

سخنگوی دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان هشدار داد:

موج جدید کرونا مهمان نوروزی اصفهان

■ نگران هستیم الگوی مشابه به استان خوزستان داشته باشیم

■ سهمیه بندی استان ها در توزیع واکسن کووید بر اساس مقدار محموله ای است که به کشور می رسد و تعداد مشخصی در وزارت بهداشت به هر استان اختصاص می یابد

یک تحلیل گر ارزی پاسخ می دهد:

دلار می ریزد؟

تغییرات فضای بین المللی، امیدواری ها برای آزادسازی منابع ارزی بلوکه شده ایران را افزایش داده و این پرسش را ایجاد کرده که آیا آزادسازی این منابع می تواند موجب کاهش قیمت ها در بازار ارز شود؟ نرخ ارز یکی از شاخص های مهم اقتصاد کلان است که نه تنها بر تجارت خارجی کشور بلکه بر بازارهای داخلی از مسیر هزینه تولید تأثیر گذار است.

علاوه بر این، بازار ارز به موازات دیگر بازارهای دارای از جمله بازار سهام و طلا، همواره مورد توجه سرمایه گذاران بوده است. بنابراین سیاست های ارزی یکی از مهم ترین تصمیم های بانک مرکزی و دولت هستند.



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رئیس سازمان برنامه و بودجه استان اعلام کرد:

بهره برداری از متروی اصفهان - بهارستان تا پایان فروردین ۱۴۰۰

رئیس سازمان مدیریت و برنامه ریزی استان در نشست خبری با اصحاب رسانه که با موضوع میزان پیشرفت پروژه های توسعه محور و چشم انداز توسعه استان در سال ۱۴۰۰ گزارش داد گفت: تکلیف بودجه همچنان در مجلس نهایی نشده اما با توجه به آنچه در لایحه تدوین شد می توانیم برنامه ریزی های لازم را انجام دهیم. وی همچنین عملکرد اصفهان در حوزه آب را ناموفق دانست و گفت به طور کلی نمی توان عملکرد استان را در حوزه آب مثبت ارزیابی کرد.



نعمت اله اکبری با بیان اینکه به ۷ منطقه تقسیم شده که مبنای این تقسیم بندی ها، برنامه آمایش است. این مناطق بر اساس ویژگی های اقلیمی و حتی مسائل سیاسی تقسیم بندی شده اند. گفته وی ارزیابی های لازم روی هر منطقه انجام شده و با مسئولان هر بخش مشورت کردیم و پیشنهاداتی مورد نیاز را بررسی کردیم. بنابراین منطقه بندی ما بر اساس مزیت های هر منطقه تدوین شده و در ابتدای سال ۱۴۰۰ لیست پیشنهادها را به بخش خصوصی تقدیم خواهیم کرد.

رئیس سازمان برنامه و بودجه افزود، سال ۱۴۰۰ بیش از آن که سالی پر از تصمیم گیری ها و جلسات باشد، سال اجرایی خواهد بود. در این سال بسیاری از پروژه ها به بهره برداری خواهند رسید که بخش خصوصی بیشتر مسئولیت اجرای این پروژه ها را دارند و دولت نقش تسهیل گر را برای بخش خصوصی ایفا می کند و منابع بی مورد را حذف خواهد کرد.

وی با بیان اینکه یکی از عناصر ارزیابی فرمانداران باید پیشرفت در برنامه های پیشنهادی هر شهرستان باشد، گفت: هر ساله ما از استاندار می خواهیم که یکی از فاکتورهای ارزیابی فرمانداران، توسعه پیشنهادات ارائه شده باشد و برنامه های اجرایی، مبنای ارزیابی فرمانداران باشد. به گفته اکبری، توجه به این مورد به انتخاب فرد اصلاح برای فرمانداری کمک بسیاری می کند.



