

This too shall pass

"This too shall pass", is an old valuable soothing saying that, like other lasting proverbs, enjoys an undeniably eternal value, especially when as per another old saying: "wherever a loss is halted, there is a profit".

That within a short run a venomous atmosphere is encapsulating the world, especially within the region, and in a manner having led to the recession of our country's economic activities, is no secret to anyone; however, this also is an unright thought that the region is expectant for an unwanted baby, a destructive catastrophic war, which has its roots in intolerance of the unpleasant situations occurring every now and then but rarely turning into action.

It is obvious that now more than any other time, it is a common fact to all that, in the true sense of the word, no war has any winner anymore. In any war, the apparent winner is a loser as well and that is when with a little tolerance "This too shall pass".

Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's foreign trade during the twelve month of year 1397

(20 March 2018 to 20 March 2019)

According to the statistics of the I.R of Iran's Customs Department, the Iran's foreign trades volume during the twelve

month of the year 1397 are as indicated in the following tables:

Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's Liquidities during the twelve month of 1397

Activity	twelve month of the year 1396		twelve month of the year 1397		Percent of changes	
	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Value
Import	32.046	42.612	38.856	54.459	-17.53	-21.75
Export	117.228	44.310	132.882	46.982	-11.78	-5.69

Exports:

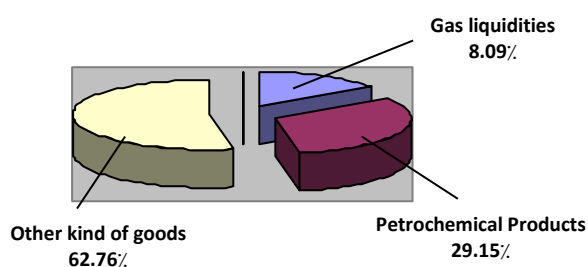
During the twelve month of 1397, a compound of exported goods with the separation of gas liquidities, petrochemical products and other kinds of

goods such as industrial, agricultural, mineral, carpet and handicrafts are as follows:

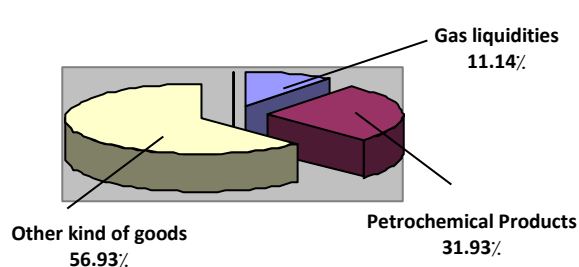
**Export statistics of goods separating of gas liquidities, petrochemical products
And other kinds of goods during twelve month of the years 1396-97**

Sort of exported goods	Twelve month of the year 1397		Twelve month of the year 1396		Share of Total	
	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Dollar
Petrochemical products	34.177	14.150	39.270	14.486	-12.97	-2.32
Gas liquidities	9.481	4.935	17.175	7.063	-44.80	-30.12
Other kind of goods	73.570	25.225	76.436	25.433	-3.75	-082
Total	117.228	44.310	132.882	46.982	-11.78	-5.69

**Percent of Weight of Exported goods
During
the twelve month of the year 1397**

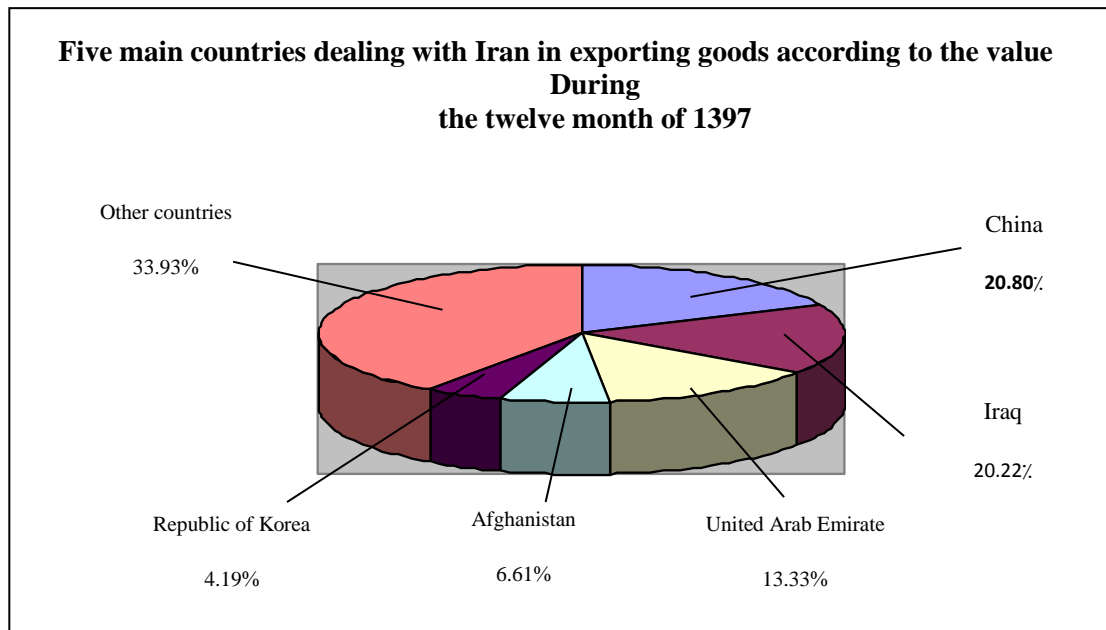


**Percent of Value of Exported goods
During
the twelve month of the year 1397**



The most important exports during the twelve month of 1397, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 32.168 thousand tons and 9.218 million Dollars and 27.44 percent of weight and 20.80 percent of value, 2) "Iraq" with 19.768 thousand Tons and 8.961 million Dollars and 16.86 percent of weight and 20.22 percent of value, 3) "United Arab Emirate" with 13.751 thousand

tons and 5.955 million Dollars and 11.73 percent of weight and 13.44 percent of value, 4) "Afghanistan" with 5.672 thousand tons and 2.927 million Dollars and 4.84 percent of weight and 6.61 percent of value and 5) "Republic of Korea" with 4.915 thousand tons and 2.568 million Dollars and 4.19 percent of weight and 5.80 percent of value.



Average price of each ton of exported goods has been 378 Dollars, increasing 6.91 percent in value compared with the similar period last year.

Imports:

The most important imports during the twelve month of 1397, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 3.434 thousand tons and 10.315 million Dollars and 10.72 percent of weight and 24.21 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirate" with 3.828 thousand Tons and 6.567 million Dollars and 11.95 percent of weight and 15.41 percent of value,

3) "Turkey" with 1.390 thousand tons and 2.617 million Dollars and 4.34 percent of weight and 6.14 percent of value, 4) "India" with 2.011 thousand tons and 2.595 million Dollars and 6.28 percent of weight and 6.09 percent of value and 5) "Germany" with 682 thousand tons and 2.472 million Dollars and 2.13 percent of weight and 5.80 percent of value.



Average price of each ton of imported goods has been 1.330 Dollars, decreasing 5.13 percent in value compared with the similar period last year.

*A Message from Lord Lamont,
Bicc Chairman and UK Trade Envoy to Iran*

INSTEX
(Special Purpose Vehicle Launched)

The Foreign Secretaries of Britain, France and Germany (the E3) have made a joint statement on the establishment of a new Special Purpose Vehicle called INSTEX (Instrument for supporting Trade Exchanges) designed to support trade transactions between European economic operators and Iran. The E3 Foreign Secretaries



made it very clear that the three countries have made this move 'to preserve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action(JCPOA) endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.' INSTEX is designed to 'support legitimate trade with Iran , focusing initially on the sectors most essential to the Iranian Population - such as Pharmaceutical, medical devices and agro-food goods.' The statement goes on to note that the E3 and INSTEX will continue to work on operational details, indicating that there is more to do before the organization becomes fully operational. It also emphasizes the need for a transparent corresponding entity in Iran without which INSTEX will not be able to work.

Instex will be registered in France and will be headed by German national Per Fischer, a former Head of Financial Institutions at Commerzbank with a very strong background in the Commonwealth of independent States (the former Soviet Union). France Germany and Britain will all be shareholders in the new institution and the United Kingdom will head the supervisory board. The

principle on which INSTEX is designed to work is not new: the idea has been around since the late 1920s when it was known as exchange clearing. Iran will need to lodge money in Europe with Instex - presumably from the sale of oil - which can then be used to pay European companies for

goods exported to Iran. While oil and pharmaceuticals would cross borders, money would not.

