also said it is “a frustrating state of affairs for the president who campaigned on restoring U.S. and Iranian compliance with the nuclear agreement, and who also voiced support for easing the impact of sanctions on ordinary Iranians struggling amid the COVID-19 pandemic” has failed to resurrect the hard-won agreement.

“The Biden administration has never found the time or political will to resolve the stand-off, beginning with his first day in office when he failed to make any move — symbolic or otherwise — to break with President Trump's maximum pressure approach,” the politician says.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell believes it will become more difficult to revive the nuclear agreement if more time passes.

The talks to revive the 2015 nuclear accord started in April last year.

“While Biden has kept sanctions in place, Iran's nuclear program has steadily advanced to new heights, spurred on by Israeli sabotage in 2021 that Biden failed to stop. And now the negotiations have become stuck on a largely symbolic sanction that was expressly intended to interfere with Biden's diplomacy.

“Restoring the JCPOA is still the position supported by the vast majority of the American public and the Democratic caucus, but as the midterms approach, elements in his party will get more nervous about the politics surrounding the agreement, even though it is a fight Biden and his supporters would win,” stated the former House representative from who represented Pennsylvania.

He also likened Trump to an arsonist who sought to completely destroy the JCPOA.

“Trump was the arsonist who tried to burn down the nuclear deal, but Biden has just lingered around the scene of the crime rather than put out the fire.”

He concluded, “There's a good deal on the table, if Biden can find the courage to save it.”

trend of strategic ties between Tehran and Beijing.

For his part, Amir Abdollahian underlined the necessity of strengthening the growing trend of relations.

He also said cooperation between Iran and China at international organizations is a key aspect of ties.

Amir Abdollahian also described close consultations between the two sides as “important.”

The two also exchanged views about regional and international cooperation and other issues of mutual interest.

Delay in restoring JCPOA is extremely regrettable: Kimball

‘If U.S. and Iran are truly interested in restoring JCPOA, there is a suitable compromise that can be negotiated’

From page 1 ► Negotiations to put the JCPOA on the right track started in April 2021 but they have stalemated since March due to certain reasons, including a refusal by the Biden administration to remove the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from the U.S. list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

“The indirect talks between the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States on restoring mutual compliance with the JCPOA have actually produced some good results that will, if implemented, produce win-win results for all involved. Yet the two sides have failed to reach agreement on one issue outside the terms of the JCPOA itself: the Iranian demand to lift the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Designation on the IRGC,” Kimball states.

Donald Trump quit the JCPOA in May 2018 and returned the sanctions lifted under the agreement. His administration added new sanctions under different names in line with his “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran. A year later, Iran started to gradually lift bans on its nuclear activities as the remaining parties to the agreement, mainly the European trio of Germany, France and Britain, failed to compensate Iran for the U.S. sanctions.

The executive director of the ACA says, “The ongoing imposition of U.S. sanctions on Iran that had been lifted in 2016 when Iran met the terms of the JCPOA has made life more difficult for ordinary Iranians, and the acceleration of the Iranian nuclear program since 2019.”

Kimball also suggests that Iran should provide answers to the IAEA



about alleged secret nuclear activities in the past.

The Iranian ambassador to the Vienna-based IAEA has said the new report by the Agency about Tehran's nuclear program is one-sided and fails to reflect Iran's considerable cooperation with the UN body.

Moreover, Iran has been insisting that it has no intention to produce nuclear arms. Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has also declared a *fatwa* (religious decree) banning production, stockpiling and use of nuclear arms.

“The failure of the Iranian government to address lingering questions from the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding some of its past military-related nuclear activities, has once again increased concerns that Iran has ambitions to produce nuclear weapons. This is a lose-lose situation that will only get worse for both sides if they don't find a way to restore mutual compliance with the JCPOA,” the chief of the Washington-based ACR points out.

He proposes solutions to get out of such an imbroglio, saying, “One way to do so would be for the United States to lift the FTO designation on the IRGC and in exchange, for the Iranian government to provide assurances that American officials or citizens will not be targeted by Iranian forces or proxies supported by Iran.”

Experts as well as some former and current officials, including former EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, former Swedish prime minister Carl Bildt and U.S. Republican Senator Rand Paul, believe that the designation against the IRGC is largely symbolic. Kimball also believes so and says such a disagreement should not prevent the two sides to return to the JCPOA.

“Indeed, the U.S. FTO designation of the IRGC is largely symbolic, which is why neither side should (put) all their current disagreement on this issue to stand in the way of delivering meaningful sanctions relief for the Iranian people and the Iranian economy or bringing Iran's sensitive nuclear activities back within the

agreed limits of the 2015 nuclear deal so as to assure the international community that Iran is not seeking to acquire the capacity to produce nuclear weapons, which would violate the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as well as the Supreme Leader's *fatwa* against nuclear weapons,” he notes.

Kimball, who has led the association's education, research, and policy advocacy campaigns on a range of issue, goes on to say, “If both sides are truly interested in restoring the JCPOA and reducing tensions over Iran's nuclear program, there is a suitable compromise that can be negotiated. But it will take both sides to meet each other halfway and it will require continued and more intensive negotiations on the matter.”

He also believes that a resurrection of the JCPOA can lay the groundwork for the U.S. and Iran to diplomatically resolve remaining differences related to the West Asia region and also establish “cultural exchanges” to the benefit of American and Iranian citizens.

“I believe the JCPOA can and will be revived because it still serves the supreme national interests of Iran and the international community and creates a necessary foundation for the diplomatic resolution of a range of other issues and concerns and disputes regarding the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East region, and it can help smooth the pathway to renew cultural exchanges and humanitarian support that enriches the lives of ordinary citizens in Iran, in the United States, and in the region,” Kimball concludes.

Israel's top security and intelligence officials divided on Iran nuclear deal: al-Monitor

TEHRAN - Top military and security brass in Israel is engaged in a tense dispute over the handling of Iran's nuclear program, al-Monitor reported recently.

The drama is reminiscent of the deep disagreement among the regime's leadership 10 years ago, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and War Minister Ehud Barak unsuccessfully sought to convince the security cabinet to approve a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities. A decade on, history is repeating itself. Israel's military capabilities for such an attack have since degraded as Iran's program has progressed and expanded.

The controversy is the same, as is the balance of power between opponents and proponents of a deal with Iran. The crux of the controversy is over intense U.S. efforts to reconstitute the 2015 nuclear deal between

Iran and world powers. One camp believes reviving the agreement is Israel's best option and the other is convinced that the proposed agreement negotiated in Vienna is a disaster.

Brig. Gen. (reserve) Dror Shalom, the former head of the Research and Analysis Division of Israeli Military Intelligence, reportedly told his American interlocutors last week in Washington that the U.S. decision to quit the agreement with Iran in 2018 was a careless strategic mistake.

Shalom currently heads the political-military bureau of Israel's Ministry of War, a highly influential and sensitive policy post War Minister Benny Gantz appointed him to earlier this year. His purview includes public and clandestine contacts with defense establishments around the world.

Shalom led the intelligence research bureau from

2016 to 2020, a time when Netanyahu and his close aide, Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer, were deeply invested in convincing President Donald Trump to withdraw from the agreement with Iran. Shalom warned Israeli decision-makers including Netanyahu of the risks of such a move. Many top security and defense minds agreed.

Their assessments have borne out. The economic sanctions have not forced Iran to abandon its nuclear program and (perhaps despite Netanyahu and his allies' hopes), Trump did not order a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities. Shalom and other like-minded officials point out that Iran is now far closer to the nuclear threshold than it was while bound to its commitments under the 2015 agreement, and no world power seems to be able to stop it or afford the price off trying.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Biden's first year in office

1 consumer prices rose 7% across 2021, the Fastest rate of inflation in 40 years

7 Rising threats against democracy at home and abroad

14 Looming war with Moscow only six months after Geneva meeting

2 26 weekends and long holidays at home in Delaware consumer prices rose 7% across 2021, the Fastest rate of inflation in 40 years

Failing to get approval for the promised build back better plan

15 Failing to communicate with people, only 10 press conferences

3 \$2trillion rise in U.S. national debt under Biden

8 Premature declaration of success against COVID

16 Confusing messaging from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

4 451475 COVID deaths in 2021, 66022 more deaths than 2020

10 Chaotic evacuation of Afghanistan

17 failing to pursue an agenda focused on real-world economic issues.

