

اخبار اصفهان

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یادداشت
حسین محمدپوری/تجارت‌نویز

سر نوشت بازارها در سال ۱۴۰۰

رشد نقدینگی است که قیمت‌های مایل مسکن، سهام، ارز و طلا را تعیین می‌کند. به‌ویژه به دلیل رابطه بسیار نزدیک نقدینگی و قیمت‌ها، در اقتصاد ما همواره قیمت ارز متغیر پیش‌تر تلقی شده و قیمت بقیه دارایی‌ها را به دنبال خود کشانده است. شاید در بخشی از سال‌های ۹۸ و ۹۹، نقدشوندگی بالای سهام باعث شد که شاخص به چنین متغیری تبدیل شود. در پرش قیمت دلار سال ۱۳۷۲، در سال ۱۳۷۷ و اخیرتر در سال‌های ۹۰ و ۹۱ و بالاخره در پرش قیمت ۲۰۰ درصدی دلار در سال ۹۷ دیدیم که با وقفه یک سال یا حتی کمتر، قیمت سهام و مستغلات پرش کردند. بنابراین توجه هر تحلیلگر سهام به طور جدی به رشد نقدینگی و قیمت دلار است و اینکه آیا پرش‌های تندی که در ۹۸ و ۹۹ در قیمت همه دارایی‌ها رخ داده، بازار این دارایی‌ها را به تعادل کشانده است یا نه؟ برای سال ۱۴۰۰، نمی‌توانیم...

ادامه در صفحه ۲



اطلس‌های فرهنگی اصفهان، مرجع دیگر کلانشهرها

شهردار اصفهان: اطلس‌های فرهنگی اجتماعی، تحلیل واقعی از شرایط و امکان برنامه‌ریزی صحیح ارایه می‌دهد

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عکس: اخبار اصفهان

روغن‌های دولتی چگونه سر از بازار آزاد درآوردند؟

داستان دنباله‌دار روغن

هر چند بر طبق گفته‌های مسئولان چالش رفع کمبود روغن در اصفهان از ابتدای ماه رمضان مطلوب‌تر شده، اما آنچه در بازدید میدانی از بازار اصفهان قابل مشاهده است، وجود به وفور روغن سرخ کردنی در بازار و عدم تأمین به اندازه مورد نیاز روغن مایع خوراکی و روغن نباتی با قیمت مصوب است

تجات کسب و کار با اعمال دگرگونی‌های پایدار:

از تغییرات نترسید

ایجاد دگرگونی عمیق در ساختار شرکت همیشه راهکار نخست صاحبان کسب و کار برای رقابت بهتر با دیگر برندها محسوب می‌شود. البته در بسیاری از مواقع هدف شرکت‌ها از اعمال تغییرات تازه تلاش برای...

قیمت سکه	قیمت فروش	قیمت قبلی
سکه طرح قدیم	۱۰,۰۹۵,۰۰۰	۱۰,۱۵۰,۰۰۰
سکه طرح جدید	۹,۸۷۸,۰۰۰	۱۰,۰۷۹,۰۰۰
نیم سکه	۵,۶۰۰,۰۰۰	۵,۷۰۰,۰۰۰
ربع سکه	۳,۵۷۵,۰۰۰	۳,۶۷۵,۰۰۰
سکه گرمی	۱,۹۶۲,۰۰۰	۲,۰۶۲,۰۰۰
یک مثقال طلای ۱۷ عیار	۴,۳۱۵,۰۰۰	۴,۵۰۹,۰۰۰
یک گرم طلای ۱۸ عیار	۹۹۶,۰۰۰	۱,۰۲۶,۹۰۰
طلای آب شده نقی	۴,۳۱۷,۰۰۰	۴,۵۱۰,۰۰۰
یک گرم طلای ۲۴ عیار	۱,۳۲۷,۹۰۰	۱,۳۸۷,۶۰۰

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تفاهم‌نامه گردشگری سر آغاز راه شکوفایی فرهنگ شهر

سازمان فرهنگی اجتماعی ورزشی شهرداری و انجمن صنفی کارفرمایان شرکت‌های مسافرت هوایی، جهانگردی و زیارتی اصفهان هم‌زمان با هفته فرهنگی اصفهان، تفاهم‌نامه همکاری امضا کردند.