This leaves open the question as to how a British company legitimately exporting pharmaceuticals or food to Iran and receiving payment at INSTEX can then repatriate that payment to a UK Clearing bank. Based on what we currently know, this problem has not yet been solved. If the UK government and other shareholders are unable to resolve that difficulty, it may be that the money would need to sit with INSTEX until the banking situation in the UK eases.

Although a number of operational details need to be addressed, the launch of Instex is significant and encouraging to those of us who believe that the UK must honor its commitments under JCPOA and that the overwhelmingly pressing sectors to address must be those of a humanitarian nature. In time, it may be available for trade in other unsanctioned items. Iran should not underestimate the work that has been needed to get INSTEX set up. Europe has maintained its position in spite of the US pressure.

Abyaneh

An astonishing historical village

As a village of great antiquity, Abyaneh is like a living architectural and anthropological museum. It presents an impressive model of the man adaptation to the environment.

Abyaneh is an exceptional village, a tourist attraction famous for its ancient architecture and its many historical sites.

The smell of roses in the air, the wind dancing through the willows, cozy little stair-like red houses, people with traditional patterned clothes with their charming accent. You can find all of these in Abyaneh! One of the loveliest villages in Iran. In a world that traditions are losing the battle to globalization, seeing an intact authentic community is a truly blessed. Let us have a closer look at this red village.



Where You Find Originality

Stunning Abyaneh Village was built on the foothills of Karakas Mountain, right in central Iran, in Isfahan province. There is no concrete evidence that shows us how old is this beauty, but archaeologists estimated that it should be more than 1500 years old. They also found several historical sites near the village belong to Seljuk Empire, Sasanian Empire, Safavid Dynasty, and Qajar Dynasty.

So, not only this village has cultural attractions, but the historical as well. People of Abyaneh call the village as Viona, meaning a place filled with willow

trees. This place is located in central Iran in the foothills of Karakas Mount, 40 kilometers from Natanz, and 80 km in the south of Kashan in Isfahan province. It is 2,500 meters above sea level. A road links Abyaneh to the main Kashan-Natanz highway in a region called Hanjan, which is 55 kilometers and 25 kilometers away from Kashan and Abyaneh respectively.

The historic village **Abyaneh** is one of the most specific villages of Iran with a good sight and climate, an appropriate natural situation where all the

houses has been constructed on the hillside at the north of the Barzrud River with a beautiful and pleasant architecture. The form of village houses are limaceous, adobe, brick and stone related to Sassanid, Seljuk, Safavid and Qajar eras and there is no dead end alley in this village. The old houses of village have been built with the coverage of red soil, which are highly protected against the rain, on the hillside.

In addition to the tourist and historical attractions of this village such as, natural sights, house's architecture, historical and religious places including fire temple, mosque, shrines and castles, Rose oil extraction (End of Ordibehesht), the custom of this tourist village, which is greatly important for local people, is also the cause of attracting tourists to this region.



According to various reports, Abyaneh is mainly watered by Barzrud River. Set in the foothills of the lofty mountain of Karakas, this village has a cold climate with numerous springs creating a favorable condition for agriculture.

Given the evidence found in Abyaneh, the village dates back to antiquity, but its golden age was during the Safavid era. The word 'Abyaneh' has been derived from the word 'viona' meaning 'Willow Grove' (in the local dialect 'vey' means willow).

The village extends along the river. Although the village itself is situated on high grounds, in the past three castles were built to protect the people from enemy attacks. Furthermore, the configuration of Abyaneh protects it from strong wind and flood.

Abyaneh has a compact texture with narrow and steep alleys. Located on the slopes of the mountain, the houses are arranged in a stair-step shape, so that the roofs of some houses are the yards of others. Timbers, straw and clay have been used for building the roofs. The walls, built from red mud bricks are impressive. The mud bricks harden when they are exposed to rain. The houses have been built facing the east to get the maximum sunshine.



Abyaneh has moderate weather, so it is safe to say you can travel to the village any time of year. But remember the best time to visit is during spring and especially may, as nature is stunning and there is Golab Giri (rose water making) Festival going on.

Architecture of Abyaneh: One of the amazing things that you will definitely find interesting in Abyaneh is its architecture, making it one of the top three touristic villages in Iran along with Masoule and Kandovan. Abyaneh has stair-shape houses, meaning that the houses were built in a way that the roof of the lower house is also the yard for the above house! Isn't it fascinating? Not to mention the usage of clay in houses that gives the village a vibrant and lively look. Maybe these exclusivities evolved the unique culture of Abyaneh as well, the closeness and sharing of neighbors with the passion and warmth of red color.

An impressive aspect of Abyaneh's architecture is that the houses are uniform in appearance. The doors, most of which have two knockers, are wooden and built in traditional styles. There are beautiful patterns, poems and the names of the owners and mason carved on some doors. The poems demonstrate a good picture of the old Iranian culture. Many facades date back to the Safavid era. Beside the doors of many houses, there are small platforms providing places for passers-by or local residents to rest for a while.





The simplicity of Abyaneh houses presents a picture of the life in rural Iran. Each room is used for various purposes. For example, a single room may be used as a dining room, a sitting room, a bedroom and a guest-room. To make efficient use of fuel, the rooms used in winter are architecturally different from those used in summer. To provide equal lighting for all parts of the rooms, there are several small opening in the roofs. The size of the rooms, windows and doors all indicate the simplicity of life in this old village.

Abyaneh is called an entrance to Iranian history. In some of the houses there is earthenware belonging to a few hundred years ago. The local traditional clothes are examples of styles of great antiquity. It is said a women of Abyaneh has inherited her wedding dress from her grandmother. The language spoken by the people is similar to the Parthian language (an Iranian language of the Parthian people who were inhabitants of an ancient country to the southeast of the Caspian Sea, now a part of north-eastern Iran).

In addition to natural beauties, there are several historical monuments in Abyaneh, of which the following are of greater significance/.

Shrines: The shrines or the mausoleums of Prince Issa and Prince Yahyya are located in the south of the village. Issa and Yahyya are said to have been Imam Mousa Kazem's sons.

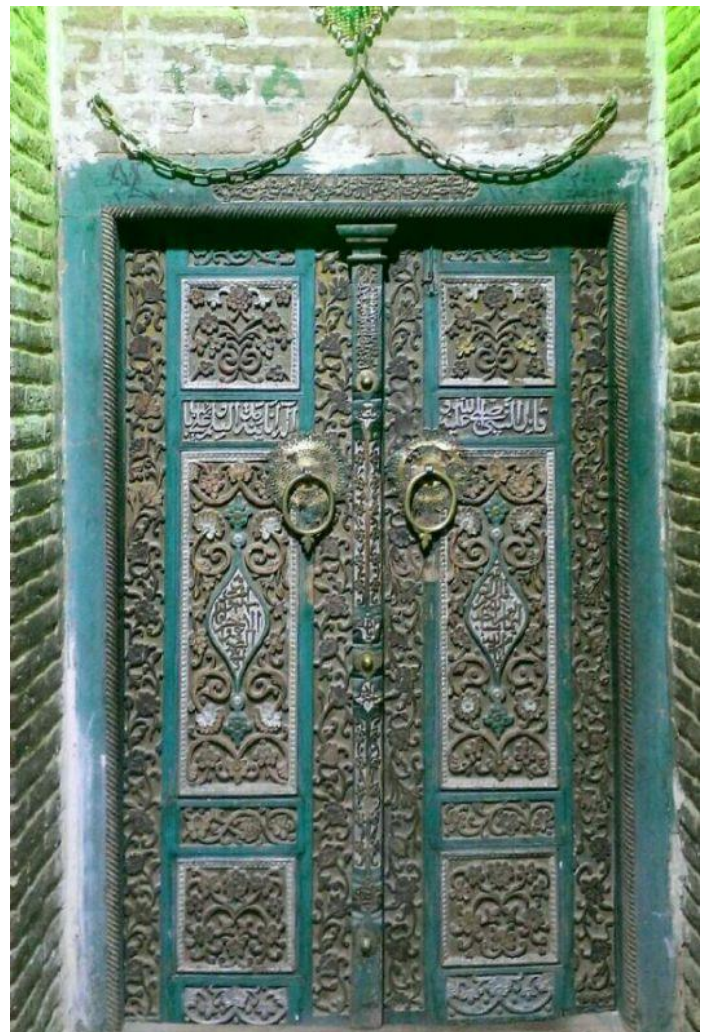
The other points of interest in Abyaneh are the castles of Haman; two houses of dervishes (dating back to the Safavid era and remains of two fire-temples (dating back to the Sassanian era) built in an architectural style called Chahar Taqi (four-arch style).

Jame' Mosque: This mosque is magnificently impressive, and is one of the oldest historical monuments with a highly beautiful wooden and wood carving pulpit. Many tourists believe Abyaneh is worth visiting even if it only had this monument.