گزارش ویژه سلطان زاده

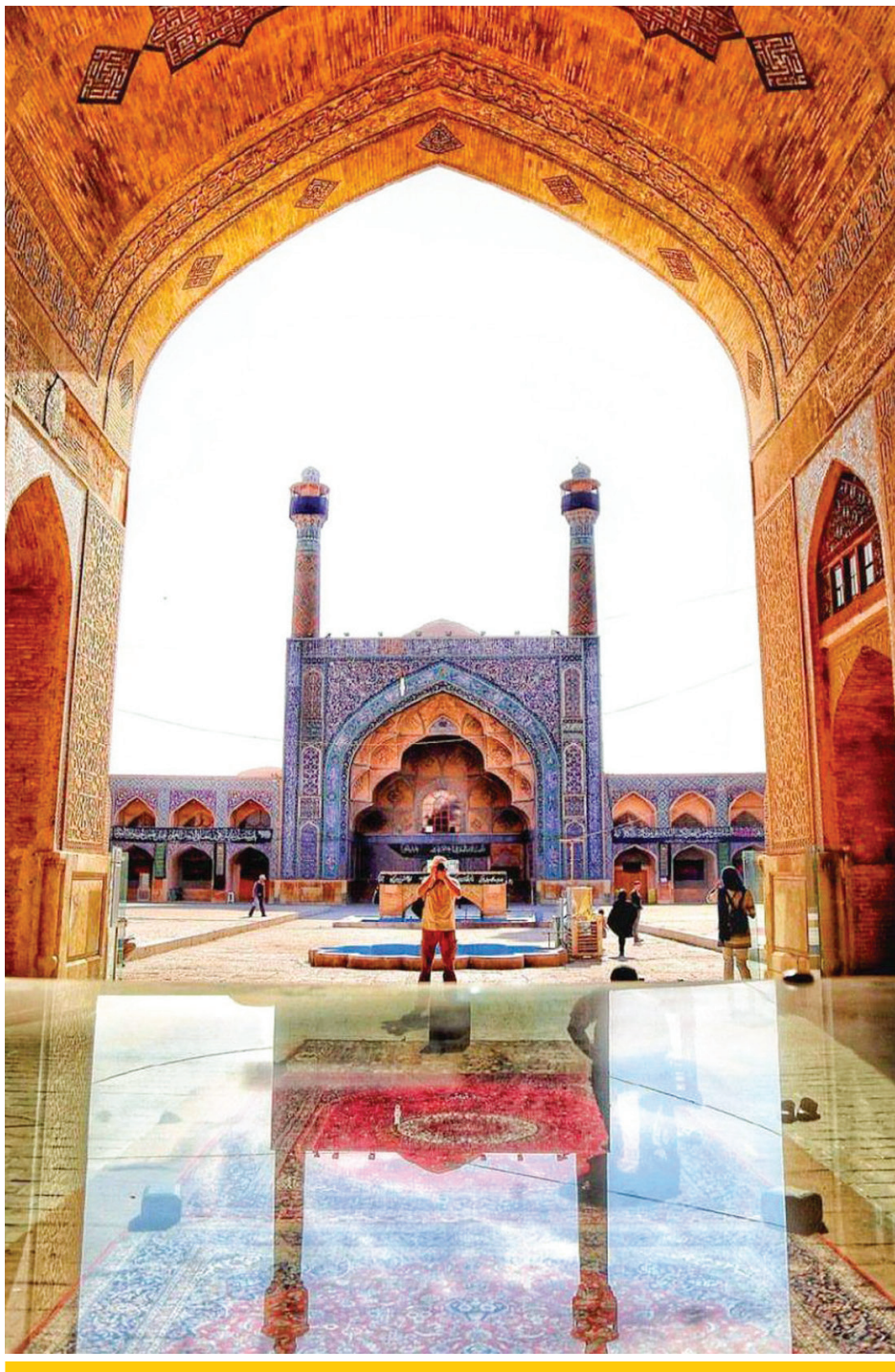
نعمت اله اکبری با بیان اینکه رئیس جمهور تأکید دارد تا پایان دولت طرح های باقی مانده به بهره برداری برسد، افزود: بسیاری از طرح ها و پروژه های باقی مانده در هفته دولت و دهه مبارک فجر به بهره برداری رسید اما برخی پروژه های کلیدی و مهم استان از جمله افتتاح فاز سوم کنارگذر شرق اصفهان باقی مانده که امیدواریم تا پایان خرداد به بهره برداری برسد. به گفته وی فاز اول و دوم این پروژه عظیم با بودجه ای که از سوی دولت به آن اختصاص یافت به بهره برداری رسید و فاز سوم آن نیز با تأمین بودجه ۲۰۰ میلیارد تومانی از سوی دولت تا پایان خردادماه به بهره برداری خواهد رسید.

رئیس سازمان برنامه و بودجه در این نشست از اتمام کار ریل گذاری ایستگاه سازی متروی اصفهان - بهارستان خبر داد که تا پایان فروردین ماه بهره برداری خواهد شد. هزینه این پروژه به گفته وی بالغ بر ۱۹۵ میلیارد تومان بود و اکنون اقدامات نهایی آن در حال انجام است.

اکبری در ادامه در مورد دیگر پروژه های مهم استان، آب رسانی به ۱۴ شهرستان شمالی و شرقی استان در قالب طرح گلاب را برشمرد که تا پایان خرداد ماه، یک سوم آن به بهره برداری خواهد رسید. وی گفت: این میزان از بهره برداری آب شرب را با سرعت ۳۱ متر مکعب بر ثانیه به شهرستان ها منتقل می کند و امیدواریم تا پایان سال ۱۴۰۰ این پروژه به طور کامل بهره برداری شده و سرعت آب به ۹۳ متر مکعب بر ثانیه افزایش پیدا کند. به گفته وی با اجرای این پروژه تا پایان خرداد ماه پیش بینی می شود قطعی آب در ۱۴ شهرستان استان در تابستان امسال نداشته باشیم.

رئیس سازمان مدیریت و برنامه ریزی استان در مورد چشم انداز توسعه استان در آینده گفت: برای ۵ سال آینده استان پیش بینی های لازم انجام شده است.

مطابق با آنچه که برای مناطق هفتگانه استان در نظر گرفته شده، هر منطقه پیشنهاداتی مخصوص به خود را دارند. به طور مثال مانعی خواهیم داشت. منطقه غرب استان به منطبق با صنعتی تبدیل شود. مادر نظر داریم غرب استان به قطب گیاهان دارویی کشور تبدیل شود چرا که از ظرفیت بالایی برخوردار است.