این تفاهم‌نامه سه ساله در جهت همکاری‌های مشترک و استفاده از پتانسیل‌های طرفین برای پیشبرد اهداف توسعه‌ای در تمام زمینه‌های گردشگری، شهری، ملی و بین‌المللی به‌امضای مدیرعاملی همکاری مشترک در زمینه‌های گردشگری در سطوح استانی، کشوری و بین‌المللی و همکاری مشترک در برگزاری گردهمایی‌ها، همایش‌های علمی، سمپوزیم‌ها، وبینارها و سمنارهای داخلی و بین‌المللی در حوزه‌های مختلف صنعت گردشگری از جمله مفاد این تفاهم‌نامه ۱۲ بندی است. معاون فرهنگی شهردار و رئیس سازمان فرهنگی اجتماعی ورزشی شهرداری اصفهان در نشست امضای این تفاهم‌نامه شهرداری را نهادی اجتماعی و توان‌افزای دانست که باید به گردشگری توجه ویژه داشته و بستری‌های توان‌افزایی در حوزه گردشگری را فراهم کند. محمد عیدی اظهار داشت: امکان ندارد به توسعه فرهنگی کشور بیندیشیم اما به توسعه گردشگری فکر نکنیم. وی با بیان اینکه در حوزه گردشگری چند مفروض وجود دارد، افزود: یکی از مفروضات این است که معتقدیم برای کاهش مهاجرت به کلانشهر اصفهان باید سطح دید خود را از افق جغرافیای تعریف‌شده حوققی کلانشهر اصفهان گسترش دهیم و بر گردشگری مرزبیم‌گرا تأکید بگذاریم. به این معنا که اگر حال گردشگری شهرستان‌های استان و این خطه پهناور فرهنگی خوب شود، کانون‌های فرهنگ خیز که هر کدام عرضه‌کننده کثر در عین وحدت هستند، می‌توانند از نظر اقتصاد گردشگری تقویت شوند.

سازمان فرهنگی اجتماعی ورزشی شهرداری و انجمن صنفی کارفرمایان شرکت‌های مسافرت هوایی، جهانگردی و زیارتی اصفهان هم‌زمان با هفته فرهنگی اصفهان، تفاهم‌نامه همکاری امضا کردند.

شود و جهان‌شهری که در خاطره ما وجود دارد راباز تولید کنیم. بنابر این امیدوارم این تفاهم‌نامه که به نوعی دست‌نیاز ما به سوی حوزه‌های مدنی است، با هم‌افزایی ظرفیت‌های دو بخش، سمفونی فاخری دربره گردشگری ایجاد و این تفاهم‌نامه سر آغاز راهی باشد که به شکوفایی فرهنگ شهر کمک کند. وی خاطر نشان کرد: درخواست ما از انجمن صنفی کارفرمایان شرکت‌های مسافرت هوایی این است که به ارتباط اصفهان با جهانی باشد که در رصد شهرداری قرار نگرفته، البته منظور از اصفهان جغرافیای فرهنگی اصفهان است که بستری بسیار گسترده است.

توسعه گردشگری اولویت بسیاری از کشورهای جهان رئیس هیئت مدیره انجمن صنفی کارفرمایان شرکت‌ها و دفاتر خدمات مسافرت هوایی، جهانگردی و زیارتی استان اصفهان در ادامه بیان اینکه مدت زیادی بود که تمایل داشتیم تفاهم‌نامه‌ای با شهرداری اصفهان منعقد کنیم، اظهار داشت: برای نخستین بار است که تفاهم‌نامه‌ای در این سطح میان ما و شهرداری منعقد می‌شود. سید محسن روناسی ادامه داد: متأسفانه تا امروز نتوانستیم از تمام ظرفیت‌های شهرداری اصفهان در زمینه گردشگری استفاده کنیم چون در این زمینه به صورت جزیره‌ای و پراکنده عمل شده‌است. امیدوارم با امضای این تفاهم‌نامه و ریشه‌کن شدن بیماری کرونا که متأسفانه آسیب‌زایی به صنعت و صنایع ما زده‌است شاهد بهبود شرایط باشیم و پس از پشت سر گذاشتن این شرایط، این خسارت جبران شود. اولویت بسیاری از کشورهای جهان توسعه گردشگری است اما متأسفانه ما در کشورمان از این موضوع غافل شده‌ایم.

حمل و نقل

سرعیت اجرای پروژه‌های عمرانی در شمال اصفهان



رئیس اداره راه و شهرسازی شهرستان گفت: در سال جهش تولید جهت بهره‌برداری و اخذ اعتبار برای این پروژه‌های راهسازی این شهرستان تلاش‌های بسیاری صورت گرفت.

مجتبی آراسته رئیس اداره راه و شهرسازی شهرستان کاشان با بیان اینکه این شهرستان در شمال استان اصفهان واقع شده است اظهار کرد: کاشان با قرارگیری بر روی شبکه سراسری راه‌های ایران و استقرار بر سر راه‌های ارتباطی اصلی شهرها و استان‌های شرقی، شمالی و غربی با شهرها و استان‌های مرکزی، جنوبی و جنوب شرقی همواره از موقعیت ممتازی برخوردار بوده است. وی با بیان اینکه اقبال عمومی جهت تردد از جاده‌های این شهرستان موجب شده تا پروژه‌های عمرانی کاشان از اهمیت ویژه‌ای برخوردار شوند اذعان داشت: در سال جهش تولید جهت افتتاح، بهره‌برداری و اخذ اعتبار برای این پروژه‌ها تلاش‌های بسیاری صورت گرفت. رئیس اداره راه و شهرسازی شهرستان کاشان به پروژه محور کاشان - بادرود اشاره کرد و گفت: آسفالت این محور به طول ۱۲ کیلومتر انجام شده و در مجموع حدود ۲۶ کیلومتر بازگشایی شده است همچنین ۸ کیلومتر باقیمانده مناقضه برگزار و پیمانکار منتخب دارد. وی افزود: ساماندهی زیرگذر اسداباد و تقاطع ابوزیدآباد در محور کاشان - بادرود همچنین پیگیری جهت اخذ تخصیص ردیف اعتبار برای آن تا مبلغ ۵۰۰ میلیارد ریال در سازمان برنامه و بودجه کشور از دیگر اقدامات انجام شده برای این پروژه است. آراسته در خصوص وضعیت پروژه کنارگذر کاشان - آران و بیدگل و اتصال به چرم‌شهر اظهار کرد: این پروژه به طول ۴ کیلومتر مسأله متوقف بود که پس از پیگیری‌های ویژه جهت شروع

