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# We fought for this for 43 years



**Iran unveils dozens of nuclear achievements on Nuclear Day**

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## West, IAEA failed to provide nuclear technology to Iran, Rouhani bemoans

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the common name for the 2015 nuclear deal, completely legalized nuclear technology in Iran and this was a great achievement that happened during his early years as president.

Rouhani made the remarks as Iran marked National Nuclear Technology Day on Saturday.

“One of the honorable results of the JCPOA was that it fully legalized nuclear

industry in Iran,” the president remarked.

Rouhani said, “This was great thing that was done in this time.”

The JCPOA was concluded on July 14, 2015 between Iran and the 5+1 nations, and the European Union. It was endorsed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231. However, former U.S. president Donald Trump abandoned the deal in violation of international law and this led to many consequences.

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## Over 89m Kwh of electricity generated from renewable sources in a month

TEHRAN – According to the data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), the country's renewable power plants generated over 89 million kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity in the last month of the previous Iranian calendar year (February 19- March 20), IRNA reported. Electricity generation from renewables in the said month led to economizing on the consumption of natural gas by 25 million cubic meters while saving 19 million

liters of water and also prevented the emission of 57,000 tons of Green House Gases (GHG).

The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants reached 920.260 megawatts (MW) in the mentioned month, of which solar power plants with 452.75 MW had the biggest share.

Wind power plants with 317 MW of energy production stood in second place, followed by small hydropower plants with a generation of 105.65 MW.

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## Medical equipment export grows by 23% despite sanctions

TEHRAN – The export of medical equipment experienced a growth rate of 23 percent over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021) despite U.S. sanctions, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Food and Drug Administration, said.

In the field of medicine export, there was also an 8 percent increase compared to a year before, while export of cosmetic

products increased by 15 percent, he added, ISNA reported on Saturday.

“In the field of detergent products, we have had 13 percent export growth compared to the same period a year before.”

One of the important programs of this year will be to facilitate exports and further activity in the markets of the target countries, he concluded.

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## Tebuireng School of Religious Sciences

**BY MOHAMMAD JAVDAN**

In 1899, while Muhammad Hasyim Asy'ari was returning from a trip to Mecca, he thought of establishing a school of religious studies to help the Indonesian community entangled in poverty and ignorance.

For this purpose Asy'ari went to one of the villages near where he lived, which was known for corruption and gambling. Those in Tebuireng never imagined that their village would later be known as the cradle of the world's largest Muslim movement.

Haji Muhammad Hasyim, known locally as “Kiai Haji” Muhammad Hasyim, got acquainted with religious sciences through his father at the School of Religious Studies. Then he left Indonesia for Mecca as a young man. And for many years during his presence in this holy city, he studied religion under the great Muslim scholars.

Originally a Shafi'i one of the four Sunni schools of religious law, he gained more knowledge in the science of hadith and came under the teaching of several great Indonesian scholars who specialized in hadith in Mecca and taught Sahih Bukhari (Sahih al-Bukhari is a collection of hadith compiled by Imam Muhammad al-Bukhari; d. 256 AH/870 AD).

Kiai Haji Muhammad Hasyim then got acquainted with other great scholars who were present in Mecca, and after a few years of studying other sciences such as astronomy, mathematics, algebra and other sciences, he decided to return to Indonesia.

After settling in Indonesia, he decided to establish a school of religious studies to teach people what he had learned and use it to promote his country, a dream that came true a few years later.

Kiai Haji Muhammad Hasyim established a school with only two rooms, in one of which he lived and in the other he taught only 8 students of religious sciences.

His great thoughts, however, were not limited to one room. He brought about such a change in Indonesia's education system that for many years all public schools and colleges imitated him and his seminary. His students grew from 8 to more than 2,000 students in less than a year.

**Kiai Muhammad Hasyim is one of the most leading scholars of the contemporary era**

The establishment of the boarding school for religious studies was the starting point of a great thought that Asy'ari believed in. At first, he believed that publicization and cultural activities could bring good to society.

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## Iranian handicrafts: discover Gabbeh of Bushehr

TEHRAN – Gabbeh is a traditional flooring similar to carpet but they differ from one another in motifs, size, colors, and the number of its long and thick wefts. It is one of the most popular handicrafts in the southwestern province of Bushehr.

Gabbeh represents a rough and primitive carpet with patterns mostly made by nomadic people. They are manufactured by handspun wool, both in the pile and warp, and the yarns are dyed using plant dyes. The patterns of the carpet are of a simple type with only a few elements of decorative, mostly rectangular objects containing animals.

They are common in almost all the villages and even some of the cities of the southwestern province. The motifs and patterns of Gabbeh are not the same as the carpet. Gabbeh may do not have any margin, or may not be symmetrical. Many of its motifs look like paintings of children, quite simple and primitive, but inspired

by nature and surroundings.

Patterns of Gabbeh are created by the memory of their weavers. They are completely free to use any motif and they can place it anywhere they desire in the pattern. Another major difference between Gabbeh and carpet is the color palette used in them, according to Visit Iran, the official travel guide to the country.

A major part of the Gabbeh is weaved using wools in their raw color. The Bushehr Gabbeh has plain backgrounds in white, cream, brown, black, and grey, and the patterns are made in black, red, dark blue, and other similar colors.