«گردشگری مذهبی» ظرفیتی مغفول مانده برای رونق اقتصادی اصفهان

گردشگری مذهبی سابقه دیرینه ای در کشور دارد اما این بخش در اصفهان مدیریت واحدی ندارد

ادامه در صفحه ۲

گزارش

کشف و بروز استعداد های فرهنگی کودکان با جشنواره «کمانک اصفهان»

شده برای این جشنواره است. وی استفاده از ایده های هنری کودکان در جهت توسعه فرهنگ ارزش های انسانی در سطح جامعه، جذب افسراد کارآمد و متخصص در زمینه هنر های تجسمی کودک و ایجاد موقعیت مناسب برای بالابردن انگیزه و کشف و بروز استعدادهای فرهنگی کودکان را از دیگر اهداف دبیرخانه این دوره از جشنواره ملی نقاشی و مجسمه سازی کمانک اصفهان عنوان کرد.

وی تصریح کرد: کودکان می توانند به صورت آزاد برداشت و تصور خود را از موضوع جشنواره، نقاشی کرده و یا به شکل مجسمه بسازند و تصاویر آثار خود را به آدرس دبیرخانه ارسال کرده و مشخصاتشان را در فرم ثبت نام سایت جشنواره ثبت کنند. کاظمی مهلت ارسال آثار را تا پایان اسفند ماه اعلام کرد و افزود: داوری جشنواره ملی نقاشی و مجسمه سازی کمانک اصفهان در فروردین ۱۴۰۰ انجام و نتایج به اطلاع کودکان خواهد رسید که علاقه مندان برای کسب اطلاعات بیشتر می توانند به سایت www.vcci.ir/kamanak مراجعه کنند.

گفتنی است: این جشنواره ۱۲ برگزیده خواهد داشت، ۱۶ اثر از نقاشی و ۱۶ اثر برتر در حوزه مجسمه که به نفرات اول تا ششم ترویج هنر و به کارگیری آنان در عرصه های شهری از جمله اهداف علمی در نظر گرفته خواهد گرفت.



دارند به تصویر بکشند. کاظمی بیان کرد: این جشنواره با تمام تفاوت های فرهنگی و هنری بین شهر های ایران فرصتی است برای به تصویر کشیدن خیال های کودکان تا نشان دهیم خواهد شد و تا چه میزان کودکان با مشاهیر شهر و میراث فرهنگی، تاریخی و طبیعی شهر آشنا هستند.

وی ادامه داد: یکی از اهداف این جشنواره یافتن جواب سؤالاتی شامل اینکه آیا زندگی در آینده از نظر کودکان بر روی زمین بوده و یا در جاهای دیگر مانند، فضا، دریا و بیابان هم امکان پذیر است و اینکه چگونه می توان در تمام عناصر شهر از جمله معماری، روابط اجتماعی، سیستم حمل و نقل و آلودگی هایی که شهرها را تهدید می کند خیال پردازی کرده و آنچه را بیشتر دوست

جشنواره ملی نقاشی و مجسمه سازی کودک «کمانک اصفهان» به منظور بالابردن انگیزه و کشف و بروز استعدادهای فرهنگی کودکان برنامه ریزی شده است.

زهره کاظمی اظهار داشت: جشنواره ملی نقاشی و مجسمه سازی کودک به همت خانه کودک وابسته به سازمان فرهنگی اجتماعی شهرداری اصفهان برای دومین بار در حال برگزاری است که نسبت به سال گذشته علاوه بر کودکان ۴ الی ۱۲ سال، ویژه نوجوانان ۱۳ تا ۱۸ سال نیز برگزار می شود.

مدیرخانه کودک با اشاره به اینکه شعار این دوره از جشنواره «آینده ی شهر من» است، افزود: این دوره از جشنواره در نظر دارد شهر را از منظر کودکان در یاد تا بفهمیم شهر مدنظر کودکان دستخوش چه تغییراتی خواهد شد و تا چه میزان کودکان با مشاهیر شهر و میراث فرهنگی، تاریخی و طبیعی شهر آشنا هستند.

وی ادامه داد: یکی از اهداف این جشنواره یافتن جواب سؤالاتی شامل اینکه آیا زندگی در آینده از نظر کودکان بر روی زمین بوده و یا در جاهای دیگر مانند، فضا، دریا و بیابان هم امکان پذیر است و اینکه چگونه می توان در تمام عناصر شهر از جمله معماری، روابط اجتماعی، سیستم حمل و نقل و آلودگی هایی که شهرها را تهدید می کند خیال پردازی کرده و آنچه را بیشتر دوست

قابل توجه شهروندان گرامی آیا می دانید با مفقود شدن مدارک شناسایی خود ممکن است شما به عنوان مجرم شناخته شوید؟

سایت ثبت آگهی مفقودی: agahinasleforda.ir

۰۲۱-۸۸۰۱۶۶۴۹ ۸۸۳۵۶۲۰۸
۰۳۱-۳۲۲۷۶۷۹۳ ۳۲۲۷۶۷۹۲

Zarif: Tehran, Seoul agree on mechanism for return of frozen assets

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that the mechanism for returning Iranian assets from South Korea has been agreed upon by the parties. Referring to the blockade of Iranian assets in South Korea, Zarif said, "Last week, I had a conversation with the Foreign Minister of South Korea at his request. The Korean minister stated that they are doing their best to reach a conclusion, and we are following up on our part."