تکوانند، ستاد فرماندهی و کلاتری، طرح‌های گردشگری اقامتی، هتل، باغ موزه و نمایشگاه، بخشی از این واگذاری‌ها بوده است. آراسته افزود: با توجه به اهمیت تعیین تکلیف وضعیت مسکن اقصا محترم ویژه و در راستای اجرای بند "ل" ماده ۴۴ قانون پنجم توسعه، به ۳۵۰ نفر از این عزیزان زمین مورد نیاز اختصاص داده شد. وی بیان داشت: در راستای پیشگیری از زمین‌خواری و جلوگیری از تصرفات اراضی ملی حدود ۴۰۰ هکتار از اراضی ملی شهرستان کاشان تثبیت مالکیت و اسناد تک برگ آن اخذ شد. رئیس اداره راه و شهرسازی شهرستان کاشان با بیان اینکه ظرفیت ثبت نام طرح اقدام ملی مسکن در این شهرهای هفتگانه این شهرستان از ۵۰۰ واحد به ۶ هزار واحد افزایش یافت اذعان داشت: الحاق ۵۰ هکتار زمین به محدوده کاشان جهت اجرای این طرح انجام شده و زمین مورد نیاز به بنیاد مسکن واگذار شده است. وی گفت: در راستای حفاظت از انفال و عرصه‌های ملی، بیش از ۷۵ مورد تصرف به اراضی دولتی در هفت ماهه اخیر با دقت و هوشیاری عوامل یگان حفاظت استان اصفهان و با سیاست‌گذاری‌های معاونت املاک و حقوقی اداره کل راه و شهرسازی استان اصفهان، تحویل اراضی جهت احداث خانه

آگهی مزایده (نوبت اول)
به شماره ۱۴۰۰/۸۲۶۲۳ مورخ ۱۴۰۰/۰۲/۰۶
واگذاری به اجاره یک باب مغازه به مساحت تقریبی ۱۹/۲۹ متر از موقوفه مسجد قائمیه واقع در شهر گرگاب، خیابان شهید مطهری، جنب مسجد راه به مدت یکسال با مبلغ پیشنهادهی اجاره ماهیانه ۶,۰۰۰,۰۰۰ ریال مهلت ثبت نام تا پایان وقت اداری یکشنبه مورخ ۱۴۰۰/۰۲/۲۶ جهت کسب اطلاعات بیشتر با شماره تلفن ۴۵۲۴۷۰۶۰ تماس حاصل فرمایند.
مهدی قربانی - رئیس اداره اوقاف و امور خیریه شهرستان شاهین شهر و میمه

آگهی مزایده (نوبت اول)
به شماره ۱۴۰۰/۸۲۶۳۳ مورخ ۱۴۰۰/۰۲/۰۶
واگذاری به اجاره یک باب مغازه به مساحت تقریبی ۱۹/۲۹ متر از موقوفه اهل البیت (علیه السلام) واقع در شاهین شهر، خیابان فردوسی، فرعی ۳ شرقی، پاساژ یاس را به مدت یکسال با مبلغ پیشنهادهی اجاره ماهیانه ۸,۵۰۰,۰۰۰ ریال مهلت ثبت نام تا پایان وقت اداری یکشنبه مورخ ۱۴۰۰/۰۲/۲۶ جهت کسب اطلاعات بیشتر با شماره تلفن ۴۵۲۴۷۰۶۰ تماس حاصل فرمایند.
مهدی قربانی - رئیس اداره اوقاف و امور خیریه شهرستان شاهین شهر و میمه

Iran's CB Reports Rise in Loan-Deposit Ratio

Data released by the Central Bank of Iran show lending by banks increased in the month to January 19.

The loan-to-deposit ratio rose 1.4% to reach 80.8% indicating a 2.2% increase compared to the same period a year earlier.

LDR is used to assess a bank's liquidity by comparing the total loans to total deposits for a specific period and is expressed in percentage.

If the ratio is too high, the bank may not have enough liquidity to cover unforeseen fund requirements. Conversely, if the ratio is too low, the bank may not be earning as much as it should be.

The general LDR ratio has been of the ascending order since March 2018-19 when it was 85.7% before rising again. It declined to 76.5% in the month ending July 21 and has grown steadily ever since.

Rise in LDR can be attributed to banks' increasing inclination to lend. By the end of the reviewed month, banks and credit institutions paid 13,959.9 trillion rials (\$55.8 billion) in loans to businesses over 10 months since March 2020. The amount was up by 6,774.5 trillion rials (\$27b) or 94.3%, the CBI said. However, the ratio was inconsistent across regions. For example, it was 94.8% in Tehran Province and 113.5% in Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province.