5 Failing to reach the promised 70% vaccination by July 4th

12 Failure to manage the rising cold war tensions

18 testing shortages at the start of the latest Covid surge

6 A nation more divided amidst promises for unity

13 13 Americans killed, and an additional 17 Afghans mistakenly killed

19 not raising refugee admission cap despite promises

The Man who bewildered the West

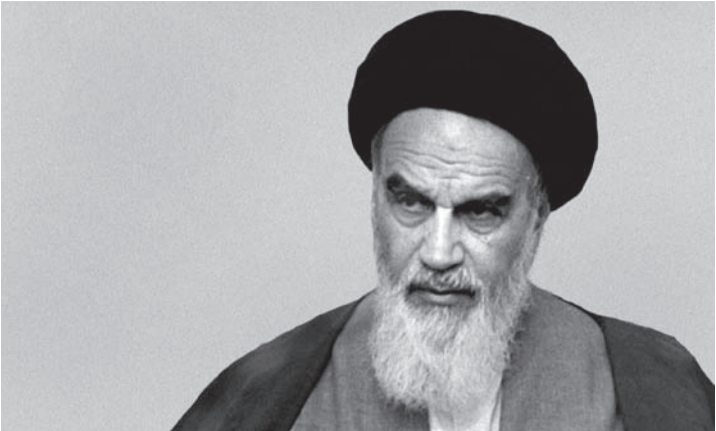
TEHRAN – Imam Khomeini, the founding father of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continues to bewilder the West decades after his demise because he led a revolution that continues unabated to this day under the leadership of his successor Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

“Imam Khomeini is an ever-living truth. His name is the flag of this Revolution, his path is the path of this Revolution, and his goals are the goals of this Revolution,” Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message on the first anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution continued to reiterate the notion of Imam Khomeini's everlasting legacy in the next years and decades. This is in part because Imam Khomeini made history by transforming Islam into a religion of the state for the first time in modern history. And faced an unusual enemy in leading his game-changing Islamic movement to victory: Mohammad Reza Shah, who led an armed-to-the-teeth regime, was fully supported by the West.

In many ways, Imam Khomeini's victory over the Shah regime was unusual. The Shah had everything to survive from a windfall of oil revenues to a modernized set of security apparatuses that were backed and trained by world-class formidable spy agencies.

But the Shah lacked one thing that was crucial for any regime to survive: popular support.



On the other hand, the Imam had nothing but popularity among increasingly alienated people and a firm belief in God. And that equipped the Imam with the necessary ammunition to take down a ruthless regime that had no qualms about suppressing its own people no matter how many are killed or maimed.

Perhaps here lies the main reason why the whole world, particularly the West, was deeply shocked and surprised over the downfall of the Shah, who wasn't supposed to crack up. But the Imam did the impossible and the Shah buckled under the strain of demonstrations across the country.

In the months and years after the overthrow of the Shah regime, Imam Khomeini oversaw the process of establishing an Islamic system that continues to this day. The Imam passed away 33 years ago but his

legacy lives on under Ayatollah Khamenei who continues to equally bewilder the West with his statecraft.

Ayatollah Khamenei, as is his wont, will deliver a speech on Saturday, June 4, to mark the 33rd anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini. The speech is expected to be delivered at the Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini. Imam Khomeini died on June 3, 1989, at the age of 89.

The Imam, also called Ayatollah Seyed Ruhollah Mousavi Khomeini, was born on May 17, 1900, and made a career in religious studies which ended up in him becoming a Marja, the highest position in the Shiite clergy.

In the 1960s and 1970s, he was mainly focused on fighting the Shah regime and was harassed and banished by the Shah regime several times until the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which consigned the Shah regime to the

dustbin of history for good.

Imam Khomeini spent over 14 years in exile, mostly in the holy city of Najaf in Iraq. Initially, he was sent to Turkey on 4 November 1964, where he stayed in the city of Bursa for less than a year. He was hosted by a Turkish Colonel named Ali Cetiner in his own residence, who couldn't find another accommodation alternative for his stay at the time. Later in October 1965, he was allowed to move to Najaf, Iraq, where he stayed until being forced to leave in 1978, after then-Vice President Saddam Hossein forced him out after which he went to Neauphle le Chateau in France, according to a biography published by khamenei.ir.

What made Imam Khomeini distinct from many other political leaders is that he developed a religiopolitical theory – velayat-e faqih, the guardianship of the jurisconsult – and then put it into action. The theory in question, developed and implemented by Imam Khomeini, is best outlined in his book Hokumate Islami (Islamic Governance). It provides the theoretical basis for innovative Islamic governance using Islamic tradition and theology.

Only two weeks after the Shah fled Iran on January 16, 1979, Imam Khomeini returned to Iran triumphantly, on Thursday, February 1, 1979, invited by the anti-Shah revolution which was already in progress.

SPORTS

Alireza Beiranvand returns to Persepolis - official

TEHRAN – Alireza Beiranvand returned to Persepolis football club after two years.

Beiranvand was loaned to Boavista from Belgian team Antwerp last season but remained an unused substitute in Portuguese first division team.

The 30-year-old custodian has penned a three-year deal with Persepolis for an undisclosed fee.

Beiranvand joined Persepolis from Naft Tehran in 2016 and helped the Reds win four titles in Iran Professional League, one Hazfi Cup and three Iran Super Cups.

Persepolis will part company with Hamed Lak at the end of the season after the goalkeeper failed to meet expectations in the team.

Iran to participate at WATC 2022 France

TEHRAN – Iran's men's golf national team will participate at the 2022 World Amateur Team Championships (WATC).

The 32nd men's championship will be held from August 31 to September 3, 2022.

Iran has previously participated in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 editions.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 edition of the WATC was cancelled.

The World Amateur Team Championships are a biennial international amateur golf competition conducted by the International Golf Federation, which comprises 151 national governing bodies of golf in 146 countries, and 22 international professional tours and organizations conducting major championships.

The International Golf Federation (IGF) is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the international federation for golf. In addition to the World Amateur Team Championships, the IGF also organizes the golf competitions at the Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games.

Iranian judokas win two more medals at 2022 IBSA Judo Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Vahid Nouri and Seyed Jafari won two medals at the 2022 IBSA Judo Grand Prix Kazakhstan.

Paralympic champion Nouri collected Iran's second gold of the Grand Prix, triumphing in the men's J2 over-90kg against Ibrahim Bolukbas of Turkey.

Bronze went to Christopher Skelley of Britain, the Paralympic champion at under-100kg.

Tokyo 2020 bronze medalist Helios Latchoumanaya of France was the other winner at the Grand Prix, beating Iran's Jafari to take gold in the men's J2 under-90kg.

Two-time Paralympic medalist Sharif Khalilov of Uzbekistan took bronze.

Meysam Banitaba from Iran had already won a gold medal in the men's -60kg.

In total, 18 of the 21 countries took part in Nur-Sultan had a podium finish.

IBSA Judo Grand Prix was staged under a new classification system, with athletes split into J1 and J2 categories.

J1 competitors are partially sighted, while J2 athletes are blind.

São Paulo in Brazil is due to stage the next Grand Prix on July 2 and 3.

Iran's Jahangard chosen at 2022 IFCPF Men's World Cup Team of Tournament

TEHRAN – Navid Jahangard from Iran has been chosen in Team of Tournament of the Salou 2022 International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) Men's World Cup.

He was part of the team who won a silver in the competition two weeks ago.

Iran lost to Ukraine in the final.

Ukraine's Ivan Donenko, Matt Crossen from England, Brazilian Uboirajara Magelhaes, Bruno Hoek from France, Canada's Samuel Charon and Sean Boyle from the U.S have been also chosen in the Team of the Tournament.

