

Rangoonis Mosque in Abadan, Southwest of Iran



Rangoonis mosque was built in southwest of the Abadan Refinery near Arvand River in 1922. When Abadan became an industrial town in the early 1900s the first wave of British, Indian and Pakistanis who immigrated to the area were the Muslim employees of Rangoon (Yangon), the then capital of Burma (Myanmar), Refinery. These new immigrants established a mosque in Abadan, naming it after their hometown. The Rangoonis Mosque has Mughal architecture and extensive cement reliefs. The Mihrab (prayer niche) of this mosque is adorned with arabesque and geometrical motifs as well as an embossed depiction of heaven. The mosque has a Shabistan (inner sanctum), a courtyard and minarets. Since 2010 the mosque has served as the location of the Historical and Handwritten Documents Museum and houses handwritten Qurans as well as historical documents dating back to the Qajar (1785-1925) and the first Pahlavi (1925-1941) eras including financial documents and correspondence belonging to Iranian merchants in India and Britain with Iranian merchants, promissory notes, negotiable instruments and business letters. The Rangoonis Mosque was registered as a National Heritage Site in 2000.

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Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh: "Tower of Silence"



About Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh

Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh is one of the main tourist attractions of Yazd which is on the southeastern part of the city. It is the place where the Zoroastrians kept their corpses after death with a special ceremony. Although there are other Dakhmeh in Tehran, Kerman, Sirjan, Isfahan, Ardakan, Taft, and Ashkezar, the Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh of Yazd is the main one. Since the city of Yazd was the religious capital for the Zoroastrians, this Dakhmeh is more important than others and also has more visitors today. It is also registered in the Iranian National Sites list.

What does Dakhmeh mean?

If you are not familiar with this word, you might ask yourself "What does Dakhmeh mean?"

Dakhmeh is an ancient Persian word which is equal to the word "Tower of Silence" in English. And it is exactly the tower of silence because it's on top of a mountain where there is full of silence. Since the dead bodies kept there, that can even be scary too. Therefore, if the word "Tower of Silence" seems scary to you, the Dakhmeh might too. Dakhmeh was the cemetery of the Zoroastrians for many years.

Brief History of Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh

People with different religions acted differently with corpses. Some delivered them into the sea, some burned them, and some might bury them under the earth (which is more common today). But the Zoroastrians had different beliefs in their tradition. They didn't bury the dead body under the ground because they considered it impure. And since the soil was a sacred element to them, they believed if they put the body under the ground they make the soil foul. They similarly didn't burn the body, because the fire was also a sacred element.

Therefore if they burned a corpse, which was not pure to them, they committed sin. Because the ashes and the light of the impure dead body might go up to the sky, which was improper and bad. So they put the corpses in Dakhmeh for the vultures and other birds to eat. Hence, only the bones of the dead body remained. Dakhmeh was always far from the denizens or villages. Because it was a place where the wild animals or the birds gathered to eat the corpse so it wasn't safe to be near the city. And it wasn't also healthy for the people to be near the dead bodies for a long time. Although the process of eating the body mostly just took

several hours.

The Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh changed several times during history. At first, there wasn't any place like Dakhmeh to put the corpse in. Hence, most of the time, they put the dead body in some place far from the village for the animal to eat. But then, they decided to make a place for this ceremony. To prevent wild animals from eating the corpses, the Dakhmeh changed to a higher place such as the mountain. So since then, it was just the birds and the vultures' responsibility to purify the dead bodies by eating them.

Yazd Tower of Silence

As it was mentioned before, today the main and the most important Dakhmeh in Iran is the Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh of Yazd. There are two Dakhmeh in one place. When you enter the site, on the left side, there is a bigger mountain which is the Maneckji Dakhmeh. Its diameter is 15 meters.

Maneckji Limji Hataraia was the name of the person who built this Dakhmeh in Yazd. Maneckji was one of the most influential people in the Zoroastrians' community. His body also kept in the Dakhmeh which has his name.