The sanctuary of the mosque has a wooden mehrab — a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the qebla; that is, the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca and hence the direction that Muslims should face when praying — around which there are eye-catching patterns and a chapter of the Qur'an carved on the wood. According to date inscribed on the mehrab, it goes back to the 14th century. There is also a pulpit with beautiful carved decorations dating back to the Seljuq era (1038-1194).

Porzaleh Mosque: this Mosque is situated in one of the most ancient neighborhoods of Abyaneh, and has an impressive sanctuary. The date carved on the front door indicates that the mosque dates back to the 14th century. This is the oldest door found in Abyaneh, and its carved decorations are very similar to those of the mausoleum of Bayazid-e Bastami in Shahrud.

Hajatgah Mosque: This Mosque is Located beside Sakhreh Kuh.(Mount Sakhreh), this mosque dates back to the Safavid era. Its sanctuary has pillars of wood, on which some verses of the Qur'an have been inscribed.





Fire Temple: The fire temple of Abyaneh is one of the big Zorastorian temples which are built in a mountainous area.



Culture and Lifestyle: People of **Abyaneh** have their unique culture, completely different from any other place nearby. They have their own accent, clothes, house, and traditions. Beside the architectural differences that have mentioned, clothing is another cultural element that you will notice instantly. It is commonly thought that they are older people who preserve the traditions, but not in Abyaneh case! People in Abyaneh, from all age ranges, wear the village traditional clothes; even little children.

Women Clothing in Abyaneh includes dress, Shaliteh (a kind of skirt), scarf, headband, socks, footwear or Give (is a kind of soft, comfortable, durable and hand-woven-top shoe common in several parts of Iran). The dress is loose and long. Shaliteh is a loose skirt that is tied with a waistband and so many pleats. Accordingly, 7 to 8 meters of a cloth is used for a skirt. The clothes they use in Shaliteh is mostly made of colorful canvas or cotton. Additionally, they use special, colorful, and shiny ribbons and stripes that they sew on the skirt (Called “Navar Douzi” and “Rouban Douzi” in Persian). They also use square shape scarfs (1.5*1.5 meter square) and they fold and put on the triangle shaped scarf. Men have their special clothes as well. They long loose black trousers.

Where to Eat in Abyaneh: You can treat yourself to a delicious meal during your stay in Abyaneh at Viunj Restaurant, Domiloon Watermill, and Restau-



rant, or use Viuna Hotel Restaurant.

Where to Stay in Abyaneh: If you are deciding to overnight in Abyaneh you should know that Abyaneh has two 3-star hotels, with Restaurants and all of needed facilities, called [Viona Hotel](#) and [Abyaneh Hotel](#), Where you can experience a lovely night in this beautiful and charming ancient village. Beyond of these hotels there are plenty of private Bed and Breakfast in Abyaneh available.



Iran

and

US game, chicken game or prisoner's dilemma?

As reporter of (MNA) reported – According to game theory, the type of Iran-US behavior can be studied in the form of models. This theory also enables us to create a model for their behavior. Based on this, in the critical circumstances of two countries chicken game can indicate the behavior of Iran and America behavior and determine their strategy towards each other. Chicken game is an effective model for studying intersections of two players in Game theory. The worst result is gained when none of two players - who are not inclined to give up - stop fighting. In this game two drivers with high speed drive towards each other, one of them must deviate from the way otherwise, they will clash with each other and will be killed. The driver that has deviated from the way because of being coward is called Chicken and is the loser and the driver who remains in the path is the winner. In fact, the status and reputation that you gain because of this game are very high; continuing and not continuing it the game both leads to a lose-lose result. In other words, the players will be trapped in a vague situation. If they continue the game, then death or perpetual palsy will be inevitable. In addition, if they continue competing despite being survived, they will lose their reputation and status, which somehow is equal to death.

Trump's behavior towards Iran is something like this game. On another hand, Trump in this game has tried to pretend himself an unpredictable and moody person who might behave in various ways (Madman Theory). In this way, his baselessness words mostly seem realistic rather than a bluff.

In order to show Trump a madman or (based on necessity) a man with whom we can negotiate, he uses some people such as John Bolton. He during the time of President Bush presidency had also played this role and now again is playing this role in Trump's presidency period, too. Trump aggressive position creates an unstable and frightening atmosphere for his opponents, especially for Iran. Exactly in such an atmosphere, Trump starts to talk about negotiations



in order to pretend that he wants to negotiate but it is Iran that rejects. In this way, he also seeks to make Iran endure damage because of not negotiating. At the same time, the aggressive atmosphere that has been created by Bolton is continued. The recent example of such action is John Bolton's action according to which he said that Pentagon in order to the "confrontation with Iran" has dispatched "Abraham Lincoln" aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. As it became clear earlier sailing this aircraft carrier was planned a long time ago, but Bolton intended to use it to show the situation critical.

"Ilan Goldenberg", the previous chief of Iran program in Pentagon and senior fellow in "New America," think tank believes that the US provocative acts in the region is not anything but trying to influence Iran to change its accumulations. In response to a title in the New York Times which said: "Pentagon was gathering forces against the potential attack to Iran", he tweeted that it was necessary for media to report the armed deployment in the region with responsibility and avoid exaggerating about war with Iran, which is the goal of aggressive fractions."

"Goldenberg" has written: "I was Iran program chief in Pentagon for three years. Such arrays cannot change the game equations extensively. New York Times must not use such a title for dispatching Patriot missile system, especially because over the four previous months the US has dispatched four of such missiles to the outside of the region."

Paying attention to the US facilities in the international area, which can be seen in sanctions imposed on Iran, armed confrontation with Iran, can damage it heavily. Although Iran also can revenge by activating regional advantage and threatening it. Professor Nader Entesar believes that, however, the game of diplomatic chicken game can serve President Trump's goal but it will a disastrous game for Iran. Trump's behavior towards Iran in another way is like another game in which he pulls Iran near the edge of a cliff and then changes Iran's position according to its own

interests. However, considering time scheduling it might lead to sharp weakening or strengthening his presidential campaign. It also depends on the possible successful or unsuccessful deal with China and North Korea. Paying attention to the damaging effect of the continuance of trade war with China of which Beijing is completely aware and the importance of economic factor for American electors, Trump would try to halt trade war with China and compromise with them. Nevertheless, considering North Korea and Iran the situation is different. These two issues can be bargaining chips in Trump's foreign policy. In this field being able to compromise with North Korea can be a bargaining chip in his foreign policy or at least not considered as his Achilles heel. But the process that negotiations go through which and Trump's expectations from Pyongyang make a future view of these negotiations vague, especially because Pyongyang knows the significant role of these negotiations in presidential campaigns very well. If Trump cannot compromise with North Korea, then with the starting of the new campaigns work he will be more fragile considering Iran deal.

In this meanwhile, even taking a memorial photo with Iranian officials regarding propaganda can be considered as a big triumph for Trump. However, Trump in this way will not achieve anything special practically and a new potential deal with Iran might not differ significantly with the previous one. Even regarding China, a well-known theorist like "Graham Allison" believes that just a few months ago Chinese carefully studied NAFTA (between the US, Canada, and Mexico) and its success and realized that the previous NAFTA deal and the recent one are different just by 10 to 15 percent.

So, they understood that changing what Trump calls "the worst trade deal that has ever concluded" to a "big deal" is not a very complicated task. In such a situation, Xi Jinping without anxiety and comfortably can continue its game. In other words, China has already realized that with such a change (10-15 percent) in the current trade situation they can make Trump satisfied. Once one of my Chinese friends told me a long time before Christopher Columbus explored America, Chinese hypocrisy and deceitfulness. Beginning of the presidential electoral campaign in America help Iran to play this game with Trump more freely. Some believe that even at that time Trump might start a war with Iran. It is unlikely that Trump can operate freely at this point. Especially since he in his presidential campaign had criticized Middle East wars and the funds that the US had devoted to such wars. Thus starting a war on the

threshold of the presidential election is just a dangerous gamble for him. Particularly because convincing the public for starting a war with Iran which according to IAEA reports has committed to its commitments is not an easy task.

In the game of "Prisoner's Dilemma" if two prisoners do not attest against each other (cooperate) with each other than both of them gain benefit. But how the US and Iran can trust each other in the current situation? At first glance cooperation of the two countries may seem impossible but if this game repeats and if the two prisoners have "detailed" and correct information of each other and each other's intentions then the possibility of cooperation will rise. One of the fields that can help these two countries to have detailed information from each other is international regimes. And Iran nuclear deal as one of such international regime in the field of non-proliferation which was based on the information of IAEA could give the US detailed information about Iran nuclear program, but the US preferred to withdraw from this security regime.