The tournament was held at the Futbol Salou Sports Complex in Salou, which is outside Barcelona, Spain.

Iran to send teams to 2022 Lifesaving World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran will send men's and women's teams to the 2022 Lifesaving World Championships.

The competition will take place in Riccione, Italy in from September 21 to October 2.

Mehdi Heydari, head of Lifesaving & Diving Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the federation is going to send men and women divers to the competition.

These championships were originally due to take place in Riccione in September/October 2020, but were postponed in March 2020 due to the global disruption caused by the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic.

Iran's difficult task in 2022 Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran will have a tough job in the 14th edition of the Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship.

Perennial champions Japan will return to defend their crown when the campaign will be held at Nakhon Pathom Sports Centre Gymnasium in Nakhon Pathom from June 6 to 13.

The top-flight championship serves as the Asian qualification tournament for the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Championship, with 11 teams in total vying for top honor and four berths up for grabs for the biennial world meet as AVC representatives.

Earlier, this tournament was due to be hosted by Uzbekistan, but due to some unforeseen reasons, Nakhon Pathom has replaced Tashkent as the host city of the eight-day championship, also adjusted to Asian Women's U18 Championship as approved by the AVC Board of Administration in line with the FIVB's decision in March 2022 to change the age category of the tournament by moving it from U18 to U19 in order to equate it with the Boys' U19 World Championship.

The 2020 edition was also due to take place in Nakhon Pathom, but had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, asianvolleyball.net reported.

The 11 participating teams comprise hosts Thailand, Korea, Iran, Australia and Uzbekistan in Pool A and Japan, China, Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, India and Philippines in Pool B.

Iran will begin the tournament on June 6 with a match against Australia.

All participating teams have been split into Pool A and Pool B. Teams will compete in pool round-robin preliminaries, with top two teams in each pool advancing to the cross semifinals. Teams finishing 3rd and 4th in each pool will next strut their stuff in the classification round for 5th–8th places, while those finishing 5th and 6th in each pool will fight for 9th, 10th and 11th places.

The championship had already been held for 12 times, but only two countries have captured the titles in this age-group championship. Japan emerged as the strongest team to clinch eight titles including seven in succession, while China had won the remaining four editions.

Since the 2020 Asian Women's U18 was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic, the afore-mentioned four teams (Japan, China, Thailand and Korea) received the AVC's green light to represent Asia in the 2021 FIVB Girls' U19 World Championship in Durango City in Mexico.

However, Japan, China and Korea withdrew from the world meet due to the outbreak of COVID-19, leaving Thailand the only Asian side to compete in the 2021 World Championship in Mexico, where the Thai girls returned with 11th position.

Eternal fear: How do U.S. officials involved in General Soleimani assassination deal with their fear

From Page 1 ▶ Reacting to the assassination of the legendary commander, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said, “A true example of a terrorist attack and state terrorism, which was committed in an organized way by the U.S. government.”

Iranian military officials have vowed to hunt down the perpetrators of the assassination.

Only six days after the strike, U.S. Congress in a joint resolution (S.J.Res.68) stated that “members of the United States Armed Forces and intelligence community, and all those involved in the planning of January 2, 2020, strike on Qassem Soleimani, including President Donald J. Trump, should be commended for their efforts in a successful mission.”

The Congressional report clearly states all those involved in the assassination, yet why are some trying to distance themselves from the action?

Mark Esper, then-U.S. defense secretary, in his new memoir titled “A Sacred Oath: Memoirs of a Defense Secretary in Extraordinary Times” has emphasized that General Soleimani's assassination was “a really bad idea with very big consequences.” Trump's defense chief said that he was accused of disloyalty after he refused to back claims made by Trump. Throughout the book, Esper has presented himself as one who stoutly resisted Trump's decisions.

Moreover, Esper said that this decision “stunned” the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, indicating that Milley too opposed the idea.

In addition to the aforementioned, Jared Kushner, the senior advisor to Trump, in his to-be-published memoir “Breaking History:



A White House Memoir” about the order of General Soleimani's Assassination has denied any knowledge of the assassination order. The Tehran Times has learned that Trump's son-in-law has tried to distance himself from the decision, saying in a chapter that he “was totally unaware of what was about to come.”

Pompeo and Hook's protection and fears

Recently, in a recent report titled “Sensitive but Unclassified,” the U.S. State Department announced that it has spent \$13.1 million between August 2021 and February 2022 on protecting former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former Iran envoy Brian Hook. The two men have reportedly been receiving 24-hour security, according to The Hill1.

In a press briefing on January 10, 2020, Hook, answering a question on whether he believed that Iran has actually concluded its retaliation for the assassination, said, “I don't have the words in front of me. But it would seem that Iran has concluded its response in retaliation for the killing of Qassem Soleimani.” 2

Hossein Mousavian, a Middle East security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton

University, during an Iranian documentary named “72 Hours,” said “after returning to the U.S., an American told me that Brian Hook's wife had not slept for several days and that she was shaking and crying. That's how afraid they were.”

Additionally, Pompeo, another official involved in the terror strike has lost 41kg (90lb) over six months following his exit from the Trump administration last year. There's certainly no denying that Pompeo has undergone a kind of physical transformation. But his claims that he has lost weight through minor diet and exercise have created controversy among nutritionists and fitness industry professionals – none of whom believe such dramatic weight loss would be possible, especially for his age, according to The Guardian3.

All these measures and fears and trepidations happened due to a decision made in the U.S. decision-making process. A decision that could have resulted in a national catastrophe. Virtually any military action could escalate into a war, as evidenced by the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which triggered World War I.

1 <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/598038-state-department-pays-2-million-per-month-to-provide-security-to/>

2 <https://2017-2021.state.gov/press-briefing-with-brian-hook-u-s-special-representative-for-iran-and-senior-policy-advisor-u-s-department-of-state/index.html>

3 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jan/11/mike-pompeo-weight-loss-diet-exercise-experts>

Washington obstructing Vienna negotiations: Russia FM

TEHRAN – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has accused Washington of obstructing the restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by trying to introduce amendments to the nuclear agreement.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Bahraini counterpart Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani in Manama, Lavrov stressed that Moscow will continue to work to reach an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program, UNEWS reported.

He accused the United States of trying to obtain new gains by trying to introduce amendments to the agreement, stressing that the solution lies in returning to the implementation of the JCPOA regarding the Iranian nuclear program.

Lavrov stressed that his country will continue its plan to establish security in the Persian Gulf region, with the participation of Persian Gulf states including Iran, and to maintain peace and stability in the region.

Talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal still hang in the balance due to U.S. stonewalling over a range of issues raised by Iran.

Meanwhile 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.”

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.

Russia has also said that the ball is now in the U.S.'s court in terms of reviving the JCPOA.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Permanent Representative of Russia to International Organizations in Vienna, said Tuesday that it is up to the U.S. to make a decision on the Vienna talks. “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.

After a two-month lull in the talks, Iran appeared on Tuesday to be mounting new diplomatic efforts to push the talks forward. 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

High-ranking Nigerian trade delegation to visit Iran on June 6

TEHRAN - A high-ranking delegation from Nigeria headed by the country's foreign minister is due to visit Tehran on June 6 to hold talks with Iranian officials including Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin.

During the visit, the Nigerian trade delegation will attend several meetings hosted by the Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) to discuss areas of common interest for increasing trade exchanges with Iranian businessmen, the TPO portal reported.

Also, numerous agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs)



are going to be signed between the two sides during the visit of the Nigerian delegation, for the expansion of economic relations.

TEDPIX gains 800 points on Wednesday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 800 points to 1.543 million on Wednesday.

As reported, securities worth 35 trillion rials (about \$134.6 million) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday, IRIB reported.

TEDPIX is expected to follow a mild upward trend in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21), a market analyst told IRNA on April 3.