The other Dakhmeh, which is on the right side, is Golestan Dakhmeh. The newer Dakhmeh which was built during the Qajar era. Because it was hard to go up the Maneckji Dakhmeh Mountain, the Zoroastrians decided to make another Dakhmeh which is smaller and has fewer difficulties. Therefore, they made the Golestan Dakhmeh on the other side of the main Dakhmeh. Its diameter is 25 meters but its height is less than the main Dakhmeh so it is easier to get to the building.

Different Parts of Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh All Dakhmehs have the same construction. First of all, there is only one door between Dakhmeh building and the road outside.

The road didn't have any steps at that time. But today, the steps are made in the Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh of Yazd to make it easier for the visitors to get to the main building.

After that, there is a stone or iron door. This door is built to prevent the wild animals to find their way to the building to eat the corpse. Then there is the main building with a circular shape. There was a special place for each corpse according to its gender or age. Men were placed in the outer circle, women in the middle, and the children in the inner-most ring. Then in the centre of the circle is a deep hole where in the end the bones would be thrown in. According to the Zoroastrians' religion, all the poor and rich will be in the same place after their death which is this hole. This means that no matter who you are, you are always equal to others, no matter you are richer or have a higher position.

Zoroastrian Dakhmeh Ceremony

Zoroastrians' funeral consisted of different ceremonies. The last part of the funeral was putting the corpse in Dakhmeh.

First of all, when a person died, his/her family and friends wore white clothes. They never cried or made any noise because of their loss. Because, in the Zoroastrians' religion, death is not the end of life. They consider it the beginning of life of joy and happiness.

Together, they brought the corpse to a room outside the village whose name was "birth and death" room. So they recorded the dead in this place then washed the body and made it ready for the funeral. After that, they transferred the body to Dakhmeh. Since Dakhmeh was far from the village, it might take a few hours. Therefore, with a special ceremony, they delivered the body to someone called Salar. He put the corpse in Dakhmeh and would come back the other day to throw the bones to the well in the centre of Dakhmeh.

Who is Salar in the Zoroastrians Funeral? Salar was the only person who could get into the Dakhmeh. He took the corpse from the family and carried the body to Dakhmeh, put it on the right spot and then left the place. Salar had a house near the Dakhmeh. He was the person who lived all his life in this place and couldn't get out. The main reason was the infection.

WHERE TO EAT

Toranj Food Complex: Oriental Restaurant In Heart Of Isfahan



This restaurant/Traditional tea house/ coffee shop is located in Julfa district in Isfahan. It is a historical nice building with a very nice ambiance especially the garden is beautiful. You can have a different type of food, tea and coffee. Typical eastern architecture, great design, lovely open yard, big selection of tea, nice coffee, delicious food. We ordered kashk bademjan, which was of the best we tasted in Iran. Don't miss the ceremony of tea. When you order tea, they bring you a big tray with all the sweets you can imagine. A special place to spend your time with friends. Quietly tucked away is an luxurious restaurant with glittering chandeliers. Traditional food such as kebab, wrapped cabbage with lentils and rice. The meat ball dish is huge; referring to the size of the meat ball. The local fried fish is so average. Daily soup is not available. Service is acceptable. Very little choices for drinks. It is a historical nice building with a very nice ambiance especially the garden is beautiful. You can have a different type of tea and coffee. Very cosy and romantic place with old Persian style. Nice SHARBAT KHANE in the yard. Food quality and variety need to be improved. Nice for foreign tourists. It is an old house where you can drink iranian sharbat or tea or herbal tea, or you can go to the cafe and drink cafe, or you can wear traditional clothes and take some photos, or you can go to restaurant and eat traditional food and there are some foods for vegetarian too, the services are so good and the personnel are so nice, you can talk with Abas there, he knows english and he is so kind, if you are so tired of busy place, I recommend there to you.