The weavers are mostly women and girls who each have a special kind of motif on their minds and they skillfully weave them. In general, the common feature of the Gabbeh of Bushehr is the traditional patterns that have been evolved through generations and are artistically valuable.

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## 40% of U.S. Marines have rejected coronavirus vaccine

Just shy of 40 percent of Marine Corps service members have refused to take the coronavirus jab, new data provided to the media shows. The revelation comes as Democratic lawmakers push to make the vaccine mandatory for soldiers.

Some 75,500 Marines have agreed to be vaccinated as of Thursday, while around 48,000 have declined the inoculation, CNN reported, citing numbers provided by the branch. That puts the rejection rate at 38.9%, slightly higher than the 33% rate for the whole military given by defense officials.

Marine spokeswoman Colonel Kelly Frushour explained that Marines may be refusing the shot for a number of reasons, including allowing others in more vulnerable groups to take it first, allergies to the vaccine or obtaining it by other, non-military means.

Frushour stressed the need to “build vac-

cine confidence” among servicemen, adding that reluctant troops can always “change their mind and become vaccinated when next the opportunity presents itself.”

Another 102,000 or so Marines, including active-duty and reserve troops, are still in line for the immunization and have not had a chance to accept or decline.

The rejection rate was much higher at certain bases, such as Camp Lejeune, a major Marine installation in North Carolina, where 57% of service members have refused to take the shot.

While the military is currently barred from mandating any of the coronavirus vaccines rolled out in the U.S., as each has received only emergency FDA approval rather than full authorization, some in Congress have pressed the Joe Biden administration to change that.

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## Minorities struggle racism in Europe as right-wing movements rise: scholar

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**

TEHRAN - A London-based history professor says that today many people across the world face every day discrimination fuelled by the rise of right-wing movements.

“Many – as other minorities – struggle with everyday racism, now further fuelled by the rise of right-wing movements,” David Motadel notes.

“The situation of minorities in Europe is overall better than anywhere else in the world,” Motadel, associate professor of international history at

the London School of Economics and Political Science, tells the Tehran Times.

Motadel who has held visiting positions at Harvard, Yale, Oxford, Sciences Po, and the Sorbonne also believes that “Europe has sometimes been defined in religious terms, as Christendom. But there is a long history of Judaism in Europe.”

However, the author of Islam and Nazi Germany's War and the editor of Islam and the European Empires, notes that “the majority of Muslims in today's Europe is well-integrated

and successful.”

Following is the text of the Interview with David Motadel:

**How do you see the status of Muslims in European countries in view of the rise of populists in Europe?**

I am concerned about the growth of right-wing nationalist movements in Europe. Yet I am still convinced that the majority of Europe's population is tolerant and will continue to resist these groups.

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## GSA: Riyadh, Tal Aviv unhappy over possible transformation from 'maximum pressure' to 'maximum diplomacy'

**BY M.A. SAKI**

TEHRAN - Chief executive officer of Gulf State Analytics (GSA) says that both Saudis and Israelis in a “tacit partnership” are worried about a revitalization of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

“Saudi Arabia and Israel both share major concerns about the possibility of Biden's administration transforming Washington's Iran foreign policy from “maximum pressure” to “maximum diplomacy,” Giorgio Cafiero tells the Tehran Times.

Iran and the remaining members of the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, plan to continue talks on the nuclear deal especially after they first held a virtual meeting on April 2 and then agreed to hold talks in Vienna on April 7. They also held talks in Vienna on April 9. The sides also agreed to meet in the coming Wednesday. The talks are being arranged by the European Union as the coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission.

However, some regional regimes, particularly Israel and Saudi Arabia which seems to have formed a secret alliance, are really unhappy with a diplomatic solution when it comes to Iran.

“Both the Saudi and Israeli governments believe that former President Donald Trump's ‘maximum pressure’ on Iran needs to stay and should not be eased until Iran drastically changes many aspects of its foreign policy,” the DC-based consultant adds.

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## Martyrdom anniversary of Sayyad Shirazi marked

A ceremony was held on Thursday to commemorate the memory of Lt. Gen. Sayyad Shirazi who was martyred in front of his house in Tehran 22 years ago. The ceremony was arranged by the General Headquarters of the Army. Adbolrahim Musavi, the commander of the Army, attended the commemoration ceremony. Lt. Gen. Sayyad Shirazi was martyred by a senior MKO terrorist named Zohreh Qa'emi.

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## Value of 11-month export to Afghanistan hits \$2b

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The value of Iran's export to Afghanistan reached \$2 billion during the period from March 20, 2020 until February 18, 2021, the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) shows.

This amount of exports indicates the high potential of the neighboring countries' markets for importing Iranian products. Back in January, the director general of the Asia-Pacific Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) had said that a preferential trade agreement with Afghanistan was going to be signed in the near future.

Speaking in the fourth meeting of Khorasan Razavi-Herat Joint Trade Committee in Mashhad, Reza Seyed-Aqazadeh said: "Necessary coordination has been made with the Ministry of Commerce of Afghanistan."