"The capital market index experienced a significant decline in [the Iranian calendar

year] 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) and the transactions at this market also undergone some correction in the previous year. Therefore, it seems that given the relative stability of macroeconomic variables, we will see a slight growth in the market index during the current year," Ali Teymouri said.

According to Teymouri, the main risks threatening the capital market in the current year are budget-related issues, as well as government and central bank exchange rate policies following a possible nuclear agreement.

Transparency in the economic policies of the new government, as well as the resolution of issues related to the nuclear deal, can create stable conditions for the country's economy, which can in return ensure a good outlook for the capital market, the analyst added.

In the last few months of last year, the capital market experienced some turbulence due to the ambiguities about the outcomes of the Vienna talks.

Kazakhstan's trade delegation to visit Tehran in late June

TEHRAN- A Kazakh trade delegation will visit Tehran at the end of the current Iranian calendar month (ends on June 21), an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Rahmatollah Khormali, the acting director of the TPO's office of Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia, said the Kazakh delegation's visit will be coordinated by the TPO and Kazakhstan's QazTrade (Center for Trade Policy Development).

A high-ranking delegation from Kazakhstan headed by the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov also visited Iran last week with the aim of exploring new opportunities for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

During their stay in Tehran, the Kazakh delegates held several meetings with senior Iranian officials including Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi, and Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr.

The Kazakh delegation first visited the industry ministry to discuss mutual cooperation in industrial areas with Fatemi-Amin.

In this meeting, the Iranian minister stressed the significance of the joint investment for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, saying: "By the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries and the collaboration of Iranian and Kazakh companies, deeper, more stable and broader relations will be formed."

"Kazakhstan is a mineral-rich country and, like Iran, has large mining companies, and we can meet part of our needs for steel sheets from Kazakhstan," Fatemi-Amin said, suggesting that Iran could also cooperate with Kazakhstan in other areas like home appliances, medical equipment, and pharmaceutical industries.

Sultanov, in his turn, emphasized the possibility of strengthening the trans-Caspian corridor using Iran's logistics facilities, and said: "Given Iran's capabilities and capabilities, the country could become Kazakhstan's transit hub in the region."

Later on, the Kazakh party was received by the NIOC head and the officials of the two countries held talks on strengthening bilateral energy cooperation.

During this gathering, Khojasteh-Mehr pointed to the long history of cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan in the field of energy and said that Iran intends to activate the potential capacities between the two states in this sector.

Referring to Kazakhstan's willingness to cooperate with Iran's oil industry, he added that experts from the two countries are expected to examine the areas of cooperation in various fields, including oil, gas, and petrochemical industries.

"The outcome of the investigations conducted by the experts of the two countries will eventually lead to a memorandum of understanding between Iran and Kazakhstan which will be hopefully signed during the visit of the president of Kazakhstan to Tehran," the NIOC head said.

'Development of oil, gas fields prepares ground for flourishing western provinces'

TEHRAN- The managing director of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) said the development of the oil and gas fields lays the ground for flourishing the provinces in the west of the country.

Making the remarks in a meeting with the PMs of some cities of the western Kermanshah province on Tuesday, Mehdi Heidari said, "We hope that through the necessary supports and attraction of credits and funds, we will see the development of these fields in the western provinces."

The official has previously underlined that his

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

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

Non-oil exports rise 37% in 2 months yr/yr

From page 1 ► Iraq the third importing \$1.312 billion, Turkey the fourth with \$766 million of imports, and India the fifth importing \$290 million worth of products in the mentioned period.

Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the mentioned two months were China, Turkey, India, and Russia.

Considering the amounts of exports and imports in the mentioned two months, the country's foreign trade balance became \$401 million positive.

The value of Iran's export of non-oil products increased 25 percent

in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 – April 20), as compared to the same month of the past year, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration announced.

Foroud Asgari also said that the country's non-oil trade with other countries registered an \$875-million positive balance in the first month.

Iran exported 7.324 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$3.699 billion in the said month, with a 10 percent drop in weight as compared to the first month of the



previous year, the official stated.

The country's monthly non-oil import stood at 2.252 million tons worth \$2.824 billion, with a one percent rise in value and a 10 percent growth in weight year on year, he added.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to the previous year.

Alireza Moqadasi put the country's non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122

million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for the preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers, and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official underlined.

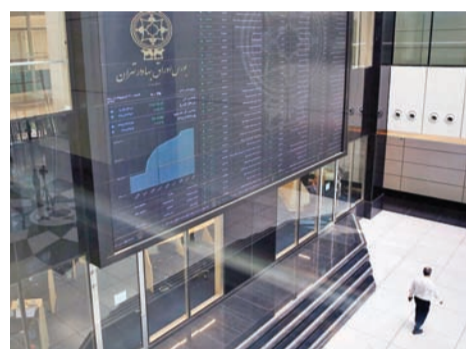
SEO suggests government form a financial stability council

TEHRAN - Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has suggested the establishment of a financial stability council to the Government Economic Committee, a deputy with the organization said.

Mohsen Khodabakhsh, the SEO deputy head for supervision on exchanges and issuers, said the formation of a financial stability council in the country can become the basis for fundamental decisions in the capital market. Accordingly, Securities and Exchange Organization proposed the formation of this council to the government.

As reported by IRIB, Khodabakhsh stressed the need to establish the financial stability council and monitoring of investment markets, saying that at this time the money market, capital market, as well as insurance and pension funds can stabilize the country's economy together.

Stating that the global markets are facing many risks related to changes in laws and regulations, he added: "Predictability of major decisions is a very important issue in the face of risks regarding laws and regulations."



If a decision is made on a grand scale for a certain period of time, under no circumstances this decision should change during that period, the official emphasized.

Emphasizing that the investor needs predictability and stability, not support, Khodabakhsh said: "Lack of trust as the highest asset in the capital market causes people to choose other options for investment, and this leads to capital outflow from the market."

The SEO deputy head also referred to the

measures taken by the government to support the capital market and added: "The government took important measures to improve the market and to make it more predictable, but there was no serious change in the market path. These fruitless efforts are due to mistrust that has been formed over the years and has not yet disappeared from the market."

Market Analyst Ahmad Eshtiaqi believes that the Iranian stock exchange market can grow by 30 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

In an interview with IRNA in early May, Eshtiaqi pointed to the growth of the stock market index and the factors affecting it and said: "It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow."

The analyst noted that the shareholders' interest in the capital market over the past few years has been due to the value of companies' stock, so when the shares still have room to grow, the market index will grow as well.

the two countries, economic cooperation will also increase and reach the desired point."

Sultanov for his part referred to the official visit of his country's president to Tehran in mid-June and said: "I have come to Tehran on the personal order of the president to explore various areas for the development and expansion of economic, trade and banking cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iran."

Underlining Kazakhstan's readiness for developing economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the official said: "Very good agreements have been concluded in recent months between the various economic sectors and the private sectors of the two countries so that the volume of trade and economic exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan has grown by 50 percent over the last three months to \$200 million."

He further mentioned the 85-percent increase in trade exchanges between the two countries last year, saying: "Before the pandemic, the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan was over one billion dollars, and returning to this level of cooperation and even exceeding it is also on the agenda of Kazakhstan."

Sultanov also visited Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie during his stay in Iran.

In that meeting, the two sides explored ways to increase the level of economic cooperation between the two countries.

In this regard, Shafeie stressed the need for resolving transportation issues and facilitating visa issuance for Iranian businessmen as a prerequisite for expanding trade ties between the two sides.

Noting that Kazakhstan, as the largest country in Central Asia, is very important for Iran, the ICCIMA head said: "Over the past few months, we have met with various delegations from Kazakhstan, and this is promising for good developments in trade relations between the two countries in the coming months."

According to Shafeie, the free economy policy in Kazakhstan has provided a good ground for the presence of Iranian traders and businessmen in this country.

Pointing to the obstacles to the development of trade relations between Iran and Kazakhstan, the official said: "One of the main obstacles to developing relations between the two countries is the limitations in rail and sea transport."

Sultanov for his part expressed satisfaction with the current trend of economic relations between the two countries and said: "Despite many problems, we are witnessing the growth of trade relations between the two countries."