WHERE TO STAY

Malek Hotel: Good Choice For A Budget Trip To Iran



Malek Hotel is a nice and good three-star hotel located in Isfahan and this is a good choice for a budget trip to Iran. Hotel Malek is located in the center of Isfahan, close to important historical sites. Situated in the heart of the historical city of Isfahan, the three-star Malek hotel with a mixture of tradition and modernity in noticeable facilities tries to provide a comfortable accommodation for those who wish to stay in a place near the historical monuments. Isfahan's malek hotel is located in the city center (Ancient part of the city) and also adjacent to the historical Angoorestan mosque & Naghsh-e-Jahan (Imam) square which makes it a very distinguished place for visitors.

Surrounding Attractions:

As the hotel is in a well positioned place in a historical part of Isfahan, it is a great place for sightseers where they can easily go to the Angoorestan Malek Historic House, Naghsh-e Jahan square, Chehel Sotun and Hasht Behesht palaces as well as Zayandehrud river. Sio Seh Pol, Bridge Chehel Sotun, Hasht Behesht Palace, Niyasar Cave, Kooh Sangy Fire Temple, Menar Jonban Minaret, Khajoo Bridge, Fin Historical Edifice and Garden, Sialk Hills

Distance to the airport: 25 min, distance to the train station: 30 min.

Amenities:

The three-story hotel has been beautifully decorated with a traditional design in the lobby and modern one in the rooms leading to nice contrasts. Here, guests can enjoy a variety of tasty foods in a restaurant, café, and traditional tea house, all in a relaxing environment. Also, conference and reception halls are among the other amenities offered in the hotel.

Facilities

24 hours room services, taxi service, satellite TV, Video, lobby, laundry, tea house, conference hall, air conditioning, direct phone.

Business as usual at Iran's waters: Senior official

Normal traffic of ships belonging to giant international shipping companies in Iran's water is going on as usual, a senior Iranian official said on Tuesday. Managing Director of Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran, Mohammad Rastad said that all commercial shipping activities in Iran's waters and ports are normal. Speaking at a ceremony on the international day of hydrography, he said that non-oil imports rose by 15 percent.

Iran's non-oil exports double the imports in terms of weight, the official said, adding that the exports were 13 million tons since the beginning of the Persian year (started March 23, 2019). Assessing the fleet under the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as those owned by the Iranian companies as satisfactory, he said that the US sanctions cannot deprive Iran of maritime exchanges. Iran's maritime potential, he said, will neutralize the sanctions. Over past year, Iran had a 135-million-ton transaction at commercial ports, according to the official. Given the volume of activities in Iranian ports in

the first quarter of this year, it is expected that the trend of the activities would remain as usual, even if no new development occurs in the sphere, he said. Commenting on the recent sabotages against tankers in the Persian Gulf, the official said that no decision on avoiding Iran's waters has been announced on the part of international shipping companies.



Iran ink secret memorandum with British; CEO of Bank Mellat

Iran ink secret memorandum with British; CEO of Bank Mellat Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Iran Mellat Bank M o h a m m a d Bigdeli said to ILNA news agency that we have a secret memorandum with the British on how to get compensation. Without referring to the details, he added that we will announce the details of this agreement later.

Bigdeli stressed, "We don't want to get goods instead of compensation." The UK government has made a last minute out-of-court deal to settle a £1.3bn damages claim made by an Iranian bank over a UK trading ban.

The Iranian government owns 20% of Bank Mellat, while the remaining 80% is held by the private sector. In 2009, the UK Treasury alleged that the Tehran-based bank was involved in financing firms involved in Iran's nuclear programme – allegations that the bank denies – and imposed sanctions on Bank Mellat. The settlement comes six years after the supreme court ruled that the sanctions had been unlawful and that the government's response had been "arbitrary and irrational", and "disproportionate". Bank Mellat argued that the sanctions had damaged its reputation and goodwill in Britain and internationally, and caused significant loss.