In addition, (with the help of this agreement) the US could find a more detailed and reliable channel than Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and People's Mujahedin of Iran. Each of these countries and groups due to their hostility against Iran pursue their own limited and antagonistic goals towards Iran, which are not necessarily in accordance with the US interest. American Iran studies discourse is deficient and disorganized discourse.

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Caravanserais *and* *time travel to forgotten ages*

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanseraï, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

Such roadside inns were originally built in various epochs along ancient caravan

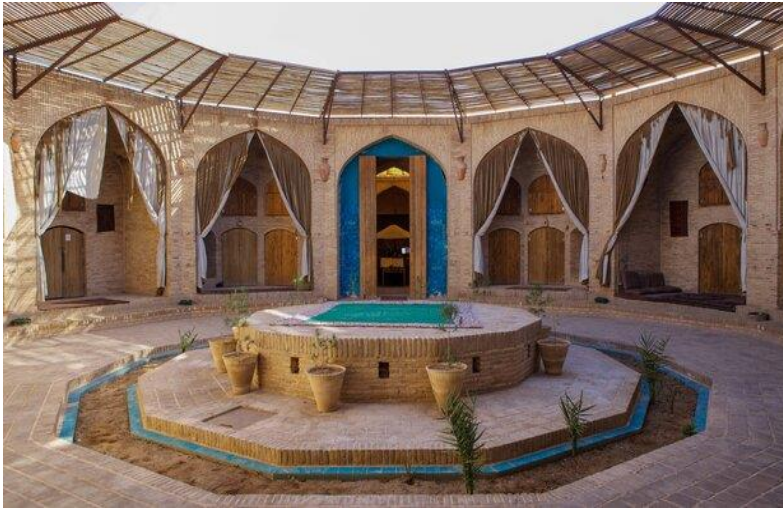
routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais. Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday. Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais many of which abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guesthouses have largely lost their actual usage.

However, a couple of years ago, Iran tourism body introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to the private investors for better maintenance. Now, some are exclusively renovated, repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

Caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara". The first stand for a group of travelers and 'sara' means the building.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed round the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to



1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

Here are comments of two international travelers to the restored Zein-o-din caravanseraï in Yazd province, central Iran:

"A great way to experience Iran," Paula G. from London posted to TripAdvisor in

April.

"There are nearly a thousand of these caravanserais dotted all over Iran, some in disastrous states of disrepair some like Zain-o-din restored to the glory days when camel trains spotted here on the return from the Orient laden down with silk and spices. Sleeping arrangements are basic but the food is hearty & tea never ending. One can wander in the desert before locking up time (but beware, the local wildlife is speedy) & then watch the sun descend below the mountains from the rooftop as the sky comes alive with stars. Alternatively should the night prove too chill the central courtyard may be the place for entertainment until the eyelids become too heavy," she wrote.

Another visitor to the caravanseraï says, "We came across Zain-o-din Caravansary on our road trip. It has been a haven for weary travelers including us for hundreds of years. We had chai (tea) and great exploration of the building, and the needed bathroom break. We even took a peek at the different rooms. The bathroom is very clean and well supplied. I will definitely consider staying there on my next trip to Iran."

From another point of view, caravanserais acted like a bridge facilitating travel, commerce and cultural exchanges for centuries between East, Central Asia, Middle East and the West.

Report by: Afshin Majlesi (MNA)

The traditional German parties are in danger

(MNA) – As much time passes, Merkel's power is at the head of the political and administrative equations of Berlin. It should not be forgotten that the German Chancellor was in the past a symbol of unity in the European Union and the Eurozone.

However, today Angela Merkel has become the symbol of EU power cuts! Now, the two Christian and Social Democrats, which are the most traditional German parties, are not very popular with German voters. This could lead to profound changes on the political, economic and social scene of Germany.

On the other hand, it is widely accepted that any change in Germany will also affect other European countries.

Now, the German Chancellor is concerned about his political future, on the one hand, and worried about the fate of the European Union and the Eurozone. However, it must be admitted that Angela Merkel is also involved in shaping the situation! The economic policies of austerity imposed by the German Chancellor and his unnecessary accompaniment to many of the Democratic and Republican Party policies and policies in the United States have played an important role in creating the current situation. It's a difficult time for the Chancellor of Germany! She had to pass the power inside the Christian Democrat Party to her rival, Kramp-Karenbauer. In a conference, Karenbauer rejected claims that she was the “mini Merkel”.

“People consider me a ‘mini,’ a copy, a simple ‘more of the same,’ but I can tell you that I stand here as my own person, just as life has shaped me and of that I am proud,” she said. Angela Merkel



has announced that she will step down of power in 2021, but the polls conducted in Germany has intensively worried her. The results of these polls indicate that the total popularity of the two traditional German parties, the coalition of the Christian and Social Democrats, have fallen below 50%. This suggests the unpopularity of the coalition government among the German citizens. Merkel now has to run the weak coalition government until 2021!

Many analysts of Europe's affairs believe that Merkel's power is actually over. The Chancellor of Germany is no longer the symbol of power in United Europe. She has lost the power of managing the power equations in her country. In other words, Merkel has become a "passive player" in Berlin, the European Union, and the Eurozone.

This is while Merkel had previously said that she hoped her planned departure would end bitter fighting in her weak and fractious right-left coalition, confessing that “the picture the government is sending out is unacceptable”. Merkel is currently

worried about polls in Germany. According to an Infratest dimap survey, the Alternative for Germany (AFD), the Green Party and Liberal Democrats are now increasing their relative popularity to challenge the two ruling parties (Christian Democrats and Social Democrats) and to end the domination of the two traditional German parties on the power equations in Berlin. Undoubtedly, Merkel can't be now regarded as a successful politician at the head of the political and administrative equations of Germany. At the beginning of the German coalition government, many analysts believed that the presence of Social-Democrats alongside the Christian Democrats was a big mistake. The anti-EU and anti-immigration party of "Alternative for Germany" has become the main opposition party in the German parliament. On the other hand, as the current trend continues and the popularity of the two traditional German ruling parties drops in the polls, they will lose more votes in the upcoming German elections in 2021.

What is happening today in Germany is a big catastrophe for Merkel, the Christian Democrat and, subsequently, the Social-Democratic Party. It's not possible to restore the political power of these two parties in the near future, that is, as long as they are working together in the coalition government of Germany. On the other hand, the political equations in Germany are so complex that none of the traditional German parties will be able to win the majority of seats in the parliament. As a result, a large part of the German authorities' time and energy will be consumed by forming a coalition government (which will be a weak one). This will undermine the position of Germany's leadership in United Europe. In this sophisticated game, the Alternative for Germany (which the other German parties are unwilling to join) have been struggling to broaden its political and social popularity. This extremist party hopes that other right-wingers, including French national leader Marin Le Pen, will be able to win good results in the elections and other political platforms in their country, and that their victory will influence Germany.

Merkel is no longer the symbol of Christian Democrats' power in Germany's and Europe's equations. A political history of the German Chancellor as the EU leader has come to an end at a time when her substitute (in the event of a relative and fragile victory in the country's next general elections), should devote her power to attempts for the formation of a

coalition or minimal government in Berlin. Without a doubt, Angela Merkel never imagined that she would have to permanently withdraw from power in Europe by 2021, as an incapable chancellor.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor of Germany is uncertain about the future of her coalition government before 2021. As The Reuters reported, Voters in the northern state of Bremen look set to inflict a humiliating blow on Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) in an election on Sunday that could hasten the end of their loveless federal coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives. Polls in Germany's smallest state focused on the port city of the same name, are tight but indicate the SPD risks losing a stronghold it has ruled for 73 years. The same party for has ruled no other German state so long. If the SPD loses Bremen to the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), pressure will mount on party leader Andrea Nahles to stand down or break with the federal coalition. In a sign of growing unrest inside the SPD, German weekly Bild is Sonntag reported that former party leader Martin Schulz wants to replace Nahles as chief.

Bremen has the highest jobless level of any German state. Most recent polls suggest there is scope for three outcomes in Bremen: a grand coalition of the SPD and CDU; a coalition of the CDU, Greens, and the business-friendly FDP; or a coalition of SPD with the far-left Die Linke party and the Greens.

Many among the SPD's rank and file are fed up with serving as Merkel's allies, a thankless role the party has fulfilled in 10 of the last 14 years and which has left the chancellor to steal the limelight, especially on the international stage. The party reluctantly re-entered a Merkel-led coalition last year after slumping to its weakest level since 1933 in the 2017 federal election. It has since sunk even lower, polling at about 17 percent, more than 10 points behind the conservatives.