"Last year, trade between the two countries grew by 80 percent. Of course, this rate was mainly due to the improvement in conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, in the first three months of 2022, trade between the two countries has also grown by 50 percent to \$200 million."

Over 1.2m air coolers manufactured in a year

TEHRAN- According to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, 1,246,900 air coolers were manufactured in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The ministry's data show that air cooler manufacturing fell 1.6 percent in 1400, from 1,267,600 sets of the product manufactured in 1399.

According to the industry ministry's data, over 6,273,600 sets of large home appliances, including TV sets, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, and air coolers were manufactured in 1400, while the figure was 5,832,400 in 1399.

Among the mentioned products, just air cooler experienced a production drop, and production of the other items increased.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past four years.

U.S. School Shootings: A post-modern form of child sacrifice?

From page1► On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, an 18-year-old armed with an assault rifle entered Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and opened fire, killing 19 children, two teachers and wounding 17 others. This sanguinary school shooting spree carried out by a gunman with a legally-acquired military-style weapon was merely the 119th in the U.S. since 2018. With a total to date of some 146 children and adults killed and 182 others injured in U.S. mass school shootings, these atrocities could be viewed as a post-modern form of child sacrifice.

American exceptionalism

Researchers are calling the epidemic of mass school shootings in the U.S. a public health crisis. By definition, a mass shooting occurs when four or more people, not including the shooter, are killed. With 288 school shooting incidents having occurred from January 2009 to May 2018, the U.S. is a world leader given these grim and worrisome numbers, and an extreme statistical outlier as well, with the number two country, Mexico, standing at only 8. Given the number and frequency of school shootings in the U.S. as compared to other nations around the world, this crisis would appear to be uniquely American. To put it another way, the U.S. has 57 times as many school shooting incidents as the combined total for rest of the world, where numerous nations from Argentina to the United Kingdom have reported no such events. On the average, some 3,200 American children each year, which is nine every day, are killed with guns. Guns are the leading cause of death for American children and teens aged one to 19 years.

Based on statistics for the year 2019, the U.S. is also number two in the world for gun deaths and gun-related suicides. While the U.S. has a gun-related death rate of over 12 per 100,000 persons, Japan's rate is only 0.06 per 100,000, about 200 times better than that of the world's first nuclear aggressor. How does Japan, with a population of some 127 million, deal with gun control? In order to purchase a gun, a Japanese citizen must first attend an all-day class and pass a written exam. Next, the individual must attain an accuracy rating of 95% on a shooting range test, and pass a mental evaluation performed at a hospital, after which is a comprehensive background check by the government. Then, and only then is the person permitted to purchase a weapon, and then only rifles or shotguns, not military-style assault weapons. For continued ownership, the class and exam must be repeated



every three years. With no school shootings identified within the country, Japan, unlike the U.S., does not sacrifice its precious children to the god of gun ownership rights.

The great political divide

On one side, the solutions presented by gun control advocates, mainly members of the Democratic Party, are straightforward and evidence-based: enact stricter gun control measures that require background checks and waiting periods, increase the legal age for purchase from 18 to 21, and outlaw semi-automatic assault weapons, or at least limit the bullet capacity of their magazines. After all, what is the point of allowing civilians to own military-style weapons that are specifically designed for use in a combat zone and to inflict as much damage as possible on human beings? U.S. president Bill Clinton had signed a bill banning the sale of AR-15 and similar semi-automatic assault weapons in 1994, resulting in a 43 percent drop in gun deaths, but George W. Bush allowed the ban to expire in 2004. The subsequent decade of 2004-14 showed an appalling 239 percent surge in deaths due to gun massacres, where six or more were killed.

On the other hand, gun rights advocates, mostly members of the Republican Party, argue that restricting gun ownership is an encroachment upon their right to own arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Some argue that children should be protected by armed guards in school, in the same way that money is in a bank. They maintain that a specially trained police force is necessary and that schools should be "hardened" by limiting access through a single entryway, reinforced with additional security measures like metal detectors. Others insist that the focus must be on individual problems and not on gun control. Still others go so far as to propose training and arming teachers. Of course, arming teachers puts firearms in classrooms and increases

the risk that someone else may gain access to a gun and shoot or be shot outside of an "active shooter" situation. Furthermore, expecting an armed teacher, with minimal training, to assess correctly and respond quickly to a shooter in the classroom is simply unrealistic.

Regrettably, given the lack of political will in the U.S. when it comes to implementing gun control, these mass shooting events can be expected to continue. Consequently, hospitals must have staff and facilities capable of treating the inevitable victims. Dr. Sage R. Myers, of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia writes, "Given that mass shootings are unfortunately commonplace, all hospitals – regardless of trauma center status – should expect and prepare for the eventuality of a mass casualty event involving both adults and children."

The deeper problem

While many place the blame for the current impasse over what to do about school shootings and prevent children from becoming sacrificial victims of the so-called "gun lobby" and the gun makers, few are taking note of the multibillion dollar "gun violence" industry that is capitalizing on the ever-expanding market for "solutions" to this perplexing plague. The services offered by this cadre of companies ranges from bulletproof backpacks and Bible-shaped gun cases, to training on how to handle active shooter situations. The image of the armed law-abiding citizen confronting an active shooter in self-defense indeed makes for a powerful marketing tool that is being exploited by many security firms, however, there is little scientifically verifiable evidence to support the effectiveness of this concept, so it appears to be more mythology than fact.

Moreover, the society at large seems to be moving towards acceptance of gun violence as a fact of life in the United States, as evidenced by the proliferation of "active shooter drills" in the nation's schools. Those who have money and means move into gated communities, where private security patrols provide

a level of protection that is inaccessible to those of lesser economic status. Due to the vast income inequality between well-heeled Americans and most working poor, the U.S. is becoming more like a stereotypical third-world country, such as those that were derided by the previous occupant of the Oval Office, in which children are at risk of being caught in the crossfire between police and gangs. And as economic inequality in the U.S. increases, the security for most children decreases, except for those fortunate enough to have been born into wealthy families.

Conclusion

The repugnant practice of child sacrifice has persisted throughout the history of the world. Recent research has shown that the people of Carthage sacrificed their children to their chief god, Baal Hammon, and later to the goddess Tanit, based on their beliefs that human blood was needed to maintain the gods' supernatural powers. When Agathocles the Sicilian invaded Africa in 310 BC, the Carthaginian priests blamed the disaster on the wealthy families, who would substitute the children of their slaves for their own in the sickening sacrificial rites.

In an analogous fashion, U.S. gun ownership advocates act based on their belief that any encroachment upon their assumed constitutional right to own military-style assault weapons represents a bona fide threat to their personal freedom. Hence, they will fight ruthlessly and irrationally against any and all such reasonable attempts by authorities to regulate or restrict these lethal firearms. Much like the Carthaginians of old, these gun fanatics are willing to sacrifice the children of others to maintain the power of their god of gun ownership rights.

YAW/YAW

The U.S. has 57 times as many school shooting incidents as the combined total for rest of the world.

Guns are the leading cause of death for American children and teens aged one to 19 years.

Johnson bracing for vote of no confidence

From page1► At least 15-percent of Tory Party MPs must write a no-confidence letter to make a leadership challenge possible.

Currently, that means 54 MPs must submit a letter of no confidence to pass the threshold that automatically triggers a new leadership race.

Former Prime Minister, Theresa May faced a no-confidence vote after only 24 Tory MPs publicly stated they had written letters of no confidence. However, 48 MPs was the 15 percent threshold at the time, which meant only half of the lawmakers had revealed their intentions in public.

Adding to Johnson's headaches, his own ethics advisor has piled more pressure by suggesting the PM may have broken the ministerial code when he was fined by police for breaking coronavirus rules.

Christopher Geidt has demanded Johnson provide a public explanation as to why he



believes the code was not breached.

He appears to have threatened his resignation as an independent adviser if the PM does not explain why being issued a fixed penalty notice did not constitute a breach of the code saying "a legitimate question has arisen as to whether those facts alone might have constituted a breach of the overarching duty within the Ministerial Code of complying with the law."