GOLD PRICE PER OUNCE
1,429.72 \$

Currency	IRR
USD	42000
GBP	53535
CHF	43246
EUR	47892

3 Ways to Use Instagram Stories to Boost Your Brand

More than 500 million people use Instagram Stories every day. As a brand, this gives you an opportunity to reach and regularly engage with a mass audience. In fact, over a third of the most viewed stories come directly from brands. With Stories disappearing after 24 hours, they become your chance to experiment with different creative content. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. **Get discovered.** Hashtags and geotags can help you become discoverable to your target audience. Adding these to appropriate stories on your account can help increase your number of followers while focusing on earning quality customers.
2. **Create engaging content.** Instagram Stories are viewed vertically and use your entire screen. There are many features specific to Stories that are not available for Feed Posts. Learning the various

features available and experimenting with them across your content can be a creative way to differentiate your brand from your competition. Try using the Poll feature to get feedback on business decisions such as what new product you may want to create since your customers can provide you with direct feedback.

3. **Monitor your performance.** By understanding the analytics provided in Instagram, you can track



the success of your Stories. Paying close attention to your view completion rate (what percentage of viewers watched the next Story in a sequence of multiple stories) is a key metric in understanding your performance. This will help you understand what type of content works best for you and improve it going forward.

Need some help with this, or have other social media or digital marketing questions? Book a consulting session with me on Entrepreneur's Ask an Expert platform. My schedule is always up to date, and you can even record the meeting if you'd like. Hope to speak with you soon, and have fun with your Instagram Stories!

Iran Has Numerous Options to Counter US Sanctions: Ministers

Iranian Economy Minister Farhad Dejpasand highlighted the failure of Washington's policy of economic pressures against the Islamic Republic and said the country has numerous options and strategies to counter the US sanctions. "As we are in the era of sanctions, the enemy seeks to create disappointment in the (Iranian) society and sow discord between the government and the nation

so that it can expose the society to tension," Dejpasand told reporters in Tehran on Tuesday. "At the beginning of my tenure at the Ministry of Economy, the wave of the US president's actions against our country had begun, and we had to look for solutions for the transition period with minimal damage," he added. "In the current situation, our hands are full of (options) to counter enemy actions..." the minister went on to say without giving more details about strategies to offset US sanctions. The remarks came against the backdrop

of increased tensions between Iran and the US with Washington imposing new sanctions against the Islamic Republic. The US has ratcheted up pressure on Iran since last year after withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Since then, the administration of US President Donald Trump is trying to reduce Iran's oil exports to "zero," and has sent an aircraft carrier strike group, a bomber squad, an amphibious assault ship, and a Patriot missile battery to the Middle East to try to stack up pressure on Tehran.

Iran Police Using Facial Recognition Cameras against Illegal Currency Dealers

An Iranian Police commander said illegal street dealers of foreign currency in capital Tehran are detected by advanced facial recognition cameras. Iran Police Using Facial Recognition Cameras against Illegal Currency Dealers. Speaking to reporters on

Tuesday, Commander of Tehran Police General Hossein Rahimi said it is illegal to buy or sell foreign currencies in places other than official currency exchange shops. He also said a number of downtown neighborhoods of Tehran known as the hubs of currency trading have been furnished with advanced cameras for facial detection of street dealers. According to the general, the Tehran Police is going to set up a new department tasked with countering economic crimes. In October 2016, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei

called on the Police to constantly boost capabilities and match them to rapid advances in science and technology. Many Iranian Police officers across the country have been equipped with body cameras since 2017 as part of a scheme to ensure respect for the citizenship rights. Mounted onto the officers' uniform, the body cameras record footages during the operations which can be monitored online from a central department. Police officials say the evaluation of footage from the body cameras would help optimize operational tactics in dealing with crimes.

120,000 Iraqi tourists visit Arvand Free Zone in a month

Some 120,000 Iraqi tourists visited Arvand Free Zone during May 22-June 21, said deputy head of Arvand Free Zone Organization for investment and promoting businesses on Tuesday.