He mentioned previous tariff agreements between the two countries and said: "Previously, in 2015, the tariffs for the imports of five commodity items from Afghanistan including the imports of sesame were reduced; the tariffs on sesame imports were reduced from 10 percent to five percent."

According to the official, balancing international trade, especially with Afghanistan is one of the major strategies of Iran in foreign trade, and TPO's goal is to establish a balanced trade between the two countries.

Special strategies have been adopted by the Trade Promotion Organization for balancing trade with Afghanistan and for resolving problems in this field, he said, adding that the issues and demands of Afghan businessmen will also be reviewed in a special working group in this organization to take the necessary measures and resolve their issues.

Having shared historical, cultural, political, and economic backgrounds, Iran and Afghanistan have been allies for many years and the strategic cooperation between the two countries has been broadened especially over the past two decades.

As stated by the TPO head, Iran is capable of doubling non-oil exports to its neighbors in two years.

Hamid Zadboum has said that considering the future capacities, the TPO has planned increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries to about \$100 billion in a two-year time span, in a way that Iran's share of the regional markets will significantly go up.

The official has previously said: "Pakistan and Turkey have the highest capacity to import Iranian goods, which is good news for Iranian businessmen and exporters."

Pointing to the Persian Gulf states as good markets for some Iranian-made commodities, Zadboum said that large markets such as Russia and China should also be considered by exporters.

Iran shares borders with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia whose total value of annual imports exceed \$1000 billion.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government is pursuing.

First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri has called for developing non-oil exports as the only way for realizing the motto of the surge in production.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry should provide the necessary bases for the development of [non-oil] exports by expanding and strengthening economic diplomacy," he said in a meeting on reviewing ways of boosting economic relations with the neighboring countries and supporting non-oil exporters.

Emphasizing that 15 neighboring countries and countries such as China and India and Eurasian members should be targeted as the most important export destinations of the country, Jahangiri called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies to strengthen economic diplomacy and focus on these export destination countries to provide the necessary infrastructure for the development of exports to these nations.

## TEDPIX drops 9,000 points on Saturday

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 9,151 points to 1.24 million on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

Over 1.476 billion securities valued at 16.214 trillion rials (about \$386 million) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.



The first market's index fell 7,191 points, and the second market's index dropped 16,799 points.

TEDPIX dropped 45,000 points, or 3.6 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.249 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Opal Kani Pars Mining and Processing Company, Social Security Investment Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and National Iranian Copper Industry Company were the most widely followed indices.

TEDPIX had risen eight percent in the last week of the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

The index increased 101,000 points to 1.307 million in that week.

After several weeks of decline, growth finally returned to the TSE, Iran's major stock exchange, as TEDPIX rose 2.4 percent during the last week of February.

# Over 89m Kwh of electricity generated from renewable sources in a month

➔ Renewables, including hydro-power, account for about seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Overall, in the next four years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

According to SATBA, the number of small-scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small industries is also increasing noticeably as Iranian households and small industries are embracing the new

technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area.

Iran is also planning on expanding its presence in the region's renewable energy market.

According to the Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, the country has great potentials in the field of renewable energies and can have a significant role in developing the region's market for such energies.

"Relying on the high potential of renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, etc.,



the Energy Ministry has planned good measures in order to implement new policies for creating positive changes in the development of the country's renewable energy sector," Ardakanian has said.

Back in December 2020, SATBA Head Mohammad Satakin said the capacity of the country's renewable power plants was going to reach 1,000 MW (one gigawatt) by the end of the current government's incumbency (August 2021).

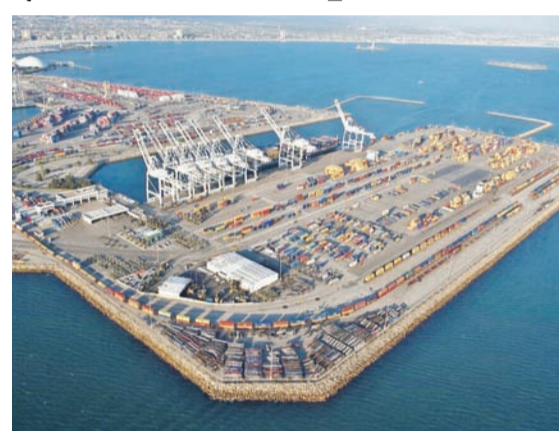
## Natural gas supply to Chabahar port already costs over \$2.8b

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Managing Director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hassan Montazer Torbati has said that so far about 120 trillion rials (over \$2.85 billion) has been spent for connecting the southeastern Chabahar port to the national gas network.

According to Torbati, the supply of natural gas to the strategic port and to the Makran coasts is going to create industrial prosperity in the region, Shana reported.

Speaking in a follow-up meeting on Sistan-Baluchestan gas supply projects, Torbati said due to the vastness of the province, in total, 2,000 sections of gas pipelines have been designed and planned to be implemented across the province, of which so far 300 kilometers (km) have been implemented and 770 km of pipelines are currently being implemented.

Torbati put the projected capital for the implementation of the mentioned pipelines with the gas supply facilities in the cities at more than 200 trillion rials (about \$4.7 billion), saying that the necessary steel sheets and pipes for the mentioned pipelines have been provided.