"Mechanisms have been agreed, but apparently the Koreans have not yet received the necessary permits, so they say they are pursuing the issue," he added.

"Iran thinks that it is not necessary to obtain a license from the Americans, but the Korean side is still trying to obtain this license from the United States to release Iranian blocked assets in Korea," Zarif noted.

The Korean foreign ministry said last Tuesday that the Iranian assets locked in South Korea will be released after consultations with the United States. "Our government has been in talks with Iran about ways to use the frozen assets, and the Iran side has expressed its consent to the proposals we have made."

"The actual unfreezing of the assets will be carried out through consultations with related countries, including the United States," it added.

The announcement came after the Central Bank of Iran said it had reached an agreement with South Korea on the release of frozen Iranian assets in the East Asian country.

Since 2019 when then US president, Donald Trump, ended the US sanctions waivers for South Korea to buy Iran's oil, Tehran and Seoul have been at loggerheads over the latter's blocking of some seven billion dollars of Iran's cash assets.

Oil rises on demand hopes after days of sell-off

Oil prices rose on Wednesday, boosted by demand hopes on progress made in U.S. vaccine rollouts, while uncertainty over how much supply OPEC+ will restore to the market at its Thursday meeting and a big build in U.S. crude stocks capped gains.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose 18 cents, or 0.3%, to \$59.93 a barrel by 0356 GMT, recovering from three days of losses.

Brent crude futures rose 29 cents, or 0.46%, to \$62.99 a barrel, up from four days of losses.

Both futures had dipped in Asia's early morning trading.

Demand recovery hopes thanks to the rollouts of vaccine kept oil prices supported, analysts said.

The U.S. will have enough COVID-19 vaccine for every American adult by the end of May, President Joe Biden said on Tuesday after Merck & Co agreed to make rival Johnson & Johnson's inoculation.

Meanwhile, the market's attention is on a forthcoming Thursday meeting by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies, together called OPEC+, at a time when they are generally positive on the oil market outlook compared with a year ago when they slashed supply to boost prices. The market widely expects them to ease production cuts, which were the deepest ever, by about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), with OPEC's leader, Saudi Arabia, ending its voluntary production cut of 1 million bpd.

However, a JTC document, seen by Reuters, called "for cautious optimism," citing "the underlying uncertainties in the physical markets and macro sentiment, including risks from COVID-19 mutations that are still on the rise".

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Auto Output Surges by %17

Iran's automotive production increased by %17.16 during the 11 months to Feb. 18, compared with the same period of last year.



According to data released by Securities and Exchange Organization on Codal.ir,

Iran's leading automakers, namely Iran Khodro (IKCO) and SAIPA, produced 817,069 sedans during the period.

IKCO's output rose to 432,006, which is 21.7% higher year-on-year when the company manufactured 354,982 passenger vehicles.

Peugeot models had the lion's share with 312,563 cars in the 11 months. Samand was IKCO's second most popular model with 48,947 units.

IKCO also manufactures commercial vehicles, such as pickups, vans, trucks and buses, but the production rates of these vehicles have not been released yet.

SAIPA produced 309,735 vehicles during the period, marking a 19.4% YOY decrease. Pride and Tiba models topped the company's production chart with 50,413 and 214,128 units respectively. Pars Khodro, a subsidiary of SAIPA, registered a 2.6% fall, producing 93,843 vehicles during the period



compared to 96,382 in the same period of last year.

Monthly comparisons show that the production rate of IKCO and SAIPA dipped during the month ending Feb. 11 compared with the same month of the previous year.

During the month leading to Feb. 18, output reached 86,192 to mark a 16.8% fall compared to the previous month.

During the period, SAIPA's output reached 29,452, marking a decline of 26.1%, and IKCO's production rate totaled 43,912, falling by 15.4%.

Pars Khodro, however, produced 12,828 cars, indicating a rise of 7.8%, compared to the previous month.

Last year (ended March 2020), domestic automakers produced 860,000 vehicles.

They had decided to

expand output by 50% to 1.3 million cars by the end of the current fiscal year (to end March 20), which means over 480,000 vehicles need to be produced in the next month.

In view of the companies' monthly reports and the production trend, that target will not be achieved. Mismanagement and the pressure of US sanctions, coupled with the Covid-19 outbreak, have derailed Iran's auto industries. However, the state has stepped in to streamline the sector and cut its reliance on imported parts.

Last year, IKCO and SAIPA forged ties with knowledge-based teams to indigenize auto electronic parts in the hope of improving the quality and quantity of their output. Slashing Capital Flight In December 2020,

Farshad Moqimi, CEO of IKCO, said his company has curbed capital flight by \$138 million through the localization of vehicle parts in the first eight months of the current Iranian year (March 20-Nov. 20, 2020). He maintained that this is achievable, thanks to the support of industrial units affiliated with the Defense Ministry and knowledge-based companies.

"Several projects have been launched to gradually slash capital flight caused by auto part imports, which can annually reach \$248 million," he added.

Moqimi noted that the projects are curbing production costs and reducing IKCO's annual import bill by \$180 million while the company used to spend \$360 million annually on the import of parts.