By January 19, total outstanding loans rose 8,540 trillion rials (\$34.16b) to reach 26,278.8 trillion rials (\$105.11b) up 48.1% compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Total loans also rose 35.8% in 10 months since March 2020, which marks the beginning of fiscal year. Reaching 16,763.2 trillion rials (\$67.05b), Tehran Province topped the list with the highest number of defaults.

At the bottom end was Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province with total outstanding loans reaching 89.3 trillion rials (\$357.2 million).

The loan/deposit gap is conspicuous in the pace with which outstanding loans grew compared to deposit growth.

Data showed deposits grew at slower pace than loans. By the end of the month to January 19 deposits with banks showed 43.7% annual rise to reach 36,163.5 trillion rials (\$144.6b). Customers had 25,163.41 trillion rials (\$100.65 billion) in deposits during the corresponding period last year. Deposits rose 33.1% in the 10 months since March 2020, with 27,162.84 trillion rials (\$108.65b).

As usual the majority of deposits were in banks in Tehran Province. Banks in the capital held 19,427.7 trillion rials (\$77.71b) in deposits in the mentioned period or more than half the total.

With more than 1,903.7 trillion rials (\$7.61b) Isfahan Province was next. Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province was at the bottom end with 88.6 trillion rials (\$354.4m).

The CBI has often said that one reason for Tehran's top position in both deposits and bad loans is that the sprawling metropolis is home to head offices of most businesses across the country.

This gives rise to a whole lot of financial and banking requirements, including rising demand for loans, credit and other forms of lending.

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Economists Explain Decline in 4th Quarter Unemployment Rate

Iran's unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of last Iranian year (ended March 2021, 20) stood at 9.7, registering a 0.9 decline compared with the corresponding period of the year before, according to the latest data released by the Statistical Center of Iran.



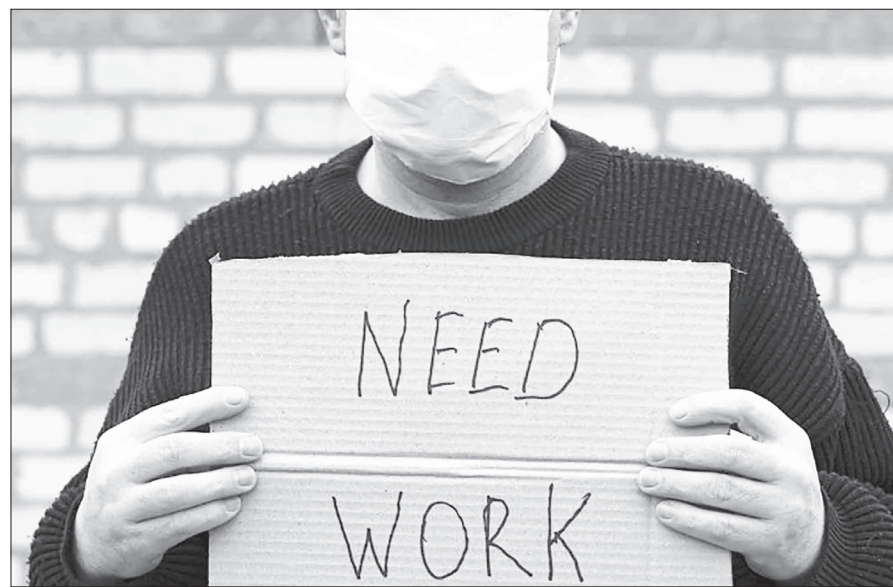
The decline took place despite the pressure of Covid-19 pandemic and US sanctions on Iran's economy.

"At first glance, it seems like the decline indicates an improvement in the labor market, but does it really mean an increase in employment and that the labor market condition is getting better?" Sahand Faez and Abbas Khandan, two economists, take a closer look at these stats in articles published in the Persian economic daily Donya-e-Eqtasad and prove the opposite.

Both refer to labor force participation rate and insist on its importance for understanding the real condition of the economy. The labor force participation rate indicates the percentage of all people of working age who are either employed or actively seeking work.

Because it accounts for people who have stopped looking for work, this may make the labor force participation rate a somewhat more reliable figure than the unemployment rate.

The Statistical Center of Iran put Q4 labor force participation rate — the proportion of the population of ages 15 and above that is economically active either employed or looking for a job — at 40.9%, registering a 1.5% decrease year-on-year. By comparing unemployment with labor force participation, Khandan notes that unemployment



statistics do not represent an improvement in the labor market, rather they indicate negative growth in the economically active population.

"In the last Iranian year, due to continued US sanctions and the adverse effects of coronavirus epidemic on various sectors of the economy, the working population decreased. As the situation persisted, more and more people ended their search for job and became [economically] inactive. This is not good news at all, contrary to what was perceived at first glance from the unemployment statistics," he added.

Faez compares the unemployment of youth population from age 15 to 24 with total joblessness, noting that from the fiscal 2016-17 to 2020-21, the unemployment rate of the youth population was nearly three times higher than the total jobless population.

"By studying these three indicators [labor force participation rate, youth unemployment rate, total unemployment rate] together, you can understand that the labor market did not welcome fresh labor force and as a result the population's willingness to participate in the labor

market was relatively low," he said.