Back in February, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh had stated that over 95 percent of the country's population is currently enjoying natural gas through the country's huge national network.

According to the Oil Minister, the coverage of the national gas network in rural areas has also doubled over the mentioned period to reach 84 percent.

Since the Iranian calendar year 1392 (March 2013) up to the previous calendar year's 11th month (started on January 20) over 20,000 rural areas with a total population of 1.76 million households have been supplied with natural gas through the national gas network, according to Zanganeh.

Chabahar Port, the only Iranian ocean port, is a strategic port with unique opportunities that can attract investments from Iranian and foreign private sectors.

The development of the Chabahar Port is important for the economic development of the region and also the neighboring countries and in this regard sustainable supply of energy carriers to the port has been of significant importance for the Iranian government and the projects for expansion of the national gas network in Sistan-Baluchestan province, where the port lays, have been seriously pursued by the NIGC over the past few years.

## More than 15.5m cellphones imported into Iran in a year

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iranian mobile phone traders imported 15.8 million smartphones over the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), according to the Iranian Association of Cellphones, Tablet, and Accessories Importers.

Based on the data released by the mentioned association, 15 million of the imported cellphones have been already sold and being used by consumers, IRNA reported.

As reported, some 2.5 million regular



mobile phones were also imported into the country over the last year.

Back in January, the spokesman of the Iranian Association of Cellphone, Tablet, and Accessories Importers had announced that the price of cellphones had dropped 12-20 percent in domestic markets.

Iran's imports of mobile phones registered a 27 percent growth in the first nine months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 20, 2020) as compared to the preceding year's corresponding period.

Some 8,617,438 cellphones worth over \$1.34 billion were imported into the coun-

try in the mentioned period, placing the commodity at second among the top imported items, according to the Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Ruhollah Latifi.

The official noted that 6,779,012 mobile phones were cleared from the country's customs during the Iranian calendar year 1398's same nine months.

"The value of the imported products in the said nine months also increased by 65 percent compared to the previous year", Latifi said.

## 'PMO to fully support entities active in maritime sectors'

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Mohammad Rastad has said his organization plans to take all the necessary measures for supporting the companies active in various maritime sectors during the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

"In line with the current year's motto which is "Production: support and the elimination of obstacles", PMO has put it on the agenda to provide necessary supports for producers in order to facilitate the process of import and export of goods in the country's ports," Rastad said.

According to the official, one of the important tasks of the Ports and Maritime Organization is to support production centers and industrial units that are active in the area under the supervision of the organization.

Domestic producers that export their products through the country's commercial ports will also be subject to the mentioned supportive mechanisms and will definitely be supported to be able to export their products at the lowest possible costs, Rastad stressed.

He further noted that significant measures have been taken to supply the equipment required by the



Ports and Maritime Organization from domestic manufacturers in order to support domestic production.

PMO will pursue its programs in this regard more seriously during the current year, he added.

Back in March, Rastad had said that despite the sanctions imposed on Iran's shipping activities, loading and unloading of goods have been noticeably successful

at the Iranian ports.

Making the remarks addressing the journalists and reporters on the sidelines of the annual gathering of the PMO directors, the official said, "Many fruitful measures were taken in most of the ports, while some good development projects were also implemented this year".

While the enemy is trying to halt Iran's exports and imports through imposing sanctions, operations at Iranian ports are underway without interruption as the result of the PMO's all-out efforts.

Meanwhile, as the PMO head has announced, 11 new development projects with 59 trillion rials (over \$1.4 billion) of investment are currently underway at the Iranian ports.

Not only the sanctions haven't been able to stop development activities at the ports of Iran, but some new development projects have also been defined, Rastad has said.

As the major gates of exports and imports, Iranian ports play a significant role in the country's battle against the U.S. sanctions, and the ongoing operation at the ports indicates that they are playing their part perfectly.

## Vacancy taxes to be deposited in National Housing Fund

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The deputy transport and urban development minister said that the vacancy taxes are planned to be deposited in the National Housing Fund to be allocated for supplying homes for the low-income people.

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said, "The real estate and housing system is a basic measure to identify the housing situation of the country. The goal is not just taxes, but the main program is to identify the living conditions of the households for housing planning."

Saying that any tax levied on vacant homes goes directly to the National Housing Fund and is used as a facility for the housing of the low-income people, the official said that it is a mistake to think that the government has created this system to increase tax revenues.

In late March, the head of Iran National Tax Administration (INTA) announced that

that the first taxes on vacant houses will be received in the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 23 – August 22), and added that this tax will be half the value of the monthly rent of the property.

Omid-Ali Parsa had announced in early February that the regulations for the tax on houses and luxury cars would be announced soon, adding that this annual tax has been collected and a heavy fine has been imposed on those who run away from it.

Back in last October, Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami had said that the ministry has referred a list of 194,000 vacant housing units to Iran National Tax Administration to be taxed under the new vacancy tax law.

The minister said that the owners of these houses have been informed in this regard via receiving SMSs.

In September 2020, Mahmoudzadeh

had said that in the first stage of the implementation of the program for collecting tax from the country's vacant housing units, only units belonging to natural persons are targeted.

The Iranian parliament (Majlis) had approved the double-urgency plan of the vacancy tax law in mid-July 2020.