Addressing a meeting of directors of guild chamber of Arvand Free Zone on Tuesday, Seyyed Ali Mousavi added that Iraqi nationals' trip to Arvand Free Zone has promoted tourism and business in the region as well as indirect exports to the neighboring states. Iraqi nationals' visit to Iran can bring in one million dollars a day, he added. Arvand Free Zone as the most populous free zone in the country boasts of numerous potentials and advantages in the fields of trade, industry, tourism and transit, as it is home to the two cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr. The Zone is located in proximity to Iraq and in the northwest of Persian Gulf.

Supertanker berths at southern Iranian port

A 320,000-ton supertanker successfully berthed at the southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, a senior official of the country said. Esmail Makkizadeh, deputy head of Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran, told reporters on Monday that the achievement of Iran Shipbuilding & Offshore Industries Complex (ISOICO) in Bandar Abbas was a record berthing on the eve of the international Day of the Seafarer.

The tanker, 333 meters long and a dead weight tonnage (DWT) of 320,000 tons, belongs to Iran NITC (National Iranian Tanker Co), he said.

Due to the high waterline of the supertankers, Makkizadeh said, the berthing, loading and unloading can only be conducted at special terminals such as that in Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf.

Entry operation of the ships (Dore) to the berth is one of the most complex maneuvering operations. It was done successfully, despite the huge dimensions of the tanker, with exact planning by the operation team in the port comprised of those who were in charge of pilotage, tugging, hawsers and sailing experts at Shahid Rejai Port, according to the official. It was the first time that berthing operation of a huge vessel is being done by Iranian technicians, Makkizadeh said.

Supertankers are the largest oil tankers, including ultra-large and very-large tankers, with a DWT of more than 160,000.

NO 248

Sudoku

Solution: NO 247

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

News

Flight to be opened between Turkey's Istanbul, Iran's Kerman

Iranian Civil Aviation Organization has agreed to open a flight between Turkey's Istanbul and Iran's Kerman cities, said Mohammad Javad Fadaei, governor of the Kerman province, Trend reports via the website of the province. He said that the flight will be carried out by the Turkish Airlines. The report said the Kerman-Istanbul flight will have a positive impact on the development of the Kerman



province in various fields. The flight will create conditions for the arrival of foreign investors to the Kerman province. Imports and exports of goods will be also carried out in small quantities by the flight.



Iran not to tolerate threat to national interests: Minister

Defense minister of Iran Brigadier General Amir Hatami said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate to safeguard national interests. Brigadier General Amir Hatami made the remarks in a meeting Tuesday held in Tehran to mark martyrdom anniversary of US-educated academic Mostafa Chamran who served as the defense minister to defend the country against invasion of the Iraqi armed-to-the-teeth Army in 1980s shortly after victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Chamran, born in 1932, was the first defense minister of Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He was also commander at the wartime and martyred in 1981. General Hatami, made a comment about the June 20 downing of the US drone, saying the measure aroused Iranians' pride and dignity and proved the Islamic Republic's seriousness to defend national interests. At the early hours of June 20, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) air force shot down an American spy drone, identified as RQ-4 Global Hawk, that had violated Iranian airspace in the Kuh Mobarak (Mobarak Mountain) region located at Hormuzgan province, southern Iran. The enemies, today, are unable to take any military action against Iran as they are well aware of the Islamic Republic's defense capabilities, the minister noted.