SCI provides two figures for youth unemployment rate: the proportion of the population between 15 and 24 years and those between 18 and 35 years. The youth unemployment rate of those between 15 and 24 years stood at 23.6% in Q4, posting a 2.1% decrease while the unemployment rate of those between 18 and 35 years stood at 16.8%, posting a decline of 1% YOY. The share of unemployment of people with higher education from the total unemployed population was 38.8% in Q4, which indicate a decrease of 0.2% year-on-year. The unemployment shares of male and female graduates from the total unemployed population stood at 26.4% and 71%, respectively, while the share of unemployment of people with higher education from the total unemployed population was 42.6% in urban areas and 24.1% in rural areas during the period. In addition to joblessness among young population, Faez compares unemployment among men and women.

"Although the unemployment rate of men and women registered a decline during the five-year period, the unemployment of women

was twice as much as men's. However, men's unemployment and total joblessness were more or less equal. While the unemployment rate for men averaged at 9.69% over the years under review, the average unemployment for women was at 18.49%."

According to the SCI report, a total of 2,477,850 Iranians were unemployed in Q4. Men's unemployment stood at 8.4% while the rate for women hovered around 16.5%. Over 1.79 million men and 685,934 women of ages 15 and above were jobless in Q4. Men's and women's economic participation rates were put at 68.5% and 13.3% respectively in the same period. Some 21.44 million men and 4.16 million women of ages 15 and above were economically active in Q4, i.e., they were either employed or looking for a job.

"Although the single-digit unemployment rate reported by SCI may indicate an improvement in labor market conditions, a closer look negates this optimism." At the end, the two economists explain that the decline in unemployment does not mean that more jobseekers could land a job, it rather indicates that more people that become have economically inactive.

New Dams in Bushehr to Help Store Surface Runoff

Two dams were built in southern Bushehr Province in eight years and six more are under construction. Bushehr lacks efficient infrastructure to collect and conserve surface runoff after rainstorms. As a result, water penetrates the wastewater collection systems and damages pipes flooding homes and streets, IRNA reported.

As there are not enough dams in the province to collect the surface water after torrential seasonal rains, annually 2.5 billion cubic meters of the runoff pass through cities and villages and directly pours into the Persian Gulf, harming farmlands and damaging urban and rural infrastructure on the way.

The dams under construction will help store surface runoff in different parts of the province. Due to drought and severe water shortages in the region, construction of storage dams will help collect the runoff and transform challenges into opportunity for the struggling agro sector.

Water use in the agriculture, industry and household sectors in this desert region exceeds one billion cubic meters per year and is supplied from surface, groundwater and desalination sources.

Annually 871 million cubic meters of water is used for farming in the province, households consume 114 mcm and 60 mcm is used by industries. The main farm products are wheat, barley, onion, sesame, tomato, eggplant, lemon and dates.

Known as an industrial province, Bushehr is home to major refineries and power plants. The giant South Pars Gas Field is located in Asalouyeh County. The sole nuclear power plant is also in this province.

It is one of the most water-stressed regions. Conditions are so bad that authorities have been forced to transport water in tankers.

NO 748

Sudoku

Solution: NO 747

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1	9	8	6	7	4	2	5	3
7	2	4	8	6	5	1	3	9
3	1	9	7	4	2	5	8	6
5	8	6	1	9	3	4	7	2
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8	7	5	9	2	6	3	1	4
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News

Localization Projects to Curb IKCO Capital Flight by €133m

Iran's largest automaker, manufacturing process will save €24 million and the localization of molds and auto mechanic equipment will save an additional €7 million," he added. The official noted that localization projects would require an investment of €13 million, adding that IKCO intends to raise a portion of the funds by selling unproductive properties and assets, and procuring bank loans and private sector investment.

Hamis leader warns Zionists over recent unrests in Quds

Head of political Bureau of Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamis) said that if the Zionist enemy continues its hostile policy against Quds, there will be no calm.

In reaction to the recent unrests in occupied Quds, Ismail Haniyeh said that Quds is not alone in this battle and that the Resistance in Gaza is ready to support the people of Quds.

Haniyeh stated in a speech on Sunday night that if the Zionist enemy continues its hostile policy against Quds, there will be no calm.

The leader of Hamas called the events in Quds a battle over the identity of this city, saying, "We are facing the chapters of the so-called 'Deal of the Century' project, which seeks to destroy the Palestinian cause and introduce Quds as the capital of the occupying regime, as well as to leave the Zionists free to encroach on the holy issues and Al-Aqsa Mosque."

"The events in Quds overturned the theory of normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy. The Zionist regime is not part of the solution, but the problem itself. This regime is not an ally of the region, but an enemy of the region and the nation of Palestine," Haniyeh stressed.

"The battle of Quds is the battle of us all; Quds is not just for the Palestinians, it is the center of the battle," he added. He called on all Arab and Islamic nations to prepare for providing true help to the Palestinian people. Earlier, Hamas issued a statement Sunday, calling on Resistance groups in the Gaza Strip to keep hand on the trigger and prepare missiles to target vital Zionist facilities.

Haniyeh further stressed the need to hold elections in Jerusalem, as in Gaza and the West Bank, and that elections in Quds should be a national battle.