The mentioned plan is mainly aimed at lowering the housing rental rate in the country.

Expressing his agreement over the approval of the mentioned plan, Hossein Hossein-Zadeh Bahraini, a member of the Majlis Economic Committee, said, "Our problem in the housing sector is not the demand higher than the supply, while the number of residential units is more than required."

This plan is vital, as many families are struggling for renting the homes, while there are many empty units, the MP fur-



ther reiterated.

The vacancy tax law, as part of Direct Tax Reform Law, was put on the agenda in the Iranian calendar year ending March 2016 and was enforceable from the year ending March 2017, but there was little data on the number of vacant units then, according to Mahmoud Alizadeh, a senior official with the INTA.



## Iranian handicrafts: discover Gabbeh of Bushehr

The materials used in the process of Gabbeh weaving are produced from the wool of the sheep that are bred locally. Today European countries and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf are reportedly the two major buyers of Bushehr Gabbeh.

Therefore, the makers have begun dyeing the wool with herbal pigments such as orange, blue, green, and yellow to use them in the background. The motifs of these products are animals and doll-like.



Some of the most famous patterns are Langer (anchor), Khesht (brick), chang (harp), geometric forms, birds and animals, and kinds of paisley motifs. Bushehr Gabbehs are made in villages such as Shoul, Kamali, Bahmanyari, Mohammad Salehi, Sakhareh, Zakariyayi, Bamonar, Mal Mahmoud, Khalifehe, Otaybeh, Dehdaran, etc.

The coastal province borders with the Persian Gulf on the west and bounded by the regions of Hormozgan and Fars on the southeast and east and Khuzestan on the northwest.

## 10,000 sq meters of traditional cloth handcrafted in Iranian village monthly

Weavers in the northeastern Iranian village of Ruen produce some 10,000 square meters of traditional cloth within a month. The village is famed as a hub of traditional textile in the country.

Situated in Esfarayen county, North Khorasan province, Ruen is famed for its delicate handwoven and industrial wrappers, colorful garments that are widely worn by women.



“Some 120 weavers produce handcrafted fabrics in the village. And they make an average of 300 square meters of the cloth per day,” a local official said on Saturday, CHTN reported.

The craftspeople use traditional weaving machines to make towels and shawls amongst other domestic products.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the calendar year 1398 (ended March 19, 2020) when the country was not still affected by the novel coronavirus. Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

## New items added to intangible cultural heritage list

A total of 12 new items from the northwestern Zanjan province have been registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list, CHTN reported.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Saturday announced the inscriptions in an official document it submitted to the governor-general of the province, the report added.



Rajeyin Village's Tazieh, Iranian passion play on religious events especially on the Day of Ashura, Golabar Village's pottery, and the local games of Aradan Gashdi and Kolung Aghaji are among the items inscribed on the list.

The list also includes the skills of making the indigenous foods of Omaj Ashi, Fesenjan stew, and Jaghur Baghur.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

# French, German archaeologists expected to resume excavations in northeast Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN – The tourism desk chief of Iran's North Khorasan has announced plans to resume several excavations across the northeastern province using the expertise of archaeological teams from France and Germany.

“Joint archaeological excavations with German archaeologists are planned to resume across Tepe Rivi if the coronavirus situation allows,” ILNA quoted Habib Yazdanpanah as saying on Saturday.

“Moreover, we have are perusing to restart work on the historical town of Faruj with the presence of French archaeologists,” the official said.

Last October, experts from the Louvre and the University of Tehran were granted a license to conduct a new round of excavation on the ancient town of Faruj. “Experts from the University of Tehran and the Louvre museum in Paris will conduct a new season of archeological excavation in the ruined city of Faruj with a permit obtained from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism,” according to Iranian archaeologist Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki.

In the same year, experts from the Louvre and the University of Tehran unearthed the ramparts and towers of an ancient fortress, believed to date from the times of Parthians (247 BC – 224 CE) in Viran-Shahr near Faruj.

Furthermore, teams of Iranian and German archaeologists have completed several archaeological seasons across Tepe Rivi, which has so far revealed magnificent



File photo depicts Iranian and German experts standing on Tepe Rivi archaeological ruins, North Khorasan province, northeast Iran.

remains of the Bronze Age up to the Sassanid period.

Archaeological research works in Rivi started in 2012. Since then archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Achaemenid, the Parthian, the Sassanid dynasties, and the early Islamic period.

The previous rounds of research had been hired various experts in archeology, geography, geophysics, geomorphology, and ecology who took part from the [Ludwig Maximilian] University of Munich; the [Free] University of Berlin; the University of Tehran; and Shahid Beheshti University, the report said.

Based on the studies, various architectural and archaeological evidence from the Parthian and the Sassanid era were discovered in the Rivi site, which is situated in Maneh-Samalqan county of modern North Khorasan.

The evidence, according to Mohammad-Javad Jafari who headed the fifth season of archaeological excavation at Rivi site, indicates the sequence of settlement in the area in the aftermath of the Achaemenid era, according to the Archaeology News Network.