The party is due to review the coalition by the end of the year and pressure from members could grow to ditch it and instead reinvigorate its leftist roots in opposition such a move could force a snap federal election, an unappealing option for both the SPD and conservative bloc, or possibly the formation of a different coalition which would be a tricky task. Either of those scenarios could hasten Merkel's exit, a subject of increasing speculation since she handed the CDU leadership to her.

Paul Pillar: Future of the JCPOA does not look good

TEHRAN, May 16 (MNA) – Professor Paul Pillar, who was CIA intelligence analyst for 28 years, says that the future of the JCPOA does not look good.

Pillar says, “The Europeans so far have simply not given much indication of implementing an economically significant arrangement that would be sufficient for Iranians to say that the deal is meeting their expectations.”

He also adds, “The economic clout of the United States is such that the US administration can still scare and intimidate businesses and governments from having much to do with Iran.”

Following is the text of the interview:

Given that Iran's needs were not met by the nuclear deal, by which I mean removing the sanctions, and as the result of the US withdrawal from that agreement and Europe's passivity, Iran has announced that it is stopping the sale of enriched uranium and heavy water. This action will be held for 60 days to bring the parties to the negotiation table. How do you assess this issue?

Iran is saying its patience is not unlimited. It has complied with its obligations under the JCPOA for an entire year, despite the US reneging on its own obligations. President Rouhani is saying that must change. Iranian leaders have given up on the Trump administration. They still are hoping for a change in US policy as of January 2021, but it has become politically and economically untenable for Iranian leaders simply to keep waiting for US policy to change. Rouhani is challenging the Europeans, in particular, to do more to make up for the economic shortfall from the US reneging.

The Iranian nuclear deal is an agreement based on the clarity and commitment of both sides. Paying attention to the important role that the US plays on the other side and the passivity of European countries towards the US, Iran remains committed to this agreement. Bringing into consideration the current situation, how do you assess its future?

The future of the JCPOA does not look good. The Europeans so far have simply not given much indi-



cation of implementing an economically significant arrangement that would be sufficient for Iranians to say that the deal is meeting their expectations.

The economic clout of the United States is such that the US administration can still

scare and intimidate businesses and governments from having much to do with Iran. If the agreement collapses, it would be difficult to piece it back together even after a change of administration in the United States.

After the failed coup in Venezuela, it seems that John Bolton's role in Trump's decision-making process will be reduced. Is there any possibility that in the result of Bolton's aggressive activities, which were not successful, the role of the aggressive party in the Trump administration will be reduced?

The aggressive nature of US policy, especially toward Iran, does indeed depend heavily on Bolton's future. That, in turn, depends on impulsive and hard-to-predict decisions by Donald Trump. Bolton may have lost some favor with Trump because of differences on both Venezuela and North Korea. Bolton's job might be in jeopardy if Trump, who right now probably does not want a war with Iran, sees Bolton as leading him into one. But Trump might not see things that way, or Trump himself, faced with more domestic political problems, might himself come to welcome a military clash with Iran as a distraction.

President Rouhani called the Iranian nuclear deal a win-win or lose-lose game. What's the point of this message for the other side?

Rouhani is saying that if everyone observes the JCPOA, everyone benefits. And if the agreement breaks down, that will benefit no one. Iran clearly would lose economically, but the United States and others also would lose by having an avoidable nuclear crisis on their hands. Rouhani's perspective is far different from that of Donald Trump, who seems to see every agreement as a matter of one side winning and the other side losing.

Interview by: Javad Heirannia

Katale Khor cave, hidden paradise in Zanjan's mountains



As Zahra Mirzafarjouyan MNA reported – Katale Khor cave is one the most breathtaking caves in Iran which is located in Zanjan Province. The Katale Khor cave has been chosen as the first cave in terms of its crystals and cave formation, beauty and its numerous layers. Iran has many caves, some of which are unique and special. There are many

natural wonders in these caves; including magnificent stalactite and many million-year-old fossils. One of these beautiful caves in Zanjan city is katale khor cave. It is 150km south of Zanjan, off the Soltaniyeh–Hamadan road near Garmab. The cave dates back to Jurassic period (120 million years ago) and it had a lot of natural and artificial



changes during this period. It was discovered about 67 years ago by a group of Iranian cavers. One of the Zanjani members of the group named Seyyed Asadullah Jamali has registered this cave. In some western parts of Iran, "Katala" is referred to low altitude mountains and the appellation of this cave is probably due to its existence in one of these mountains. Khor has Avestan root which means Sun. Therefore, Katala Khor means "mount of Sun".

At first, cavers had to crawl to enter the cave 700 meters. This cave was residence of ancient people so that bones of about 80 people are still preserved. Then the region was excavated and a route was created for walking. Researchers found a strange route in this cave which shows Katala Khor is connected to Ali Sadr Cave in Hamedan Province, at distance of 100km.

Katala Khor and Ali Sadr Cave are roughly homogeneous and created at the same time, but there are two main differences: the Ali Sadr Cave is water cave where you sit in a boat and watch the view but Katala Khor is almost dry. The second distinc-

tion of this cave with Ali Sadr Cave is that Katala Khor's limes are purer which makes it more transparent. Lime stalactites and stalagmites, as well as huge halls and corridors which are mainly dry have added to the beauty of the cave.

One of the features that made this cave one of the unique caves in the world is that the cave has 7 floors but so far only 3 floors have been discovered and there are waterfalls on its different floors. The stalactites in this cave are beautifully shaped and some of them are named after those shapes. Some of the most famous parts in this cave are bride and groom, marriage cloth, sleeping lion, hound, lion paw and elephant's foot. There are two visiting routes inside the cave; 3km open to the public and another 4km available only for experienced cavers. Tourists can visit 2850 meters of the cave in the first floor and visitor are asked to stop touching the stalactites and stalagmites to avoid and devastating. The best season to visit Katala Khor cave is in spring and summer. Visiting this cave will take half a day.



Short Economic News

Iran Short Economic News:

Urmia Lake water level improves

TEHRAN, Jun. 10 (MNA) – The surface area of the Urmia Lake in north-west Iran has increased by 829 square kilometers, thanks to the two-month-long springtime showers that began pouring across the country in March.

According to Aghil Aghdasi, an official with Regional Water Company of East Azerbaijan province, the lake's water surface has reached 3,231 square kilometers, a doubled amount in comparison with last year.

Lake Urmia now holds 5.22 billion cubic meters of water, up over 100% compared to last year when the volume was 2.5 billion cubic meters, he said.

He added that this volume is the highest observed in the last 10 years. "Presently, the lake's 1,271.89 meters above sea level, which is 104 centimeters more compared to the same period of the previous Iranian year [March 2018-2019]."



Located between the provinces of East and West Azarbaijan, Urmia Lake is a closed water body fed through 21 permanent and 39 seasonal rivers.

It was Iran's largest inland body of water less than 20 years ago; however, it began drying up in the mid-2000s. According to international statistics, the lake

lost about 80% of its waterbed by 2015.

Several dams constructed near the lake have choked off the water supply from the nearby mountains, contributing to the depletion of the lake. The construction of a 15-km causeway between Urmia and Tabriz has also exerted a severe impact on the reservoir.

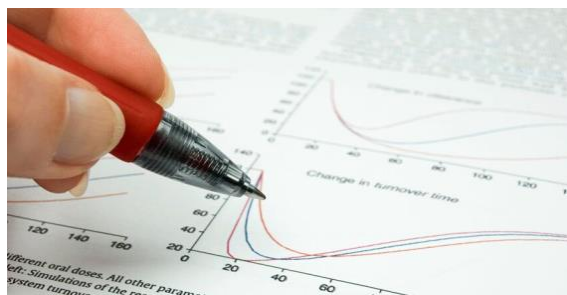
Now that the lake has been revived by the help of the mother nature, the officials have geared up to implement the long-awaited plans, including water transfer both from domestic and foreign bodies, in order not to let the lake dry up again.

Iran ranks 16th in world, 1st in region in medical science production

Tehran, June 12, IRNA- Deputy Director of Research and Technology at the Ministry of Health said that Iran has been successful to uphold rank 16th in the world since 2016 and the first rank in the region in the field of medicine production and annual publication of articles.

Shahin Akhoundzadeh said on Wednesday that Iran's international scientific cooperation in publishing articles have increased in 2018.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the percentage of Iranian international cooperation in publishing articles was 19.95%, 22.19% and 24.6%, respectively. He



stated that the overall ranking of Iran in this field is 22 of the world.

In 2018, Iran received 42,636 references in the same year, in this regard, Iran was ranked 16th in the world and the first in the Middle East.

The Official went on to say that Iran by publishing 60,268 articles in 2018, was ranked 16th in the world.

The number of scientific documents in Iran in 2017 was 56,029 articles, which Iran has been able to add to the number of 4,239 articles to its scientific citations of previous year.