"It may be that the prime minister considers that no such breach of his Ministerial Code has occurred. In that case, I believe a prime minister should respond accordingly, setting out his case in public." Geidt added.

Johnson became the first serving UK Prime Minister to have broken the law while in office and was fined for attending a party in 2020 during a nationwide Coronavirus lockdown when gatherings were banned under rules imposed by the government of Johnson himself.

A new poll shows the main opposition Labour Party has taken an eleven-point lead over the Conservatives according to the latest Savanta ComRes survey.

Former Conservative Party leader, William Hague, has said "I think Boris Johnson is in real trouble here... a lot of people misread the events of last week as meaning the trouble is over, [that] Boris is [now] free."

Hundreds of casualties in U.S. Memorial Day shootings

At least 156 Americans have been killed and 412 others injured in gun violence over the Memorial Day weekend in the U.S. from 5 am on Friday to early Tuesday, just days after the Uvalde school massacre killed 19 kids.

Among the hundreds of casualties during the holiday weekend, the Gun Violence Archive, which keeps track of shooting incidents documented at least 14 mass shootings.

The monitoring group defines a mass shooting incident as one in which "four or more people are shot or killed, not including the shooter" - at least nine people have been killed in the mass shooting incidents and more than 60 injured.

Among the mass shootings, six people had sustained injuries by gunfire at a high school graduation in the state of Alabama as well as the killing of three children under the age of ten.

The other deaths and injuries have occurred from state to state including six teenagers between the ages of 13 and 15 injured by gunfire in the state of Tennessee with reports showing gun violence has not differentiated between age, race or location.

The shootings come as President Joe Biden has just finished visiting the city of Uvalde in Texas where another shooting massacre, this time at a school, killed 19 young children and two teachers.

The murder of 19 school kids did not deter the United State's gun industry and biggest



lobby group, the National Rifle Association, from enjoying its annual celebration of the weapons that slaughtered the young students.

The Uvalde trip followed Biden's visit to New York where a terrorist with a white supremacist ideology in military-style clothing opened fire at a supermarket in New York, an attack which officials labeled as a "hate crime and racially motivated violent extremism", that killed ten people and wounded three others in a black neighborhood.

According to the FBI, the U.S. is experiencing its largest-ever annual increase in homicides on record.

Despite hundreds of mass shootings unfolding in the states every year, Washington has repeatedly failed to pass any genuine gun-control legislation to tackle the epidemic.

Analysts say the hurdles to congress approving stricter gun legislation are both numerous and significant suggesting gun violence-related deaths and massacres are not going to decrease any time soon.

Brazil's Lula gets double-digit advantage over Bolsonaro

Former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has reclaimed a double-digit advantage in a new poll over incumbent Jair Bolsonaro ahead of Brazil's October election, according to abc.net.au.

The poll came after another center-right candidate quit the race.

An opinion survey run by Instituto FSB with sponsorship from investment bank BTG found that 46 percent of voters supported the left-wing Lula, up from 41 percent in April.

Support for Bolsonaro was unchanged from a month ago at 32 percent in the survey.

In an expected second-round run-off between the two men, Lula would gain 54 percent of the votes and Bolsonaro 35 percent, a 19 percentage point advantage that Lula had in March.

FSB director Marcelo Tokarski said Bolsonaro had gained ground in April after former justice minister Sergio Moro dropped out, but Lula saw a bump after Joao Doria, the former governor of Sao Paulo state, threw in the towel last week.

Russia says U.S. 'adding fuel to the fire' by sending rockets to Ukraine

Russia on Wednesday sharply criticized a U.S. decision to supply advanced rocket systems and munitions to Ukraine, warning of an increased risk of direct confrontation with Washington, Reuters reported.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "We believe that the United States is purposefully and diligently adding fuel to the fire"

When asked how Russia would respond if Ukraine used U.S.-supplied rockets to strike Russian territory, Peskov said: "Let's not talk about worst-case scenarios".

U.S. President Joe Biden has agreed to provide Ukraine with advanced rocket systems that can strike with precision at long-range Russian targets as part of a new U.S. package to help Kyiv defend itself in the three-month-old war that began with Russia's Feb. 24 invasion.

Washington agreed to supply the rockets, which are capable of hitting targets as far away as 80 km (50 miles), after Ukraine gave "assurances" they will not use the missiles to strike inside Russia itself, senior U.S. officials said.

Peskov said Moscow did not trust such assurances. He said it was assessing the risk of rockets being fired into Russian territory and was taking appropriate measures, but that it viewed Washington's step "extremely negatively."

He said such supplies would not encourage



Ukraine's leadership to resume stalled peace talks.

Ukrainian officials have been asking allies for longer-range missile systems that can fire a barrage of rockets hundreds of miles away, in the hopes of turning the tide of the war.

U.S. President Joe Biden wrote in an opinion piece in the New York Times: "We have moved quickly to send Ukraine a significant amount of weaponry and ammunition so that it can fight on the battlefield and be in the strongest possible position at the negotiating table."

Earlier, state news agency RIA Novosti quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying, when asked about the prospect of a direct confrontation between the United States and Russia: "Any arms shipments that continue, that are on the rise, increase the risks of such a development"

Five guest houses under construction in Ardabil



TEHRAN –A total of five guest houses are being constructed across the northwestern province of Ardabil, adding 96 beds to the province's hospitality sector.

Some 33 billion rials (\$110,000) has been invested in the projects, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Upon their completion by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2023), these guest houses are expected to generate 60 job opportunities, Nader Fallahi explained on Wednesday.

Last week, the official said that 300 job opportunities are estimated to be generated by implementing 11 tourism-related projects across the northwestern province of Ardabil by the end of the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

A budget of 428 billion rials (\$1.5 million) has been channeled into the projects, he noted.

The projects include hotels, guest hous-

es, and eco-lodge units as well as a medical tourism center, a hydrotherapy center, and two traditional restaurants, the official added.

Last month, an official with the tourism ministry announced that the Ardabil tourism directorate seeks to develop tourism infrastructure across the province.

It has been decided to allocate 800 billion rials (\$2.9 million) to the development of the tourism sector in the province, he said.

This amount of money will be spent on strengthening the tourism infrastructure and preserving, revitalizing, and restoring the province's ancient and historical monuments, the official added.

Developing and enhancing tourism infrastructure is a key to creating sustainable employment in the country, he explained.

In 2019, Ardabil along with Sari, the capital of Mazandaran province, was selected as the cultural capitals for the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2022 and 2023 respectively.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Historical fort in Yazd being restored to former glory

TEHRAN – A restoration project has been commenced on a historical fortification in Marvast county, the central province of Yazd, a local tourism chief has said.

The project involves repairing the roof, strengthening the walls as well as flooring, Abbas Qadiri explained, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

The fortification, with its clay and mud construction and bricks on its top, is considered the tallest one in Yazd province, the official added.

The historical structure has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

From very early history to modern times, defensive walls have often been necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Fortifications in antiquity were designed primarily to defeat attempts at the escalate, and to the defense of territories in warfare, and were also used to solidify rule in a region during peacetime.

Uruk in ancient Sumer (Mesopotamia) is one of the world's oldest known walled cities. The Ancient Egyptians also built fortresses on the frontiers of the Nile Valley to protect against invaders from neighboring territories.

Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built with mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the ancient city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don't miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Fortifications in antiquity were designed primarily to defeat attempts at the escalate, and to the defense of territories in warfare.



Some say it is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

The historical core of Yazd is chockfull of mudbrick houses, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historical gardens.

From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Furthermore, Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system, in fact, relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains.

The earliest water supply to Yazd is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mud-brick cisterns) can be today traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

Ancient petroglyphs discovered in eastern Iran

TEHRAN –Two ancient rock-carved petroglyphs have recently been discovered in the eastern city of Khusf, which was once situated on the ancient Silk Road, Khusf's tourism chief has said.