Kim, Xi agree to grow ties whatever external situation: North Korean media

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and China's President Xi Jinping reached a consensus on "important issues," and agreed to build on their countries' friendly relations "whatever the international situation," North Korean state media reported. Xi left the North Korean capital Pyongyang on Friday after a two-day visit, the first by a Chinese leader in 14 years. State-run news agency KCNA issued a report on Saturday of the results of the visit. China is North Korea's only major ally and Xi's visit was

aimed at bolstering the isolated country against pressure from United Nations sanctions over its nuclear and missile programmes and stalled denuclearization talks with the United States. The visit comes a week before Xi and U.S. President Donald Trump are due to meet at a Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, amid a trade dispute that has rattled global financial markets. KCNA reported that during a luncheon on the final day of Xi's visit the leaders discussed plans to strengthen collaboration, as well as their countries' "major internal and external policies", while exchanging views on domestic and international issues of mutual concern. An editorial in the official China Daily on Saturday warned that Xi's short visit to Pyongyang would not solve all the region's

problems, but pledges to help develop the North Korean economy were the right way forward.

"The world may hope that the Chinese leader has the magic touch that can turn a stone to gold, but it is unrealistic to expect that Xi can solve all the peninsula issues with a two-day visit — even if Beijing has always been the most reliable and considerate partner to Pyongyang," it said. "Yet Xi has touched the right stone by focusing on economic cooperation to help bring the DPRK in from the cold," it added.



New Sanctions on Iran Aim to Placate US Allies: Analyst

A senior Italian analyst said the new US sanctions against Iran indicate that President Donald Trump is trying to appease Washington's allies in the region after he called off a plan to attack Iran after the IRGC shot down a US spy drone over Iran's territorial waters.



"I think it is a very unwise move. In part, Trump had to re-establish credibility that he is tough on Iran with those, both in the US but especially in the (Persian) Gulf region, who

thought his aborted attack last week was sending a dangerous sign of weakness," Riccardo Alcaro, a senior fellow with the Transatlantic Program of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), told Tasnim.

Riccardo Alcaro was a nonresident fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe. He is an expert in transatlantic political and security relations with a focus on US-European cooperation in Europe's neighboring regions, including the Middle East and North Africa, Iran and the Persian Gulf, the Sahel, Eastern Europe, and Russia.

Following is the full text of the interview.

US President Donald Trump on Monday announced new sanctions on Iran as part of his pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic. They target the office of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Iran's foreign minister and senior commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). What is your take on the sanctions?

Alcaro: I think it is a very unwise move. In part, Trump had to re-establish credibility that he is tough on Iran with those, both in the US but especially in the (Persian) Gulf region, who thought his aborted attack last week was sending a dangerous sign of weakness. But if that was the only purpose, cyberattacks and other forms of responses could have worked. Sanctioning Iran's supreme leader is a deliberately insulting move that sends the signal that a deal can only happen if Iran capitulates to US demands - whether Pompeo's 12 points or



Trump's 1 point (a new nuclear deal), I can't say. Very difficult for a US president to make compromises with a foreign leader who's been targeted by US sanctions.

Trump and other senior US officials have repeatedly said that Washington is ready to talk to Iran about a new nuclear deal without any preconditions. It seems the Trump administration, by imposing new sanctions on Tehran, is facing political confusion. What do you think? Do you believe that the administration is closing the path to a diplomatic solution with Iran?

Alcaro: The party of maximum pressure - National Security Advisor Bolton and Secretary of State Pompeo in particular - has apparently re-asserted its control over America's Iran policy. By sanctioning (Ayatollah) Khamenei, Trump is basically undercutting any real possibility of genuine talks over de-escalation measures, let alone negotiation over a new nuclear deal. It seems the administration is trying hard to goad Iran into making further steps that can justify an even more confrontational approach. The problem is, Iran may think that Trump's aversion to war will eventually force him to back down, and in order to do that Iran may take further steps that the US sees as provocations. It's a very dangerous game that may end up in conflict.

Tasnim: As you know, most of Iran's economy has been already targeted by earlier US penalties and, in fact, there is not much left for Washington to target. Do you believe that it is

just a theatrical move and that sanctions diplomacy no longer works in face of Iran?