During the month leading to Feb. 18, output reached 86,192 to mark a %16.8 fall compared to the previous month.

Iranian exports to Turkmenistan set record

Director-General of Iran's North East Railway Line 2 based in Gorgan said on Wednesday that Iranian exports through Incheboron to Turkmenistan railway reached all time high of 220,000. Although the border was closed for over 100 days because of lockdown of coronavirus pandemic, over 220,000 tons of goods were exported to Turkmenistan through the railroad, Mohsen Etemad told IRNA.

The official said that some 100,000 tons cement export had the biggest share of exports from Golestan province to Turkmenistan. Steel, tiles, dates, detergent and apples were in next places. Iran exported some 144,000 tons of goods to Turkmenistan over 11 months last year, but this year, exported some 220,000 tons of goods over the past seven months, he said, forecasting that it would reach 300,000 tons until the end of the current Iranian year (to end on March 21).

Etemad highlighted the width of Turkmenistan railroad that is larger than global standard making a stumbling

block for railway trade among the two countries, stating that Iran had solved the problem with a 200-meter bogie, but the Turkmen side has yet to address the issue. Iran's Minister of Road & Urban Development Mohammad Eslami recently visited the region and the Incheboron border railroad and promised to solve the technical issue of rail width. He said that the number of railway wagons for transport of Iranian goods to Turkmenistan would increase to 30 from the current 20 wagons. Incheboron is located on Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan railway.

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News

Banking problems with Iran can be resolved through cooperation

Armenian ambassador to Iran Artashes Toumanian on Tuesday said that banking sanctions have caused problems in Iran's trade relations with other states, but the problems can be resolved through cooperation. Iranian companies registered with an Armenian partner cooperate with Armenian banks, he said, adding that given that Armenian banks work with the global banks, there is no problem for Iranian economic actions in Armenia and financial exchange between the banks of the two countries. Iranians, with whatever currency, can rely on the Armenian banks and operate economically as there is no restriction in this regard, he underlined. Hydroelectric power plants, wind power plants, solar power plants, mining industries, agriculture, and food industry, as well as auto manufacturing, are among the issues that are highly suitable for investment in Armenia, he further noted.

Iran ready to export medical technologies to Syria: Official

Iranian Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic is ready to provide Syria with medical equipment and technologies.

Sattari made the remarks in a meeting with Syrian Minister of Health Hassan Ghabbash, noting that Iranian progress in health sector has been remarkable in recent years.

Knowledge-based companies have improved the health sector to a position that the country has a say in medicine, medical equipment and biotechnology, the Iranian official added.

The Islamic Republic could export some equipment such as standard ventilators to Syria amid the coronavirus pandemic, he said, noting that Iran has also started exporting Factor VII (a vitamin K-dependent serine protease glycoprotein) to Syria since two weeks ago.

For his part, the Syrian minister called for providing some Syrian physicians with the opportunity to take part in short-time courses in Iran.

Ghabbash added that the import of medicines from Iran is very important for Syria, because the besieged country attaches importance to standard of drugs such as Iranian medicines.

Pointing to the key role of Iranian biotechnology products for treatment of incurable diseases, he said that Syria attaches great importance to biotechnology products; so, Damascus wants to dispatch expertise teams to Iran to visit Iranian pharmaceutical factories. Sattari accompanied by representatives of 40 knowledge-based companies is visiting Syria. In the first leg of the trip, he held talks with Syrian Higher Education Minister Bassam Ibrahim. The Iranian official also negotiated with Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Mohammed Hassan Qatana and Minister of Industry Ziyad Sabbagh in Damascus.

US sanctions represent hostile anti-Russian attack: Moscow

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Washington's decision is a triumph of the absurd and a hostile attack that will not affect Moscow's policy. Earlier, the United States imposed individual sanctions, as well as trade and visa restrictions, targeting senior Russian officials, over the alleged poisoning of jailed Russian vlogger Alexei Navalny, Sputnik reported.

Russia's response to new US sanctions will not necessarily be symmetrical, Washington's decision is a triumph of the absurd and a hostile attack that will not affect Moscow's policy, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Tuesday.

The US followed EU suit earlier in the day to impose sanctions against Russia over alleged production of biological and chemical weapons. The list includes 14 organizations and a number of individuals. Russia has repeatedly denied all US allegations related to the Navalny case, saying Western countries ignored Moscow's requests for substantiating materials.

"The absurd triumphs when the reason for the imposition of sanctions is declared to be a deliberately arranged provocation with the alleged 'poisoning' of Navalny with some 'chemical weapons.' All this is just an excuse to continue open interference in our internal affairs. We do not intend to put up with this. We will react on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, not necessarily symmetrically," Zakharova said in a commentary.

"The US administration has undertaken a hostile anti-Russian attack, announcing, in a duet with the European Union, the next sanctions measures to 'punish Moscow,'" she said.

UN calls for Iran's help to bring peace to Yemen

In a phone talk with the Iranian Foreign Minister, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for the continuation of Iran's prominent efforts to help bring peace to Yemen. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and UN Secretary-General António Guterres held a phone conversation on Tuesday night on the latest developments in Yemen.