800 int'l students study at Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Tehran, June 11, IRNA - Deputy head of Tehran University of Medical Sciences' for International Affairs says that in its first report on Feb. 4, 2018, the number of foreign students in the university was about 718, but the number has increased to over 790 students from 44 countries.

Ramin Kordi said on Tuesday that according to the adopted policies, the number of foreign students should increase.

The university official described the university's plans for conducting joint international courses and said, "Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with different countries have been signed and several courses have been held."

Kordi explained the plans and activities of the Department for International Affairs, and said that the plans of the Department in line with promoting educational, research and university services have been developed. The purpose of these programs is



to promote Iranian and Islamic culture, explain the pattern of scientific reference in the region and move in line with resistance economy.

The official emphasized on the synergy of the different areas of the university in the development of international affairs. In this regard, the decentralization of international

affairs from the center to the other areas, the transfer of knowledge and the experience of internationalization, and facilitation of the processes are on the agenda.

Referring to the capacity of various universities in the international arena, he highlighted, "One of the plans of the Department for International Affairs was to design new and needed courses for the neighboring countries. During this period, the curriculum has been designed and approved for 9 disciplines. There are currently 224 courses that are ready to attract foreign student that should be used to make the most of this capacity.

Barter only way to save country from sanctions: Official

Sari, June 11, IRNA - The head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce says that the only way to save the country from the US cruel sanctions is barter trading link, especially with neighboring countries, including the Caspian Sea littoral states.

On the sidelines of the 18th meeting of Caspian Sea Littoral States' Chambers of Commerce in the coastal city of Babolsar, Mazandaran province, Gholamhossein Shafei made the remark on Monday, "Unfortunately, so far, there has not been done much on the barter trade with neighboring countries, especially the Caspian Sea littoral states and even with the Persian Gulf states, which also have good links with Iran."

"In the current situation, we must go to trade with these countries and, to a large extent, we will circumvent the sanctions and provide for our coun-



try's need, and we can sell surplus production," he added. "Many countries in the world, especially Iran's neighbors, have a tendency to barter trade, and we need to provide this solution within the country through the government and with the help of the parliament," he said.

Shafei did not consider as sufficient to hold summits to overcome barriers to foreign trade with the Caspian littoral countries, and demanded the establishment of preferential tariffs for trade relations between Iran-Russia and the Caspian littoral states and even the Persian Gulf.

The eighteenth Summit of Chambers of Commerce of the Caspian Sea littoral states was held this morning with the presence of ambassadors from some of the Caspian states in the Babolsar coastal city.

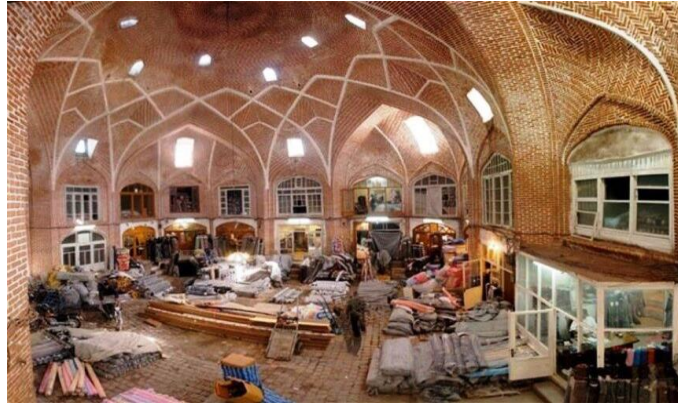
Iran; 11th country in the UNESCO tangible cultural heritage

Tehran, June 2, IRNA - Iran is regarded as the 11th country in the UNESCO tangible cultural heritage in light of presence of historical buildings and landmark places, monuments, artifacts which are considered worthy of preservation for the future generations. Iran is rich in terms of possessing antiquities significant to the archaeology, architecture, science or technology of the Iranian culture.

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said that the World Heritage Sites are places of importance to cultural or natural heritage as described in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in 1972. Iran accepted the convention on 26 February 1975, making its historical sites eligible for inclusion on the list. As of 2018, twenty-three sites in Iran are included.

The first three sites in Iran, Meidan Emam, Isfahan, Persepolis, and Chogha Zanbil, were inscribed on the list at the 3rd Session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Paris, France in 1979. They remained the Islamic Republic's only listed proper-



ties until 2003 when Takht-e Soleyman was added to the list.

The latest addition was The Sassanid Archaeological Landscape, inscribed in 2018 and In addition to its inscribed sites, Iran also lists fifty-five properties on its tentative list.

*** Iran World Heritage Sites

Iran has 23 registered UNESCO World Heritage sites. The list includes 22 cultural heritage and one natural heritage. This position is not regarded as acceptable for a country with more than seven thousand years of civilization.

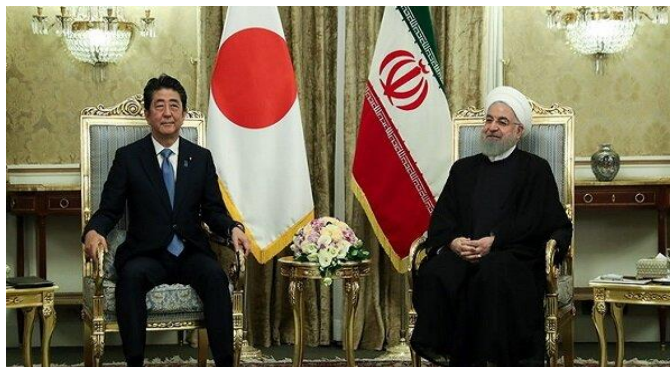
"Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, Bam and its Cultural Landscape, Bisotun, Cultural Landscape of Maymand, Gonbad-e Qābus, Golestan Palace, Lut Desert, The Ensemble of Historical Sassanian Cities in Fars province (Bishabpur, Firouzabad, and Sarvestan), Masjed-e Jame of Isfahan, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, and Pasargad" are in the list of Iran World Heritage Sites.

"Persepolis, Shahr-e Sookhteh, Sheikh Safi al-din Khānegāh and Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil, Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, Soltaniyeh, Susa, Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex, Takht-e Soleyman, Tchogha Zanbil, The Persian Garden, The Persian Qanat, Historic City of Yazd" are regarded in the list as well.

Rouhani in a press conference with Shinzo Abe:

US economic terrorism must end for positive developments to happen

TEHRAN, Jun. 12 (MNA) – President Rouhani said in a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that the cause of all current tensions in the region is the US' economic war against the Iranian nation. At the joint press conference in Tehran on Wednesday evening, President Rouhani expressed his gratitude to Mr Abe for accepting his



invitation to visit Iran, saying that the two leaders have had constructive talks over the past years. Rouhani said that today's meeting was their eighth meeting.

"We welcome the fact that government of Japan and the prime minister are determined to expand political, economic, and regional and international relations," Rouhani said.

The president stated that in both private meeting with Japanese prime minister and the meeting attended by the two countries' delegations the two sides discussed "the issues of bilateral relations including the Japan's investment Iran's Chabahar and Makran coastlines."

"The fact that Japan is interested in buying oil from Iran and in resolving financial issues and scientific and cultural relations is a point that can guarantee the development of bilateral relations," he added.

He further noted that in addition to bilateral relations the two sides also had discussed security and détente in the region. "The tensions have roots in the American economic war against the Iranian nation, and if this war is stopped, we will witness

positive developments in the region and in the world," the president said. Rouhani went on to add that Iran will not start any war, while stressing that it will vigorously respond to any aggression.

He added that the Japanese prime minister had been optimistic about the future in the meetings, expressing his happiness with Abe's support for the continuation of the JCPOA as important for the region and the world.

Rouhani also said that he had urged the prime minister to start cooperation between Iran and Japan on peaceful nuclear technology.

The Iranian president further expressed hope that the visit of the Japanese prime minister would open a new chapter in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

CBI governor:

INSTEX not to work miracles, Europeans should purchase Iranian oil

TEHRAN, Jun. 23 (MNA) – "I do believe that INSTEX will not work miracles; monetary transactions should be done via it and for that Europeans should purchase our oil or open credit lines for Iran," the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolansar Hemmati said in a televised interview. "Europeans should buy oil from us as did Italy and Greece in the past or in other case, they can provide us with \$10 million to \$15 million credit lines in order to have monetary transactions take place in INSTEX to meet Iran's needs under the US sanctions," he said. "As the CBI governor, I am not pessimist about Europeans but we do not wait for them," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hemmati addressed Iran-Russia cooperation for reducing US sanctions' pressures. "Russia's tendency towards cooperating with



Iran, whether the country wants to purchase Iranian oil or to open credit line for us is good news," he said.