In 2019, several historical clay stamps, estimated to date from the Achaemenid and Parthian eras, were discovered in the ancient site. “The seals were found alongside clay urns in a large hall and the seals are imprinted in a variety of geometric patterns [depicting] plants, animals, and human figures. Studying the findings can yield valuable information on the economy, culture, and arts of the ancient societies,” Jafari said.

“These stamps represent the widespread and complicated economic relations that people of the time had with other communities in such a way that made them bring together and store goods.” Evidence suggests that residents of this area sealed the urns that were loaded with particular goods then tied them with ropes, the archaeologist said.

The history of Khorasan stretches back to very ancient times. It was part of the Achaemenian Empire of the 6th to 4th century BC and the Parthian empire, which spanned from the 3rd century BC to the 3rd century CE.

## Iran hotels remain open as fourth coronavirus wave gains momentum

TOURISM TEHRAN – Iranian hotels and other accommodation units remain open as the fourth coronavirus wave gains momentum across the country.

To curb the outbreak, President Hassan Rouhani on April 8 announced plans to close down all non-essential businesses, including bazaars and malls in cities color-coded ‘red’ or very high-risk for a ten-day period as of Saturday.

“Hotels and other accommodation unite will be remaining open during the fourth coronavirus wave,” according to the Iranian Hoteliers Association. ISNA reported.

The total number of coronavirus cases surged past the two million on Thursday as the new wave of infections has overwhelmed hospitals in all major cities.

“We are expecting even more hospitalizations caused by the viral disease over the next few days,” Health Minister Saeed Namaki said on Friday. ICU beds are filled in many cities and the government is to set up makeshift hospitals to make room for more patients and advising patients to visit hospitals only if it is necessary.

The number of coronavirus cases rose after millions trav-

eled across the country during the Noruz holiday, which officially began on March 20. The Islamic Republic reported its highest number of daily coronavirus infections in more than three months period after millions challenged government guidelines and traveled during the two-week holiday.

Before Noruz, health officials voiced concerns about the fourth COVID wave due to the traditional travels, mostly to visit family and loved ones.

Authorities had urged people to limit travel and in-person visits, saying that travels during the Noruz festival could lead to another wave of infections across the country.

Before Noruz, President Hassan Rouhani declared new travel bans for cities situated in the “red” and “orange” zones to combat the new COVID-19 variant. Rouhani called on people to avoid traveling during the Iranian New Year holidays to help contain the spread of coronavirus. He said it would be forbidden to make trips to cities marked as “red” and “orange” in terms of the prevalence of COVID-19.

“We request people to avoid traveling during Noruz holidays for the sake of their own health... It will be forbidden to



travel to red and orange towns and cities,” he said. “No one should make any plans to travel to these cities,” he stressed.

The Ministry of Health has classified districts based on the rate of coronavirus infections with red color indicating high risk, orange meaning medium, while yellow implied low risk and blue being the least.

## Tourist map of Damavand issued

TOURISM TEHRAN – The first comprehensive tourist map of Mt Damavand, which is home to the tallest volcano in Asia, has been issued recently.

“The comprehensive map represents cultural and natural attractions that are scattered across Damavand. And It also provides information about tourist facilities; ones that a typical tourist may need during their trips,” Damavand’s tourism chief announced on Saturday.

“Tourism map was one of the needs of



tourism development in Damavand and it is expected that an electronic tourism

map will be prepared soon with the help of the municipality,” the official noted.

The dormant volcano (5671m), northeast of Tehran, is the highest mountain in West Asia. Shaped a little like Mt Fuji, it is one of Iran’s most recognizable icons, appearing on the IR10,000 note, on bottles of Damavand spring water, and numerous other commercial items.

In good weather, the dramatic mountainous vistas around Damavand are attractive enough, and there are pleasant hot springs for a soak in nearby Abgarm

village, and skiing in season at Abali, on the way from Tehran, according to Lonely Planet.

Most people who head out this way, however, will do so to climb the peak. Start by heading to the large, comfortable Polour Mountain Complex (2270m), built by the Iran Mountaineering Federation – the best place to acclimatize before attempting the south and west face routes. The climbing season is from June to September, or May to October for experienced climbers.

## Restoration to begin on ancient castle in western Iran

TOURISM TEHRAN – The ancient castle of Has-san-Abad in the western province of Kordestan is scheduled to be revived and restored in near future, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The castle, which is estimated to date back to the Parthian era (247 BC – 224 CE) and the Sassanid era (224 CE–651), is one of the magnificent tourist attractions of the province, Yaqub Gyuilian announced on Saturday.

The fortification was built to protect the residents of the nearby city and included residential houses as well as military equipment to help defend the city against invaders, the official added.

Aside from the high wall of the castle, it also has three guard towers, each of which is 400 meters away from the main fence of the fortress, he explained.

He also noted that the castle is only accessed through a southern part of the hill it sits on, and it is difficult to reach the castle.

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.

The name Kordestan refers to the region’s principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran’s Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

## Oxus treasure, splendid set of prehistoric Persian metalwork

The Oxus treasure is the most important surviving collection of Achaemenid Persian metalwork. It consists of about 170 objects, dating mainly from the fifth and fourth centuries BC. This was the time of the Achaemenid empire, created by Cyrus the Great (559-530 BC), when Persian control stretched from Egypt and the Aegean to Afghanistan and the Indus Valley.