Elaborating on the latest measures taken by the UN to end the war in Yemen, Guterres called for the continuation of Iran's prominent efforts to help bring peace to Yemen.

For his part, Zarif announced Iran's support for the UN efforts to establish a just peace in Yemen, stressing the need to end the war, lift the siege and provide humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people.

Iranian foreign minister also expressed hope that everyone would see the stability of Yemen through Yemeni-Yemeni talks and the formation of an inclusive government.

JCPOA Not Renegotiable, Rouhani Tells Macron

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani made it clear in a telephone conversation with his French counterpart that the 2015 nuclear deal would be not renegotiated by any means, stressing that the only way to revive the JCPOA is the termination of the US sanctions on Tehran.



In the phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday evening, Rouhani warned that missing the opportunity to save the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action could make the situation more difficult.

"The stepwise reduction of commitments on the part of Iran was due to the withdrawal of the United States from the deal and the inability of the three European countries to fulfil their obligations," Rouhani said, stressing that Iran's measures can be reversed immediately after the other parties' fulfilment of their obligations.

Rouhani said Iran's move to stop the voluntary implementation of the

Additional Protocol was made within the framework of the law passed by the parliament, according to the government's official website.

He also noted that Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will continue and the country has not withdrawn from the JCPOA in any way.

"Any unconstructive action or position in the Board of Governors could lead to new challenges and complicate the current situation," he warned.

Rouhani referred to France as an important actor and said, "Tehran-Paris relations can be

developed based on a sustainable vision and with long-term goals for bilateral, regional and global cooperation."

Referring to the coronavirus pandemic in various countries around the world, including Iran and France, the President said that effective confrontation with the virus requires the cooperation of all countries in the world.

"The United States' cruel, illegal sanctions have made it more difficult for Iran to deal with this disease and made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to access its financial resources, even for the supply of medicine

and medical equipment, and the European Union, especially France, is expected not to remain silent regarding this inhumane act," Rouhani noted.

Macron, for his part, described the JCPOA as a necessity for the international community and stressed the need for the continuation of talks in order for all parties to return to the full implementation of their commitments.

He also stressed the need for the two sides to take the initial steps and said, "Europe is ready to be more active in the coming weeks to revive the JCPOA."

He also noted that Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will continue and the country has not withdrawn from the JCPOA in any way.

Blinken: US backs continuing multilateral pressure on Maduro

US Secretary of State in a telephone call with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido said the Biden administration supports continued pressure on President Nicolas Maduro, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a press release.

While Caracas expressed hope that relations would normalize under the newly inaugurated Biden administration, Blinken said during Senate confirmation hearings in late January that the US should not change its position regarding Guaido as the "interim leader of Venezuela."

"Secretary Blinken described our efforts to

work with like-minded allies, including the European Union, Lima Group, Organization of American States, and International Contact Group, to increase multilateral pressure and press for a peaceful, democratic transition," Price said in the release on Tuesday.

Biden and Guaido also discussed the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, Price said. Washington has repeatedly blasted President Nicolas Maduro for alleged "oppressing" the Venezuelan people. The previous administration of Donald Trump introduced numerous sanctions against the Latin American nation, targeting its oil industry and officials close to the Venezuelan leader. Maduro has called on the new US government to stop demonizing the Latin American country and to build

a new relationship based on respect for sovereignty.

The Latin American nation has been in political turmoil since January 2019, when then-opposition lawmaker Guaido illegally proclaimed himself interim president of Venezuela and called on citizens to help him take power. Guaido immediately received the support of the United States and its allies in Latin America, including neighboring Colombia.

Several other countries, including Russia, Turkey, and China, have said they only recognize Maduro as the legitimate leader of Venezuela.

Maduro himself characterized the situation in the country as an attempted coup, accusing Washington of trying to steal the country's rich natural resources.

Pakistani daily criticizes EU Troika anti-Iran approach in IAEA

A leading Pakistani English news daily has strongly criticized Germany, France and UK over lobbying against Iran at International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors, saying that it is likely to make matters in an already restive region much worse.

Daily 'The Nation' in its editorial comments on Wednesday asked why are the three countries, members of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, displaying hawkish behaviour? Is it because Iran boycotted the EU-brokered talks with the US over the future of the nuclear deal?

It said the troika's resolution is akin to Trump's failed policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran.

"Unfortunately, Germany, France and the UK, instead of playing a constructive role in the resumption of talks, are complicating the already undermined deal. The European states need to see Iran's threats of not adhering to the agreement as a bargaining chip," viewed the editorial.

The Nation said that it is important to remember that it was not the Iranian government that violated any terms of the deal but the United States walked out of the agreement. "Biden administration, instead of honouring its promises, is backing the European resolution," it said.

The paper added this does not reflect the Biden administration's stated commitment to return to the 2015 deal.

"If the resolution is passed by the IAEA, Iran will show no leniency in ending the temporary three-month agreement that it struck with the UN watchdog last month," noted the editorial.

It said instead of bringing a resolution against Tehran, the European countries must convince the US to comply and lift the sanctions.

The Nation added there is no reason to condemn Iran when the watchdog has already declared its nuclear program peaceful so far.