"Iran has regarded Russia's capacities for supplying some of its needs for basic goods and if the cooperation is done, that would be a positive step in expanding Iran-Russia relations," he added.

Last Wednesday, Hemmati announced that while Iran's coordinating financial mechanism to INSTEX, Special Trade and Finance Instrument between Iran and Europe (STFI), is ready to start operation and Europeans should purchase Iranian oil or establish a financial line with Iran.

As reported, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has said that his country will help Iran with its oil sales if the EU trade mechanism is not launched.

All cyberattacks against Iranian targets foiled: ICT minister

According to the report of (MNA) – Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said on Monday that the country's security shields have been able to neutralize all cyberattacks against Iranian targets

so far. Within few days of the US claims that the Pentagon had launched a long-planned cyberattack to disable Iran's rocket launch systems, Jahromi wrote in a tweet, "They try hard, but have not yet carried out a successful attack."

"Media asked if the claimed cyberattacks against Iran are true," he said, adding, "We have been under cyber-terrorism attacks like Stuxnet and unilateralism – like the US sanctions – for a long time," but none have been successful.

"Last year we neutralized 33 million attacks with the [national] firewall," the ICT minister said. Last week, US news outlets cited unnamed sources to report that President Donald Trump had approved an offensive cyber strike aimed at disabling Iranian computer systems used to control rocket and missile launches.

The attacks came shortly after the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) announced that its Aerospace Forces used an indigenous Khordad 3 surface-to-air missile system to shoot down a US



Navy RQ-4A global Hawk drone moments after it entered Iranian airspace in the Persian Gulf region to gather intelligence.

In line with the push to fend off cyber violations, Iran's ICT Ministry unveiled a cybersecurity project codenamed Digital Fortress (Dejfa in Persian) in May to shield the country from increasing cyber threats targeting Iran's infrastructures.

The Digital Fortress aims to protect citizens' privacy, deter the cyberattacks on infrastructure, help sustain digital services, combat data breaches and online fraud, as well as detect malware in the network and stop its spread.

According to Jahromi, the fortress will also help Iran prevent denial-of-service strikes and protect the country's industrial infrastructure against cyber espionage and sabotage attacks.

Iran's 'Castle of Dreams' sweeps Shanghai Golden Goblet award ceremony

TEHRAN, Jun. 24 (MNA) – Iranian feature film 'Castle of Dreams', directed by Reza Mirkarimi, won three top prizes at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival in China. China's top film festival showered its highest three honors on the Iranian film 'Castle of Dreams,' during an award ceremony on Sunday night. The feature is about a 42-year-old man, Jalal, who murders a family in a car crash.

The murder, however, is considered as involuntary manslaughter in court.

The drama collected a trio of prizes, including the Golden Goblet prize for best film, best director prize for Reza Mirkarimi, and the best actor award for Hamed Behdad, which he shared with Chang Feng for 'The Return' (China).

While receiving the award, Mirkarimi highlighted the need for increasing cooperation among Asian countries. Actor Hamed Behdad, in a video streaming during the award ceremony, dedicated his prize



to one of the most visionary figures in international cinema, late Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami, whose birthday was on June 22.

'Castle of Dreams' won the Golden Goblet prize in competition with 15 other titles from Germany, Italy, India, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Brazil,

Russia and Mexico.

This was the movie's first international screening. The drama will go on screen in Iran by next month.

According to Variety, the Shanghai prizes were decided by a jury headed by Turkey's Nuri Bilge Ceylan, which also gave a double dose of awards to "Inhale-Exhale," a drama about trust and rehabilitation directed by Dito Tsintsadze.

The film, a Georgia-Russia-Sweden co-production, earned the festival's grand jury prize and the best actress award for Salome Demuria.

The 22nd edition of Shanghai International Film Festival took place from June 15th to 24th, 2019.

Iranian researchers improve mechanical properties of concrete with carpet waste

Tehran, June 11, IRNA - Researchers at Isfahan University of Technology by acquiring technical know-how on the improvement of carpet waste, have improved the physical and mechanical properties of concrete.

Carpet waste can be used to reduce the weight of concrete products such as polymeric concrete and cement concrete as a cheap filler. Given the economical considerations in the production of polymer concrete due to the high cost of resin used, this problem can be somewhat removed by the addition of dispersed polymer materials such as modified carpet wastes. These materials can be used as cheap and affordable



lightweight materials for the manufacture of concrete cement with improved physical and mechanical properties.

In this regard, researchers at Isfahan University of Technology have improved the mechanical properties of concrete in a research project sponsored by the Research and Technology

Fund of Vice President Department for Science and Technology affairs, using modified carpet wastes. Carpet waste as a lightweight material can lead to the production of lightweight polymer concrete for use in various building applications that require high strength and lower weight.

World Short Economic News:

New plot by Trump's government to undermine INSTEX

Tehran, June 12, IRNA - Washington targeted Iranian-European channel of finance and trade known as INSTEX, and by undermining it as ineffective is willing to force the Islamic Republic of Iran towards its favored direction namely negotiation for the new nuclear deal. White House officials from Donald Trump to his associates in the cabinet and the State Department are now more explicit than ever repeating their ultimate goal of maximum pressure on the Islamic Republic; reaching a new nuclear deal with Iran. One of the topics of political satire that the opponents of Trump have put finger on his foreign policy is his withdrawal from the JCPOA and unlimited attempts to bring Iranian officials to the negotiating table. Trump claims that he wants to come up with a contract that will create a serious obstacle for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons; an agreement with the participation of allies and international monitoring to establish security in the Middle East and the world. Opponents and ardent



critics of the US president say that the JCPOA was exactly what Trump talked about, but simply because the nuclear agreement was concluded in the period of ex-president, a lot of spending and efforts were made to exit and collapse the JCPOA, and more efforts

are underway for the same version.

Trump, of course, has not abandoned his repetitive positions and groundless claims and said that Iran should behave like a normal government at the regional and international levels, otherwise it should accept the consequences of the economic collapse. Washington's plans have now become clear to everyone, to the point where many have come to this certainty, Iran will be the most desirable country for the Trump to negotiate, even if Iran does not negotiate with the most unreliable government in the White House. In line with the maximum pressure from the United States government against the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are witnessing the

contradictory stances of Trump and his associates towards Iran. The President of the United States has repeatedly spoken about tension with Iran once calling our country and our people as terrorist, and once again speaks of the necessity of economic prosperity and the rise of Iran and Iranians.

The president of the United States has repeatedly threatened and even encouraged, and this, in many respects, means promoting a psychological war on the Islamic Republic of Iran and increasing the pressure to form a negotiation and gaining a new agreement for propaganda and, ultimately, electoral purposes.

The US government has targeted the mechanism of Iran-European trade in its latest move; a mechanism that was signed in February last year in the name of INSTEX in Paris, and the corresponding Iranian institution, entitled "The Mechanism of Finance and Trade between Iran and Europe" Or "STFI" was launched in May this year. Concurrent with the German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas' travel to Iran to hold talks with Iranian officials on the JCPOA, the Bloomberg news agency quoted an American official as saying that Trump Treasury Department is planning to impose sanctions on Iran's related entity because the danger is that, with the expansion of the financial and commercial channels of Iran and Europe, US sanctions would be ineffective, especially since the governments of Russia and the Netherlands last week announced they intend to join and invest in the INSTEX.

The consequences of this move, of course, would be to widen gaps between Europe and the United

States, because the Americans argue that the corresponding Iranian institution is under the central bank, which is itself on the list of sanctions, and one of the reasons for sanctioning the central bank is to create a financial network for the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps. In a recent statement, the US Department of State spokeswoman on Iran and Europe's financial and commercial Channel, Morgan Ortugus stated that the United States has no problem with any system that does not relate to its sanctions, but it does not allow for the exchange of sanctioned goods and communications with sanctioned institutions. These remarks are made when the German Foreign Minister and before him many European officials have said that Europe will use all its efforts to sustain the launch of the INSTEX. Of course, the German minister in Tehran has stated that the miracle by Europe could not be expected.

At the same time, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, along with the talks of "Mohammad Javad Zarif" with Maas, and the presence of the German director of INSTEX in Tehran, said that we did not attach much hope for INSTEX.

"Hamid Baeedinejad, Iran's ambassador to London warned that the US' measure against INSTEX in sanctioning the Iranian financial institution, is practically eliminating this mechanism, and European diplomacy complete fails.

"The hope is that now everyone is convinced that the greatest threat to the region's security and prosperity is the US policy of economic terrorism against Iran," he said.