Commander: Border guards strong bastion against aggression

Iran's Border Guard Commander Ahmad Ali Goudarzi said on Monday that border guards are strong bastion against aggression. On the anniversary of the US army's 1980 Operation Eagle Claw which ended in a dramatic failure, Goudarzi said that US aircrafts violating Iran's territory at that time were caught in a sand storm by the grace of God and their operation failed. He said that Iran's Border Guards Command has managed to improve its defensive capability and was serving as stronghold against the foes. Iran's Border Guard is putting in a high priority on fighting goods trafficking in line with the guidance by the Supreme Leader to make this Persian year (March 2021, March 2022) a year of 'supporting production and removing obstacles', the commander said.

Top U.S. commander in Afghanistan says steps to end military mission launched

The commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan, U.S. Army General Scott Miller, on Sunday said an orderly withdrawal of foreign forces and the handing over of military bases and equipment to the Afghan forces had begun.



Miller said he was acting on orders based on U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to end America's longest war, deeming the prolonged and intractable battle in Afghanistan no longer aligned with American priorities.

Earlier this month Biden said he would withdraw troops from Afghanistan before Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the militant attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon that launched the Afghan war. Miller, who has been commanding the U.S. forces and the NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan in their fight against the Taliban and other Islamist militant groups since 2018, said foreign forces will continue to have "the military means and



capability to fully protect themselves during the ongoing retrograde and will support the Afghan security forces."

"I've had the opportunity to talk to Taliban members with the Taliban Political Commission, and I've told them a return to violence, an effort to force a military decision, would be a tragedy for Afghan people," Miller told reporters in the capital Kabul.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted by U.S.-led forces. Since then they have

waged a long-running insurgency and now control wide swathes of territory.

Security experts in recent weeks said they doubt if the Taliban will allow U.S. forces, whom they call invaders, to peacefully exit the country at a time when clashes between the Afghan forces and the Taliban have not ebbed. Foreign force withdrawal is slated to begin on May 1, in line with an agreement with the Taliban in 2020. "As we retrograde to zero U.S. forces, we will turn over the (military) bases primarily to the (Afghan) Ministry of Defense and other

Afghan forces," Miller said adding that the Taliban have committed to break their relationship with al Qaeda, the Islamist extremist group.

The Taliban government's sheltering of Al-Qaeda was the key reason for the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan after the September 2001 attacks.

A United Nations report in January said there were as many as 500 al Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan and that the Taliban maintained a close relationship with them. The Taliban denies al Qaeda presence in Afghanistan.

The Taliban government's sheltering of Al-Qaeda was the key reason for the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan after the September 2001 attacks.

Soleimani, al-Muhandis symbols of Iran-Iraq resistance

Upon his arrival in Baghdad airport on Monday morning, Iranian FM named martyrs Soleimani and Al-Muhandis as the symbols of the resistance of the Iraqi and Iranian nations.

Zarif paid tribute to Iranian commander Ghasem Soleimani and the second-in-command of the Iraqi popular mobilization units, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis upon his arrival in Baghdad

airport, where they were assassinated in Jan. 2020 by the direct order of the time American President Trump.

"Iraq is one of our most important neighbors. We have very close relations with this country," he said.

"The people of Iraq and Iran fought and won against common enemies, from Saddam to ISIL," Zarif said, "We have joint political, economic and cultural cooperation, and martyrs Haj Qasim Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis are symbols of resistance for these two countries."

"I am in Baghdad for a rather long trip and I will meet with Iraqi parties as well as the Iraqi officials. I will travel to Iraqi Kurdistan tomorrow," he added.

Emphasizing the vitality of expansion of Iran-Iraq relations to clinch lasting peace and security in the region, he said: "Iran and Iraq have cooperation in the railway sector."

"In economic, banking, financial cooperation, and regional issues, Iraq has played an important role in the region, and we want this role to be improved," Zarif said.

News

Araqchi Hints at Consensus on Removal of Sectoral Sanctions

Iran's top negotiator in the latest round of talks about the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal and a possible return of the US to the JCPOA said agreements have been made about the removal of all sectoral sanctions, namely those imposed on Iran's oil, banking, and shipping sectors.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting at the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on Sunday, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said efforts are underway to terminate all sanctions in the course of the Vienna negotiations.

He explained that the US has imposed two types of sanctions on Iran, including the sanctions against the natural and legal persons, and the sectoral sanctions, namely those targeting the Iranian oil, banking, insurance, shipping, petrochemical, construction and automotive industry sectors.

"The list of sanctions relating to individuals is a long list containing around 1,500 cases. But we are moving in both directions. The sectoral sanctions must be lifted

altogether, and I believe there are agreements about it," he added.

Araqchi also emphasized that a step-by-step plan for the removal of sanctions has been taken off the table since long ago.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran dismissed the proposal for the step-by-step lifting of sanctions before Nowruz (March 20), and the step-by-step initiative is by no means mooted at the ongoing negotiations," he added. The senior negotiator emphasized that Iran will not allow the JCPOA negotiations to turn into talks of attrition.