A new layer of petroglyphs has been discovered in the area following recent rainfall and flooding, CHTN quoted Ali Salehi as saying on Wednesday.

Located north of a small village in South Khorasan province, these petroglyphs have been painted in a clever and purposeful manner, the official explained.

These rock carvings are engraved on volcanic rocks and depict mountain goats, horses, riders, hunting scenes, and flowers, he added.

According to archaeologists, the newly discovered petroglyphs date back to between 2,500 and 3,000 years ago, during the Sagartian era, an ancient Iranian tribe, dwelling in the Iranian plateau, he noted.



South Khorasan is an explorer's delight – lots to discover yet barely another visitor to be found, even at the most important sights (despite a decent infrastructure of recently paved roads).

The region intersperses arid mountains and semi-deserts and is famed for saffron and barberries. But there's also a wealth of old mud villages that seem to have been left almost complete as though to tempt archaeologists.

Currently, there are over 40 countries alongside the historic land and maritime routes, which are collectively named the Silk Road, (or Silk Roads). This vast network carried more than just merchandise and precious commodities, however: the constant movement and mixing of populations also brought about the transmission of knowledge, ideas, cultures, and beliefs, which had a profound impact on the history and civilizations of the Eurasian peoples.

Qatar World Cup: Persian handicrafts within reach of football fans

TEHRAN – Persian handicrafts, made by natives of the southern Fars province, will become available to football fans during the upcoming FIFA World Cup in neighboring Qatar, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Qatar World Cup is a great opportunity for introducing and marketing the handicrafts of Fars province, said the provincial tourism chief Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad.

For the province's handicrafts to have a strong presence at the World Cup, it needs to plan and take action in the remaining time until the event, the official added.

Craft marketing encourages good production and helps move the economic cycle forward, he explained.

Bringing handicrafts back into people's lives will pave the way for their revival, he noted.

Earlier this month, the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami and Qatar's Minister of Culture and Sports Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani met in Tehran, exchanging views on how to facilitate tourism during World Cup.

The two countries discussed ways to further deepen tourism, cultural heritage, and handicraft ties by taking advantage of the World Cup opportunity in Qatar.

Zarghami suggested setting up a committee to plan and coordinate ideas and to make the most of

the World Cup's capacity.

Zarghami also said that there are nearly 300 Iranian handicrafts fields and many of the items are culturally quite close to Qatar, and classes can be held to bring the Iranian artists' experience to Qatari artists.

Back in April, Iranian media reported that the government mulled over a visa simplification procedure at the suggestion of its Foreign Ministry to draw spectators from the neighboring Qatar which plays host to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in November and December.

The Iranian government plans to grant a free visa to citizens whose national football teams qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar for a one-time or a two-time period with a validity period of two months and a 30-day stay.

Additionally, nationals of all countries (except those from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Somalia, Sri Lanka) who are subject to tourist visa requirements as well as all nationals of the U.S., UK, and Canada can apply for a free visa once, twice or multiple times if they provide a ticket from Doha.

Free visas can encourage World Cup spectators to visit Iran during the event, some experts say.

Back in February, Zarghami said that Iran must take an immense opportunity to be provided by the upcoming Qatar World Cup to properly introduce the county to the international spectators of

the major event.

“A significant number of travelers, mostly young people, would arrive in Qatar to attend the World Cup... It provides an exceptional opportunity for us to properly introduce tourist attractions of the country,” he added.

“Over the past months, we have prepared some plans to arrack attendees to the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer championship.”

The minister said many people are interested to visit Iran for its historical attractions and ecotourism to name a few.

Furthermore, Zarghami's deputy for tourism, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, has said the landmark event gives Iran a chance to dwindle the so-called anti-Iranian sentiments known as Iranophobia. “Qatar's World Cup offers a unique opportunity to introduce destinations near the host country, and we should take advantage of this opportunity to confront Iranophobia.”

To make good use of this occasion, it is necessary to develop consensus among the relevant agencies, and if this does not occur, it will be detrimental to the country, Shalbafian explained.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, ma-drasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Budget allocated to tourism-related projects in West Azarbaijan

TEHRAN – The Iranian government has allocated some 1.2 (\$4.1 million) to the tourism-related projects underway in West Azarbaijan province, northwestern Iran, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The budget will be spent on nine projects in the areas of tourism, cultural heritage, and handicrafts, Jalil Jabbari explained on Wednesday.

The projects include boosting the tourism infrastructure of the World Heritage sites of St. Thaddeus Monastery, also known as the Qareh Klise (“the Black Church”), and Takht-e Soleyman (“Solomon's Throne”) as well as restoring the centuries-old Jameh Mosque of Urmia, the official added.

Last week, the official announced that West Azarbaijan province is slated to be marketed as a top travel destination for summertime.

As a way to distribute travel fairly in the country and to develop tourism capacities throughout the country, the northwestern province as well as some other provinces will be introduced as summertime holiday destinations, he noted.

Considering its history, culture, social and tourism potential, as well as the availability of suitable accommodation, hospitality, and leisure facilities, West Azarbaijan

is ready to receive travelers and tourists, the official mentioned.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, the number of travelers to the province was increasing, but the pandemic halted that trend, he noted.

However, the province was a popular destination for travelers during the Noruz holiday this year, he said.

Earlier this month, the official announced that some 1500 beds are expected to be added to the hospitality sector of the province.

West Azarbaijan province will increase its accommodation capacity by 1500 beds upon the completion and inauguration of 30 unfinished tourism-related projects, he explained.

A budget of 400 billion rials (\$1.4 million) has been allocated to the projects, the official added.

He also noted that tourism-related projects generated 1,767 job opportunities across the province during the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ends March 21, 2020).

“The largest number of jobs is related to the issuance of licenses for handicraft producers, which has led to the employment of 549 persons,” he mentioned.

Last July, ISNA reported that the tourism industry of the country has suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$1.1 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pan-

demic.

The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in a once budding travel sector of the country, the report added.

Experts believe accommodation centers suffered the most as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and its subsequent unemployment and financial losses.

St. Thaddeus Monastery is one of the oldest surviving Christian monuments in the country. It is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

The ancient Church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It bears verses of Old and New Testament in Armenian calligraphy as well.

Together with St. Stepanos Monastery and the Chapel of Dzordzor, Qareh Klise was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008 under the name “Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran”. All the three sites are located in West Azarbaijan and are of high significance from historical and cultural perspectives. They bear credible testimony to interchanges with the ancient regional societies in particular the Byzantine, Orthodox and Persian.

UNESCO has it that the churches

Experts say that travelers along the Silk Road were attracted not only by trade but also by the intellectual and cultural exchange that was taking place in cities along the Silk Road, many of which developed into hubs of culture and learning. Science, arts, and literature, as well as crafts and technologies, were thus shared and disseminated into societies along the lengths of these routes, and in this way, languages, religions, and cultures developed and influenced each other.

For thousands of years, the ancient Silk Road passed through many different empires, kingdoms, reigns, and societies. According to UNESCO, the Silk Road enriched the countries it passed through, transporting cultures, religions, languages, and of course material goods into societies across Europe, Asia, and Africa, and uniting them all with a common thread of cultural heritage and plural identities.

43% of wetlands to become dust-rising hotspots

TEHRAN – Some 43 percent of the country's wetlands have the potential to become a source of sand and dust storms (SDSs), Sedigheh Moddares, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE) has stated.

Determining and monitoring the water needs of the wetlands and rivers, implementing wetland protection and rehabilitation programs, preparing a comprehensive wetland management plan with an ecological approach and monitoring the country's wetlands are the main activities of the DOE to protect wetlands, she explained.

Lack of water rights of reservoirs, illegal land use changes in wetlands, entry and spread of invasive species, entry of biological, chemical and physical pollutants of agricultural lands, cities, villages and industries; implementation of large development projects and infrastructure such as roads, petrochemicals, refineries, airports, energy transmission lines in wetlands without environmental assessment; improper use and excessive water withdrawal, climate change and legal deficiencies are among the challenges threatening the wetlands in Iran.