The Treasure seems to have been gathered together over a long period, perhaps in a temple. It includes vessels, a gold scabbard, model chariots and figures, armlets, seals, finger-rings, miscellaneous

personal objects, dedicatory plaques and coins. It was found on the banks of the River Oxus, probably at the site of Takht-i Kuwad, a ferry station on the north bank of the river.

In May 1880 Captain F.C. Burton, a British political officer in Afghanistan, rescued a group of merchants who had been captured by bandits while travelling between Kabul and Peshawar. They were carrying with them this rich collection of gold and silver objects. Burton bought from them a gold armband, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Other pieces from the Treasure subsequently emerged in the bazaars of Rawalpindi. Some of those now in The British Museum were acquired by Major-General Sir Alexander Cunningham (1814-93), Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, and others were obtained by Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks, who was both a curator in the Museum and a generous benefactor. In due course Franks bought Cunningham’s share of the treasure, and eventually the entire Oxus treasure was bequeathed by him to The British Museum. (Source: The British Museum)



# Medical equipment export grows by 23% despite sanctions

## Sanctions and self-sufficiency

In January, Health Minister Saeed Namaki strongly criticized the U.S. sanctions against Iran, saying the sanctions made it virtually impossible for Iran to import medicine and medical equipment.

Namaki made the remarks in a letter to the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO).

He stated that while the U.S. government claims that the sanctions do not include medicine, foodstuff, and medical equipment, it has blocked almost all of Iran's financial transactions.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in late 2019 that the United States' sanctions and economic war on Iran targeted ordinary people's health and livelihood.

Despite sanctions putting pressure on the country, a unique opportunity was provided for business development and the activity of knowledge-based companies in the country.

Currently, over 5,700 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manu-



facturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency, in addition to export the items.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

In recent years, the vice presidency for science and technology has been supporting knowledge-based companies active in the production of sanctioned items.

**Iranian medical equipment market**  
Reza Masaeli, head of medical equipment office at Ministry of Health, said in January 2019 that the growth of Iranian medical equipment market is estimated at around 9.1% while the global growth average is about 6%.

Approximately, there are around 500,000 types of medical devices in the world; while there are around 280,000 types in Iran.

Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries including Russia, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Croatia.

## IRGC hospitals double capacity to battle coronavirus

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Due to the rising number of coronavirus patients, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has doubled the number of beds in its affiliated hospitals allocated to the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The IRGC-affiliated health and medical centers are fully prepared to provide the necessary assistance in the treatment of COVID-19 patients whenever the Ministry of Health announces, IRGC's health department head Brigadier General Ahmad Abdollahi said, IRIB reported on Saturday.

The number of coronavirus cases has been rising in Iran after the two-week Nowruz holidays, which officially began on March 20.

The country has hit a new coronavirus infection record, reporting over 22,000 daily new cases.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control has announced a new lockdown for ten days from tomorrow as the country continues to battle a fourth wave of the coronavirus.

Under the restrictions, shopping malls, gyms, mosques,



salons, universities, schools, libraries, kindergartens, cinemas, museums, cafes, zoos, and amusement parks will be closed in cities at high risk of infection.

When the third wave of the -19 pandemic was ravaging the whole country, fifty-six hospitals belonging to the armed forces have been equipped to exclusively admit patients infected with the coronavirus in October 2020.

Hassan Araqizadeh, the head of the healthcare department of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces, told IRIB that the department is ready to establish field hospitals at every place, even at border points.

**New cases and mortalities**  
In a press briefing on Saturday, Health Ministry's spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 19,666 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 2,049,087. She added that 1,702,062 patients have so far recovered, but 4,329 remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 193 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 64,232, she added.

So far, 13,577,057 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

## Over 131,000 passengers undergone COVID-19 screening in a month

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Over 131,000 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus by thermal tests at the country's official borders within a month (March 10 – April 9), the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) spokesperson said on Saturday.

Since March 10, 131,389 passengers were screened for COVID-19 by IRCS forces, 7,166 of whom with symptoms underwent PCR and 22,203 rapid tests, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Hassan Qosian as saying.

He went on to lament that some 44 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined.

With the cooperation of ministries of

health and transport, a plan was implemented to rapidly identify and test incoming passengers and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including 18 land borders, nine air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the quarantine facilities in case of necessity.

Some 5,000 members of the IRCS cooperate for carrying out the plan; while around 8,000 individuals enter the country via borders daily, IRCS head, Karim Hemmati said on March 26.

Iraqi nationals visiting Iran have worsened the coronavirus pandemic in

the southwestern Khuzestan province, the province's governor general said on February 20.

More than 300 Iraqi nationals cross Chazzebah and Shalamchah borders on a daily basis, Qassem Soleimani-Dashtaki said, adding that the issue has contributed to a rise in the number of coronavirus cases.

Last week, President Hassan Rouhani said that the fourth wave of COVID-19 resurgence has been registered in two provinces.

"If people in other provinces do not observe (health guidelines), they may experience the fourth wave as well," Rouhani was quoted as saying.



"According to the statistics, compliance with health guidelines has decreased," he warned.