"If we feel that the other side lacks seriousness or seeks to buy time or add other subjects to the discussions, we will interrupt the negotiations. In the meantime, we would not hurry and are not hasty, because there are serious topics in the negotiations that must be addressed carefully," he added.

The talks began in Vienna on April 6 between Iran and



the remaining members of the nuclear deal, namely the UK, France, Russia and China plus Germany. The US left the JCPOA in 2018 and restored the economic sanctions that the accord had lifted. Tehran retaliated with remedial nuclear measures that it is entitled to take under the JCPOA's Paragraph 36. The current negotiations examine the potential of revitalization of the nuclear deal and the US' likely return to it.

NEWS

Araghchi leaves for Vienna to attend JCPOA Joint Commission

The Iranian negotiating team left for Vienna to attend the meeting of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh made the announcement on Monday, saying that heading a delegation, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for the Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araghchi left Tehran for Vienna today and will continue the talks within the framework of the Commission.

The talks are scheduled to continue this week at a meeting of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA, which was held in Vienna last Tuesday.

At this meeting, the chairmen of the negotiating delegations of the parties to the JCPOA discussed the latest status of the technical talks and the initial drafts of the texts and how the talks will continue. The participating countries agreed that in addition to the two current expert groups (in the field of sanctions lifting and nuclear issues), a third group of experts would be created this week to discuss the practical arrangements needed to implement the lifting of sanctions and then return of the United States to the JCPOA.

FM spox: Iranian negotiators in Vienna to attend JCPOA joint commission

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that Iranian delegation has arrived in Vienna to participate in the JCPOA joint commission meeting.

Speaking in the press conference which was held online on Monday, Khatibzadeh referred to recent foreign policy developments, saying Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Indonesian president and foreign minister.

Zarif discussed bilateral issues and appreciated the efforts made by Indonesia for preserving the nuclear deal and UNSCR 2231.

He also pointed to Pakistani foreign minister's recent visit to Iran, saying Iran-Pakistan third joint border post was inaugurated and both sides signed MoU on border markets.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khatibzadeh referred to Zarif ongoing tour to Iraq and Qatar.

Commenting on recent accident at Iran-Turkey common border and Turkish border guards' violence against Iranian citizen, he said that Iran reserves the right to protect Iranian citizens' rights as per mutual agreement with the Turkish Government.

Iranian Foreign Ministry has been in touch with Turkey and border guards had also held meeting.

ISFAHAN NEWS

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3rd phase of clinical trial of Iran-Cuba COVID vaccine begins

The third phase of double-blind clinical trial of Iranian-Cuban COVID-19 vaccine started in central Iranian city on Monday in presence of Minister of Health and Medical Education Saeed Namaki. Some 24,000 volunteers from different Iranian cities of Isfahan, Babol, Bandar Abbas, Zanjan, Sari and Kerman have taken part in third phase trial. Kianoosh Jahanpour, head of information and public relations office of Ministry of Health, said at the ceremony of the clinical trial that it is a breakthrough for major research projects. The vaccine is jointly produced by Pasteur Institute of Iran (IPI) and Finlay Institute of Vaccines of Cuba. After finally being confirmed by IPI, National Vaccination Campaign will start. The volunteers are at ages 18 to 80. Since its outbreak worldwide in December 2019, the coronavirus has killed over 3,100,000, while the number of the dead in Iran has passed 69,000.

Headlines

Soleimani, al-Muhandis symbols of Iran-Iraq resistance

Iran's CB Reports Rise in Loan-Deposit Ratio

Economists Explain Decline in 4th Quarter Unemployment Rate

CALL TO PRAYER TIME IN ISFAHAN

Morning call to prayer:

04:52:25

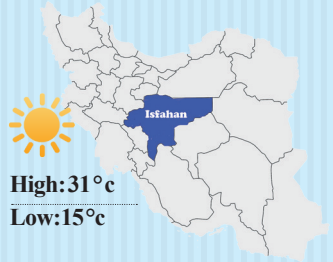
Noon call to prayer:

13:00:57

Evening call to prayer:

20:00:13

WEATHER



Iranian students grab 27 medals at Int'l Science Olympiads

27 out of the 28 Iranian students taking part in International Science Olympiads won medals, Director of the National Organization for Development of Talents Elham Yavari said on Monday. Yavari said that the other one student who failed to grab a medal, received a plaque of honor. Two Olympiads of physics and geography were not held last year due to the restrictions caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, while the other international Olympiads - mathematics, biology, computer and chemistry - were held at the due time, the official said.



Araqchi Hints at Consensus on Removal of Sectoral Sanctions

'Our Systems Are Not Racist': Lindsey Graham Slams Biden for Remark

Sen. Lindsey Graham on Sunday disputed US President Joe Biden's claim that "systemic racism" exists in America — and said he wants the commander-in-chief to stop "running the place down."

Graham (R-SC) was asked about Biden's comments about "systemic racism" following the conviction of former Minneapolis police cop Derek Chauvin last week in the death of George Floyd.

"Not in my opinion. We just elected a two-term African-American president. The vice president is of African-American-Indian descent. So our systems are not racist. America is not a racist country," Graham told host Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday." "So this attack on police and policing — reform the police, yes, call them all racist, no. You know, America is a work in progress but best — best place on the planet and Joe Biden spent a lot of time running the place down. I wish he would stop it," Graham said, The New York Post reported.