Pointing out that not providing the water rights of wetlands has long-term destructive effects, she said that increasing the salinity of the wetland, reducing



habitat capacity, severely reducing the ability of wetlands to support the livelihood of local communities and drying of wetlands are the most important destructive effects.

One of the intensifying effects of wetland degradation is the conversion of large parts of them to the source of SDSs, and in some cases its effects have crossed the borders and affected large parts of the globe, she lamented.

Out of 226 wetlands nationwide, 42 are the hotspots of SDSs, including Hour Al-Azim, Shadegan, Urmia, Hamoon, Miqan, Salehieh, Bakhtegan, etc, she said.

Currently, 43 percent of the country's wetlands are prone to give rise to dust storms, which means that if their water needs are not met, they can become new centers of dust in the coun-

try, she also noted.

Wetlands importance

Wetlands are indispensable for the countless benefits or "ecosystem services" that they provide humanity, ranging from freshwater supply, food and building materials, and biodiversity, to flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate change mitigation.

Yet study after study demonstrates that wetland area and quality continue to decline in most regions of the world. As a result, the ecosystem services that wetlands provide to people are compromised.

Managing wetlands is a global challenge and the Convention presently counts 172 countries as Contracting Parties, which recognize the value of having one international treaty dedicated to

a single ecosystem.

The Ramsar Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. This includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas, tidal flats, mangroves, and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.

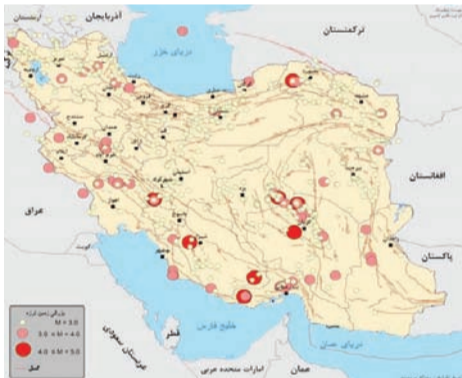
The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to becoming "Contracting Parties".

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.

Out of 226 wetlands nationwide, some 42 are dust hotspots.

Over 520 earthquakes shook Iran in a month



TEHRAN – A total of 529 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar month (April 21- May 21), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Of the total 529 quakes, 8 were more than 4 on the Richter scale, the largest of which occurred on May 22, with a magnitude of 4.6 in the central province of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari.

Statistically, 463 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, and 58 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 to 4 have occurred. At least 8 earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.5 to 5 have occurred in the country.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi with 74 earthquakes, Kerman with 53 earthquakes, and Yazd with 51 earthquakes recorded the highest number of earthquakes in the country.

Some 2 earthquakes also recorded in Tehran province, the largest of which was near Robat Karim with a magnitude of 2.3 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century is reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolitan areas in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslide, fire following an earthquake, etc.

Iran, Syria sign MOU to combat SDSs

From page 1 ►

SDSs phenomenon effects

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused

by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

Over the past two years, the precipitation rate has been on a downward trend, as a result, sources of sand and dust storms (SDSs) have increased compared to a year before, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management, has said.

Declining water levels in dams and lakes mean that water available to humans has been reduced and the dust-raising areas have been increased, he lamented, ISNA reported.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year,

about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise

to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید ۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کروموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «پی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.

Tribes in Iran

Part 18

In any case, the tribes of today are too intermingled to be easily identifiable as Brahu'i or Baluchi. Many pastoral Brahu'i tirehs, such as the Zirkari, Nakha'i, Maleki, and Chandal, take their flocks annually to the Qa'enat district in Khorasan.

In all probability the Baluch were driven from Kerman into Baluchestan after the penetration of the Saljuq forces into Kerman. Baluchi tribes, however, are to be found in Kerman province today: amongst others, the Sarabandi in the shahrestan of Bam, and a section of the Hut at Kohan Ali in the southeast of the bakhsh of Kahnui, near the Jaz Murian.

In the ostan of Hormozgan, the Taherzahi tayefeh is settled in the area stretching from the port of Jask to near Minab and into the Bashagerd mountains. A section of the Anushirvani tayefeh, whose original home was in Saravan, also now lives in the shahrestan of Minab between Jask and Sirik.

The Mid tribe is to be found all along the coast from Gavater in the east of Sirik in the west (Markaz-e Pazhuheh-e Khalij-e Fars wa Darya-ye Oman, 1354/1975 and 1355 /1976; Spooner, 1964, pp. 53-57; Spooner, 1967; Salzman, 1972, pp. 60-68).

5. Organization

As far as the tribes of Iran are concerned, tribal organization is a system designed to integrate the nuclear families into the tribal community, to enable them to perform functions for which they are responsible, and also to secure the tribe's unity.

Ethnic identity alone (e.g., being Lak, Lor, or Kurdish) is not a sufficient basis for lasting unity. Many of the tribal confederacies in Iran are in fact made up of ethnically different tayefehs and tirehs, and conversely no tribal confederacy includes the whole of an ethnic group.

In general, tribal organization at the lower level is based on kinship and at the higher levels on administrative and political alliance. In many tribes the structure is of a more or less uniform type which has been described as "segmentary lineage organization," but there are also variations from one tribe to another depending on factors such as the degree of the tribe's integration or dispersion, the source and nature of its economic activity, etc.

Some examples are given below.

The Turcophone Qashqa'i confederacy (il) came into being as an alliance of Turkish, Khalaj, and also Lor, Kurdish, and Lak tirehs. The names of twenty-two Qashqa'i tirehs in



the late 13th/19th century are given by the historian Fasa'i, and some of these names, such as Balilavand, Feyli, and Jama-Bozorgi, show that the particular tirehs were Lor and Lak (Fasa'i, p. 313).

It seems that, as the number and the populations of the tirehs grew, the ilkhani appointed certain khans who were each to direct the affairs of a group of tirehs, thereafter named a tayefeh (Peyman, 1342/1963, p. 220).

From the printed data (if trustworthy) it can be seen that with the passage of time the number of the tayefehs fell while the number of the tirehs rose. The number of the tayefehs in the Qashqa'i confederacy in the period 1313/1934-1320/1941 was reported as 27 (ibid., p. 225), and the number in 1341-42 /1962-63 as 9, two of which, the Safi Khani and the Rahimi, had practically been absorbed into others (ibid., p. 232).

In later publications, only six tayefehs are mentioned: the Darra-Shuri, Shesh-Boluki, Amala, Farsimadan, Kashkuli-e Bozorg, and Kashkuli-e Kuchek. The Qaracha'i tayefeh is sometimes said to belong to the Qashqa'i and sometimes to be independent (Ayatollahi, 1357/1978, p. 9).

The number of the tirehs in the Qashqa'i confederacy in 1311/1932 was reported as 90 (Kayhan, pp. 79-85), and the number in 1340 /1961 and subsequent years as between 180 and 200.

Clearly a process of change has resulted in multiplication of the tirehs within each tayefeh. For example, the number of the tirehs in the Farsimadan tayefeh rose from 12 in 1313/1934-1320/1941 to 20 in 1341/1962-63 (Peyman, 1342/1963, p. 234), and reached 21 in 1352/1973 (Ajami, 1352 /1973, p. 2) and 1353/1974 (Ayatollahi, 1357 /1978, p. 9).

In 1352/1973 the Farsimadan tayefeh comprised 2080 families, and the Amala, described as a tireh of it, comprised 79 families or 400 persons.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
(To be continued)



COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 1

New cases	234
New deaths	2
Total cases	7,232,268
Total deaths	141,318
New hospitalized patients	43
Patients in critical condition	511
Total recovered patients	7,051,024
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,269,202
Doses of vaccine injected	149,957,751

Nader Ebrahimi was a writer and a poet. Simply reading one of his books will take you to a magical world. Another key aspect of his writings is his descriptions; for example, in order to create an image of Ruhollah in the audience's mind, he only mentions one notable attribute of his characters, and the audience's mind begins to form an image automatically.