"The bitter truth is that the US is trying to play a double



game. While it promises that it is returning to Obama's deal, its actions show that it has not moved an inch from Trump's doctrine. Securing peace and a successful nuclear deal with such duplicitous dealings is just wishful thinking," said the editorial.

Terrorists Attack IRGC Engineers in Southeast Iran

Terrorists have attacked the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Engineering Unit forces in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, injuring one, the IRGC said. The IRGC Ground Force's Quds Base said in a statement that the terrorist elements affiliated with the global arrogance launched the unfair attack on the IRGC forces at noon on Tuesday, March 2. The attack took place when the IRGC Engineering Unit servicemen were on duty in Bamposht region near Saravan county. The IRGC forces were engaged in a project for tackling poverty and constructing rural roads in the region, the statement added, saying one engineer has been wounded in the attack and the fate of another one is still uncertain. The statement also underlined that such blind attacks and futile attempts could by no means undermine the IRGC's determination to serve the Iranian people and carry out construction projects in the underprivileged areas of Sistan and Baluchestan and other provinces. Saravan is only 40 kilometers away from the common border with Pakistan. The IRGC is tasked with protecting the country's northwestern and southeastern borders.

US Ain al-Asad base targeted with Katyusha rockets: report

Iraqi sources reported that the US military base in Ain al-Asad was targeted by rockets. The Ain al-Asad base in the western Iraqi province of Al-Anbar was targeted by rockets, the Saberin Telegram channel reported on Wednesday. Shafaq News also quoted a security official as confirming the news and reporting that the US coalition base in Ain al-Asad was targeted by four Katyusha rockets. Al-Jazeera quoted Iraqi security sources as saying that 10 rockets hit the ground near the US coalition base. Aftermath of Katyusha rocket attack against the base as reported by Saberin News. The official Iraq News Agency also confirmed the news and wrote that Ain al-Asad base was targeted with 10 rockets. Saberin News reported that US forces had closed their military unit at the Ain al-Asad base and withdrawn their troops from the watchtower.

US, EU Seek to Divert Attention from Domestic Issues by Sanctioning Russia: Diplomat

Washington and Brussels seek to divert attention from their internal problems by imposing sanctions on Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Wednesday. "This campaign is particularly aimed at diverting attention from their own issues, namely those related to chemical weapons and the huge internal problems," she told the Vesti FM radio station, TASS reported. According to Zakharova, the EU is particularly facing issues with mass coronavirus vaccination. "The European Union is unable to agree a common approach to whether there is a need to create vaccine passports and whether it will be in line with their own human rights concept," she noted. "They are unable to implement contracts and obligations towards each other in terms of vaccine supplies," Zakharova added.

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'Stupid' resolution against Iran to undermine JCPOA

Russia's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna described the decision of the European Troika to submit critical resolutions against Iran to the International Atomic Energy Agency as stupid. On Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian announced the intention of European member states of the JCPOA to submit a critical resolution to the IAEA on Iran. Reiterating the need for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors to take responsibility for helping maintain and revitalize the JCPOA, Mikhail Ulyanov in a series of tweets wrote, "#IAEA Governors at their on-going session face a great challenge. They really can contribute to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime and restoration of #JCPOA. They also can decide not to oppose highly risky political experiments. The Governors have to make a choice."

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CALL TO PRAYER TIME IN ISFAHAN

Morning call to prayer:

05:06:48

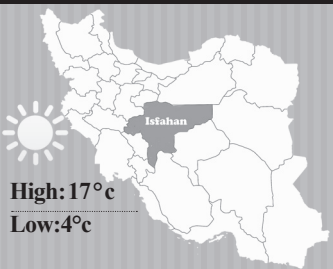
Noon call to prayer:

12:14:59

Evening call to prayer:

18:20:24

WEATHER



Khademosh-Sharia on top 15 world's chess champions

In latest ranking of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), Iran's top woman chess champion, Sara Khademosh-Sharia, is among the world's top 15 players. According to the IRNA Sports Desk, in the latest FIDE world ranking Iran's top player in men's ranking inside the country, Parham Maqsudlu with his 2,676 points from FIDE ranks 60th in the world, where Magnus Carlsen from Norway still ranks 1st. This world chess champion's FIDE rating dropped 15 places in March 2020, due to his weak performance in Holland's Tata-Style matches. Carlsen with his 2,847 rating still ranks first in the world.



Tehran, Seoul agree on mechanism for return of frozen assets

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ECO railway to help develop West Asia

Osteoporosis is a serious condition which is often overlooked until it is too late. The disease, characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue, is very common. Women typically start out with lower bone density than men, and loss of estrogen over time can increase the risk for osteoporosis.

But there is good news: In some cases, osteoporosis can be preventable. The sooner you start keeping your bones healthy, the better off you will be in your 50s and beyond. Take a look at these easy steps to prevent osteoporosis.

What is Osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis is a disease that weakens bones to the point where they break easily—most often, bones in the hip, backbone (spine), and wrist. Osteoporosis is called a "silent disease" because you may not notice any changes until a bone breaks. All the while, though, your bones had been losing strength for many years.