Biden, speaking after Chauvin was convicted, called systemic racism "a stain on our nation's soul — the knee on the neck of justice for black Americans — profound fear and trauma, the pain, the exhaustion that black and brown

Americans experience every single day." Graham called Chauvin, who pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for more than 9 minutes during an arrest last May, a "bad actor." "The Chauvin trial was a just result. What's happening in Ohio where the police officer had to use deadly force to prevent a young girl from being stabbed to death is a different situation in my view," Graham said. He was referring to the fatal shooting of Ma'Khia Bryant by a police officer in Columbus, Ohio, last week as she appeared to be lunging with a knife at a person during a dispute. Graham also expressed cautious optimism that a compromise could be struck on a police reform bill between the Democrats' version and one proposed by Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC). But he said the issue of qualified immunity in the Democratic proposal for police officers could be a sticking point. "Number one, we'd have had police reform in the last Congress but Chuck Schumer and Kamala Harris made a conscious effort to block Tim Scott's reform bill. They filibustered Tim Scott's bill because they didn't want Tim Scott and President Trump to get credit for it. There's no reason we shouldn't have done it last time. We'll try again," Graham said.

So our systems are not racist. America is not a racist country," Graham told host Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday."

Armenian Pres. accepts resignation of PM Pashinyan

The President of Armenia on Sunday evening accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan. On Sunday evening, the President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkisyan announced that he has accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan. According to the Armenian Constitution, after the

resignation of the Prime Minister, he will be responsible for advancing the affairs of the country until the formation of a new government. Pashinyan said in an address he will step down to trigger snap parliamentary elections. He will still carry out the responsibilities of the head of government, Public Radio of Armenia reported. "The parliamentary elections are possible only in the event the Prime Minister resigns and the National Assembly fails to elect Prime Minister twice. After this,

the Parliament is considered dissolved by virtue of law, and early parliamentary elections take place," Pashinyan explained. To hold the June 20 elections in full compliance with the law, Nikol Pashinyan will nominate his candidacy for the Prime Minister twice, other factions and MPs represented in the National Assembly will not nominate candidates. The parliamentary majority will not elect Pashinyan as Prime Minister, and the National Assembly will be considered dissolved.

Germany Will Send Oxygen, Medical Aid to India to Help in COVID Crisis

Germany will send oxygen and medical aid to India in the coming days to help it tackle its COVID-19 crisis, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Monday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday expressed her "sympathy over the terrible suffering" that the pandemic had brought to India.

India is suffering from a spike in coronavirus infections, with the number of cases surging by 349,691 in the past 24 hours, the fourth straight day of record peaks. Hospitals are turning away patients after running out of medical oxygen. "The second wave is currently rolling over India with unprecedented power. It was right that we acted quickly to stop the entry of the new mutation in Germany," Maas told the Rheinische Post newspaper. Germany has classified India as a coronavirus high incidence area and also put the country on a separate warning list for coronavirus variants. From Monday onwards, Germans arriving from India will only be allowed to enter the country with a negative test result and will then have to begin a 14-day quarantine.

Foreign travelers coming from India will no longer be allowed to enter Germany. Maas said Germany would do its utmost to help India overcome the emergency, Reuters reported.

A German defense ministry spokeswoman said the foreign ministry had asked the military to look into providing a mobile oxygen production facility as well as support to transport other emergency and relief goods to India.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday expressed her "sympathy over the terrible suffering" that the pandemic had brought to India.

"Germany stands in solidarity with India and is urgently preparing a mission of support," Merkel said in a statement. The European Commission has also said it aims to send oxygen and medicines to India after receiving a request from Delhi. Britain and the United States are also sending assistance including medical equipment.

Saudis in dire need of talk with Iran: Ex-embassy to Qatar

Stating that Saudi Arabia is facing many security and economic problems, former Iranian ambassador to Doha said that Saudis cannot survive in the region without the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking in an interview with Mehr News Agency on Monday, Abdollah Sohrabi reiterated that Saudis cannot survive in the region without the Islamic Republic of Iran. Turning to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's trip to Qatari capital Doha, he said that specific circumstances of the region

require senior diplomats to constantly meet each other under various excuses to discuss common issues including Islamic world, Palestine, and post-ISIL aftermath. Iran's diplomacy apparatus also uses this opportunity for diplomatic talks during the holy month of Ramadan and due to the religious commonalities in the region by conducting Ramadan diplomacy, he stated. Although every country faces problems in the field of its foreign policy, and Qatar in the past was at loggerhead with Iran's positions in the region in some cases, it should be kept in mind that this meeting could be a good opportunity to exchange

views on bilateral and regional issues, as well as issues of the Islamic world due to the current economic and political situation of this country, former diplomat emphasized. Saudis are facing many problems in terms of security and economy in the region, he said, adding, "On the one hand, they face a large budget deficit and they are criticized and pressured about war in Yemen on the other hand. Therefore, they have lost their previous standing in the Arab world and the region. It is natural that they seek to negotiate with Iran, because without the Islamic Republic of Iran, they cannot survive in the region and must accept the facts."