## New pediatric cancer treatment method being used in Iran

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – For the first time, MAHAK Charity Foundation has started using Total Body Irradiation (TBI) cancer treatment method for children in the country.

Launched by the MAHAK Pediatric Cancer Treatment and Research Center (MPCTRC), TBI delivers radiation to the whole body from head to toe. It destroys remaining malignant cells, creates space in bone marrow for donor's bone marrow stem cells, and prevents rejection by suppressing the patient's immune system. TBI increases the survival rate in children with high-risk leukemia.

It is a part of the preparation procedure for hematopoietic (or bone marrow) stem cell transplantation. In this method, the immune system of the individual



who needs transplantation gets suppressed allowing the recipient to accept foreign bone marrow stem cells. Moreover, it can eradicate the remaining cancer cells and thereby increase survival rates of high-risk leukemia patients.

TBI is a method that has been used across the world for decades and is now mostly reserved for high-risk leukemia in need of transplantation. Using this type of irradiation in Iran would increase the survival rate of children with high-risk leukemia.

MAHAK is an NGO that supports services for cancer-stricken children and their families in accordance with international standards, as a result, over 35,000 children with cancer have benefited from it during the past 29 years.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Water level in Lake Urmia rises by 33cm

The level of water in Lake Urmia, northwestern Iran, has increased by 33 centimeters compared to the same time last year, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program in West Azarbaijan province has said.

Currently, the volume of water of the lake is 1.920 billion cubic meters which experienced 250 million cubic meters increase compared to last year which was recorded at 1.250 bcm, ISNA quoted Farhad Sarkhosh as saying on Wednesday.

## افزایش ۳۳ سانتی متری وسعت دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: سطح آب دریاچه ارومیه نسبت به مدت مشابه سال گذشته ۳۳ سانتی متر افزایش داشته است. فرهاد سرخوش روز چهارشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایسنا گفت: حجم آب فعلی موجود در دریاچه ارومیه یک میلیارد و ۹۲۰ میلیون مترمکعب است. حجم آب دریاچه سال گذشته یک میلیارد و ۲۵۰ میلیون متر مکعب بود که نسبت به سال گذشته ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب افزایش یافته است.

## Charity foundation to support 1,240 production units in deprived areas

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, planned to revitalize and support 1,240 production units in deprived areas in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20).

Last year, the Foundation invested in 742 small, medium and large production units, which will increase to about 2,000 units in the current year, which has been named by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as "Production: Support and the Elimination of Obstacles", ISNA reported on Saturday.



A total of 6 trillion rials (nearly \$142 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) is allocated for the support of these production firms, which will employ more than 10,000 people directly and 40,000 indirectly, according to the report.

Last year, with an investment of 2.5 trillion rials (about \$59 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), 130 manufacturing businesses entered the production cycle and over 10,000 direct and indirect jobs were created.

**Rural development**  
In Iran, where villages account for generating 20-23 percent of the value-added in the country, the development of rural areas has been always a top agenda of the governments' activities.

The sustainable economic, social, and cultural development of the villages is one of the major priorities of the current government, and many projects implemented and underway in this regard have led to outstanding development in the rural regions.

Many other efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining), including rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism.

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

A total of 220 trillion rials (nearly \$5.6 billion) has been approved for the development of villages in the current year (March 2020-March 2021), Omid said.

Some 140 trillion rials (about \$3.3 billion) have so far been spent, he noted, adding, the unemployment rate in rural areas has reached 7.4 percent, which has decreased by over one percent compared to last year.

## Lemurs and giant tortoises facing extinction if global warming reaches 3C

Wildlife species unique to the world's tropical islands and mountains face extinction if the Earth's temperature rises 3C above pre-industrial levels, a new research paper warns.

Exotic creatures like Galapagos giant tortoises, lemurs, Himalayan snow leopards and blue cranes will struggle to survive if the planet continues on its present trajectory and the mercury is allowed to climb to that level, as it is currently forecast to do by 2100, the study published in Biological Conservation suggests.

Such a degree of heating is expected to lead to sea level rises from the melting of the polar ice caps and extreme weather occurrences, while ongoing pollution and mineral extraction activities provide further difficulties for endangered species fighting to retain their natural habitats.

The Paris climate accord, recently rejoined by the US, seeks to rein in the extent of global heating to 1.5C and would have a significant impact on averting such tragic extinctions if it could be realised, placing just 2 per cent of land-based animals at risk, compared to 20 per cent at 3C, according to the study.

But without world governments coming together to achieve that goal, nearly half of endemic marine species and 84 per cent of native mountain species would find themselves fighting a losing battle to survive say the researchers, who studied 270 locations around the world known for their high biodiversity and looked at 8,000 projections of possible outcomes.

Islands in the Indian Ocean and Caribbean as well as Madagascar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka could all begin to see an impact on their endemic plant life within the next 30 years as things stand, the authors warn.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 155)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

heavy	سنگین	
third	سوم	
excellent	عالی	
thought	فکر	کوهنوردی
to think	فکر کردن	
everything	هرچیز /har'ci:z/	
nothing	هیچ چیز /hi'ci:z/	
either ... or ...	یا ... (و) یا ...	درکوه‌های تهران