Who Has Osteoporosis? Risk Factors and Causes Although osteoporosis can strike at any age, it is most common among older people, especially older women. Men also have this disease. White and Asian women are most likely to have osteoporosis. Other women at great risk include those who:

- Have a family history of broken bones or osteoporosis
- Have broken a bone after age 50
- Had surgery to remove their ovaries before their periods stopped
- Had early menopause
- Have not gotten enough calcium and/or vitamin D throughout their lives
- Had extended bed rest or were physically inactive
- Smoke (smokers may absorb less calcium from their diets)
- Take certain medications, including medicines for arthritis and asthma and some cancer drugs
- Used certain medicines for a long time
- Have a small body frame

The risk of osteoporosis grows as you get older. At the time of menopause, women may lose bone quickly for several years. After that, the loss slows down but continues. In men, the loss of bone mass is slower. But, by age 65 or 70, men and women are losing bone at the same rate.

Protein is in every cell in your body, including your bones. Studies have shown that eating protein increases bone mineral density.

How Can I Keep My Bones Strong? Preventing Osteoporosis

Keep Bones Healthy Through Your Diet
Get the Right Amount of Calcium

When it comes to calcium, more is not always better. You should strive to hit the daily intake recommendation:

- 1,000 mg for women 50 and younger
- 1,200 mg for women 51 and older

With well-balanced nutrition, you may be able to get most of the necessary calcium from your diet and fill in the rest with supplements. As a matter of fact, you could be eating more calcium than you think!

Don't Forget Vitamin D

Vitamin D helps your body absorb calcium and use it to strengthen your bones. When your skin is exposed to sunlight, your liver and kidneys are responsible for making vitamin D. However, most of us can't rely solely on the sun to get our daily dosage for many reasons: indoor living, sunscreen, skin tone, seasonal changes, etc. Non-fortified foods are also limited in vitamin D.

Protein Is Important for Bone Health, Too Protein is in every cell in your body, including your bones. Studies have shown that eating protein increases bone mineral density.

Exercise

Most of us know that exercise is good for fitness, but did you know it's great for bone health, too? Exercise helps stimulate the cells responsible for building bones.

But not just any exercise will do. To promote bone health, try doing weight-bearing and resistance exercises 3 or 4 days a week.

Build Healthy Life Habits

The choices you make, beginning as early as childhood, can affect your bone health in the future. To protect it, consider making the following adjustments to your lifestyle:

- Quit smoking.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Eat a well-balanced diet.
- Stay active.

Think you may not be hitting all the recommended daily nutritional values for optimal bone health? Worried about other factors in your life that might contribute to bone loss? Talk to your doctor about what you can do now to help prevent osteoporosis and bone fractures in the future.

President: Iranian Centrifuges Spinning with Superior Quality

President Hassan Rouhani highlighted the progress in Iran's nuclear industry, pointing to the high-quality centrifuge machines for uranium enrichment, and reminding the 2015 nuclear deal violators how quickly Tehran can resume the work on nuclear production.

However, former US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the JCPOA in May 2018 and reinstated the sanctions.

The Iranian administration has fulfilled the pledge to keep both the economy and the centrifuges rolling, Rouhani said at a cabinet session on Wednesday, noting that the country's centrifuge machines are spinning with higher quality.

"In recent days, we proved that we can carry out all of our nuclear production activities within one week if we want to," he added.

The president said although the new US administration has acknowledged that its predecessor had adopted wrong policies, it has not still taken any serious steps to lift the sanctions on Tehran.

Iran will immediately resume honoring its commitments as soon as the US lifts the sanctions, the president noted, advising the Biden administration to avoid the

Zionist trap that disgraced Trump in the international political arena.

He made it clear for the European parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that implementing the deal is not possible through words and slogans without any practical action.

It is Iran that has saved the JCPOA throughout three years of economic war, Rouhani stated, urging the Group 4+1 to terminate the anti-Iran sanctions and comply with the law.

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 between Iran and six world states—the US, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China—and was ratified in the form of Resolution 2231.

However, former US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the JCPOA in May 2018 and reinstated the sanctions that had been lifted by the deal.

In May 2019, Iran began to scale back its JCPOA commitments after the remaining European parties failed to fulfill their end of the bargain and compensate for Washington's absence.

Criminal Complaint Filed in Germany against Saudi Crown Prince

Reporters Without Borders filed a criminal complaint in Germany accusing Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other Saudi officials of committing crimes against humanity in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi and the detention of 34 other journalists. The Paris-based media advocacy group said in a statement that it had filed the complaint with a federal court in Karlsruhe, Germany, on Monday and was requesting that prosecutors open a formal investigation. The court

confirmed to CNN Business that it had received the complaint.

According to Reporters Without Borders, the complaint accuses the crown prince and four other Saudi officials of having "organizational or executive responsibility" for the killing of Khashoggi, as well as involvement in "developing a state policy to attack and silence journalists." Saudi officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the Reporters Without Borders complaint.

Khashoggi, a US resident and columnist for the Washington Post, was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. Last week, the United

States released an intelligence report concluding that bin Salman approved the operation to capture or kill the Saudi journalist.

Saudi Arabia rejected the allegations. The Saudi Foreign Ministry released a statement following the report's publication saying the country "completely rejects the negative, false and unacceptable assessment in the report pertaining to the Kingdom's leadership, and notes that the report contained inaccurate information and conclusions."

The crown prince has denied that he ordered Khashoggi's murder but has said that he bears responsibility.