Abe in joint press conference with Rouhani in Tehran:

Stability in ME important for economic prosperity all over world

TEHRAN, Jun. 12 (MNA) – In a joint press conference in Tehran Wed., the Japanese prime minister said his country will spare no efforts to create peace and stability in the world and the region. Speaking alongside President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran on Wednesday evening, Shinzo Abe, Japan's Prime Minister, said that the tensions in the Middle East region are increasing, urging for intensifying efforts against breakout of war. "The peace and stability of the Middle East region is essential not only for the prosperity of



this region, but also for the prosperity of the entire world. Japan wishes to make its utmost efforts in reducing the tensions," Abe asserted, adding that his trip to Iran was in line with the goal of reducing tensions. The Japanese prime minister also stressed that Iran should be able to play its constructive role, praising the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Khamenei for issuing a fatwa banning any kinds of weapons of mass destructions including nuclear arms.

Views of IBCCIM Annual Dinner Reception at Espinas Hotel



IBCCIM's New Members

Member Companies:

Teb Gostaran Soroush Iranian Co.: Import of medical instruments, drugs and pharmaceutical supplies, M.D.: Hamidreza Haghpahan, Address: Postalcode: 1581637536, Flat No. 6, Second floor, No. 18, Shahid Mousavi St., Enghelab St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 66343389, Fax: +98 (21) 88315654, Email: haghpahan@tebsoroush.com .

Gando Tejarat Co.: Ingredients, machinery and part, M.D.: Mohsen Ahangari, Address: No.221, 11 Alley, Bou ali Sina Boulevard, Hasan Abad, Rey, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 667194765, Fax: +98 (21) 66719476, Email: gando.tejarat.co@gmail.com .

Tavana Pipeline Engineering Co. Ltd.: Design, production and administration of anti-erosion systems, cathodic protection, and insulating materials, M.D.: Mohammad Reza Ahmadi Boshkani, Address: Ppstal Code: 1419894681, No. 358, Between Jamalzadeh and Gharib St., Keshavarz Boulevard, Theran, Tel: +98 (21) 66907305, Fax: +98 (21) 66926761, Email: info@tavana-cps.com .

Apadana Kavosh Iranian Co. Co.: Mining Minerals, M.D.: Amir Abbas Mir Shokraei, Address: Postal Code: 1985643151, Flat No. 1, No. 5, J St., Mahmoudieh, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 22658779, Fax: +98 (21) 22658772, Email: apadanakavosh92@gmail.com.

Pars Paoieer Engineering Co.: Production of fiberglass pipes and joints, M.D.: Hossein Gholamzadeh, Address: Postal Code: 7185935979, Forth Floor, Safir Apadana Building, 25 Alley, Farhang Shahr St., Shiraz, Tel: +98 (713) 6324970-3, Fax: +98 (713) 6324972, Email: h.gholamzadeh@iranpipeco.com .

Ilkin Co.: Production and export, M.D.: Hassan Ghalichehbafe Vosoughi, Address: Ilkin Co., Aali nasb Industrial City, Tabriz, Tel: +98 (51) 36584070, Fax: +98 (51) 36584070, Email: info@ilkinco.com.

Kimiya Pishro Sanat Nano Iranian Co.: Production of nanotechnology materials, M.D.: Peyman Razeghi Khosravieh, Address: Postal Code: 8158614457, Flat No. 3, Saba Building, No. 173, Safavi Deadend, Bozorgmehr St., Isfahan, Tel: +98 (31) 32647515, Fax: +98 (21) 89774182, Email: payman.razeghi@gmail.com.

Arad Jam Khavarmianeh Co.: Printing and packaging machinery, M.D.: Aliasghar Khaliliasr, Address: Postalcode: 1473618133, Flat No. 2, No. 41, in the corner of Asadi St., after Kourosh Building, Sattari Highway, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88626151, Fax: +98 (21) 88626151, Email: a.khalili@aradjam.com .

Individual Member:

Hasan Atfian: Carpet & Handicraft , Address: Postal Code: 4186763343, Lahijan St., Rasht, Tel: +98 (13) 33837926, Email: hassanatfian47@gmail.com .

Hasan Khezri: Honeybee productions , Tel: +98 (44) 35663133.

Iran's Economy at a Glance

	1396Q2	1396Q3	1396Q4	1396	1397Q1	1397Q2	1397Q3
Labor Force Participation & Unemployment Rates (percent)							
Participation (10 Years and Over)	40.7	39.9	39.7	40.3	41.1	40.9	40.5
Unemployment (10 Years and Over)	11.5	11.7	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.2	11.7
Unemployment (Youth Aged 15-24)	26.9	28.3	29.2	28.4	28.3	27.2	27.0
Real Growth Rates of GDP and Its Subsectors at Constant 1390 Prices (percent)*							
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	5.1	2.4	2.7	3.7	1.8	-1.1	-
Oil	5.7	-3.3	-4.2	0.9	5.2	0.6	-
Agriculture	3.3	4.0	2.1	3.2	0.3	-3.6	-
Manufacturing and Mining	5.5	4.5	5.5	5.1	0.1	-6.1	-
Services	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.4	1.1	1.2	-
Non-Oil GDP	4.9	4.2	4.8	4.6	0.7	-1.6	-
Gross Fixed Capital Formation (at market prices)	1.4	4.1	1.2	1.4	-0.8	-5.6	-
Oil (daily average - thousand barrels)							
Production	3,867	3,836	3,812	3,849	3,805	3,789**	-
Export	2,367	2,291	2,295	2,324	2,390	-	-
Point-to-Point Inflation Rates (percent)							
Growth Rate of Consumer Price Index (1395=100)	8.8	9.3	9.1	9.6	10.5	24.5	35.0***
Growth Rate of Producer Price Index (1395=100)	9.0	10.4	11.7	10.0	14.6	35.4	58.7
Balance of Payments (USD millions)							
Oil Exports	15,736	16,468	19,448	65,818	20,980	-	-
Non-Oil Exports	7,200	8,332	9,616	32,324	8,356	-	-
Import of Goods	17,269	19,158	22,836	75,546	16,353	-	-
Goods Account (Net)	5,667	5,643	6,227	22,596	12,983	-	-
Non-Oil Goods Account (Net)	-9,708	-10,039	-11,897	-40,458	-7,330	-	-
Current Account	3,718	3,473	4,902	15,816	11,061	-	-
Capital Account	-4,956	-5,499	-7,528	-19,321	-5,263	-	-
Change in Foreign Reserves	-3,968	-3,078	491	-8,140	3,933	-	-
Foreign Exchange Rates (USD/IRR daily average)							
In Free Market****	38,236	40,719	45,548	40,552	60,365	103,721	133,700
Official Rate	32,900	34,800	36,842	34,276	41,392	42,646	42,000
Monetary and Credit Aggregates (end of period - IRR trillions)							
Monetary Base (M0)	1,964.9	1,995.0	2,139.8	2,139.8	2,186.6	2,365.5	-
Central Bank Claims on Banks	1,097.1	1,130.7	1,320.3	1,320.3	1,397.1	1,506.5	-
Central Bank Claims on Public Sector (Net)	292.2	279.9	55.1	55.1	82.8	82.4	-
Liquidity (M2)	13,899.5	14,453.1	15,299.8	15,299.8	15,827.5	16,723.7	-
Money (M1)	1,682.4	1,737.4	1,946.7	1,946.7	2,059.5	2,436.7	-
Sight Deposits	1,337.7	1,385.8	1,504.0	1,504.0	1,635.5	1,991.7	-
Non-Sight Deposits (Quasi-Money)	12,217.1	12,715.7	13,353.1	13,353.1	13,768.0	14,287.0	-
Government Budget and Fiscal Position (IRR trillions)							
Total Revenues	590.5	579.2	1,002.7	2,598.5	590.6	676.1	-
Tax Revenues	249.3	252.6	474.6	1,158.4	225.9	277.5	-
Oil Revenues	257.8	193.0	279.6	919.2	326.0	304.6	-
Other Revenues	83.5	133.6	248.5	520.9	38.7	94.0	-
Total Expenditures*****	596.9	783.4	887.4	2,868.6	880.7	758.3	-
Current Expenditures	526.1	560.3	794.2	2,429.4	588.1	721.8	-
Development Expenditures	70.0	224.0	137.0	439.2	226.7	39.7	-
Budget Balance	-6.4	-204.3	115.3	-270.1	-290.1	-82.2	-
Tehran Stock Exchange (end of period)							
Overall Index (TEDPIX)	85,832	95,509	96,290	96,290	108,873	160,538	156,083
Financial Index	129,604	134,057	119,176	119,176	120,837	165,359	172,718
Industrial Index	74,823	74,078	86,082	86,082	98,476	146,264	141,206
Market Capitalization (IRR trillions)	3,396	3,946	3,847	3,847	4,213	6,124	5,924

Source: Middle East Bank