Alcaro: The one-million-dollar question is indeed: how long can Iran go on under this unprecedented level of pressure? If Iran finds a way to cope with the US financial siege and stabilizes economically, 'strategic patience' - meaning waiting for a different US administration while keeping the moral high ground and insisting that the Europeans stick to the JCPOA commitments - emerges again as the most sensible policy option. If, on the contrary, the economic situation becomes unsustainable, Iran may feel compelled to retaliate aggressively, and we're back on the possible escalation dynamic towards military conflict I've just mentioned.

The new sanctions came after Iran last week shot down a US spy drone that had ventured into Iran's airspace. Trump told reporters that the sanctions had nothing to do with the downing of the drone. It seems, however, that the sanctions were imposed in response to the shootdown. What are your thoughts on this?

Alcaro: Look, the US had to respond somehow to Iran shooting down a drone, which the US insists was flying in international airspace. Some form of retaliation was always supposed to come. But as I said the new sanctions - particularly the targeting of (Ayatollah) Khamenei - seem to me more a response to those (especially in the (Persian) Gulf region) who have criticized Trump's decision to abort the attack than anything else.

NEWS

Rouhani: Iran's armed forces ready to give resolute response if US repeats violations

President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that if the Americans want to repeat violating Iran's air space and territorial waters, its armed forces will deliver a resolute response to them.

"Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including US," President Rouhani said in a telephone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron.

"We have always been committed to regional peace and stability and will make efforts in this respect," he added.

The Iranian president said the Tehran has always favored boosting sustainable relations with Paris.

"If the JCPOA had been implemented by all parties, today we would have witnessed positive developments in the region," he said, noting that undoubtedly, the US president's move to walk away from the deal has been detrimental to the US people, the EU, Iran, as it was against regional and international interests.

Noting that Iran's adherence to the JCPOA was based on EU's promises to ensure Iran's economic interests and none of them have been materialized, Rouhani said that if Iran fails to take advantage of JCPOA, it will scale down its commitments step by step based on the Clauses of 26 and 36 of JCPOA.

Iran will never renegotiate the deal which was clinched after two years of talks, Rouhani said, noting that the Americans proved that they never favor resolution of issues by intensifying sanctions against Iran.

Blaming the US for all regional tensions, Rouhani pointed out that the US drone was targeted after it received warning for violating Iran's air space and if the US wants to trespass Iran's territorial waters, armed forces will deliver a resolute response to them.

Macron, for his part, regretted over US exit from JCPOA and reinstatement of sanctions, saying that France has always tried to help safeguard JCPOA and convince the parties to their parts under the deal.

As to the regional situation and downing of US drone by Iran, he said, "We should work for regional stability and security and ensure interests of regional states by controlling the situation."

Stressing the need for collective efforts to prevent escalation of tension in the region, he said that most of the US actions are meant to influence the thoughts of Americans.

Most of the US sanctions are repetitive; Iran's official

An official of Iran's Chamber of Commerce (ICC) said many of the U.S. sanctions are repetitive and its main reason is psychological warfare.

A member of ICC, Ali Shariati told ILNA news agency that United States want to show that situation in Iran becomes more critical every day. "They want to place Iran on top of the world news, which is considered as a professional diplomacy." He added every business firm must assume itself as an embassy and each goods is to be an ambassador. If North Korea had strong exports, it would not have been necessary to endure U.S. pressure. "Export is a best way to be present in the international arena."

News

If Johnson becomes UK prime minister, Trump's dream come true; Iran ex-envoy

Abdolreza Farajirad, director general of Strategic Council for Foreign Relations said that if British conservative party chooses the former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson as next prime minister, one of the greatest wishes of the U.S president will be fulfilled.

In an interview with ILNA news agency, Iran's former ambassador to Norway added that for past few days we saw that Tory MPs voted and Mr Johnson won latest round but it

does not mean he will be UK next prime minister.

"Mr Johnson and Mr Hunt now face a vote involving up to 160,000 Tory members but so many believes that Mr Johnson will win this race," he said. Iran's former envoy highlighted, "If Johnson becomes prime minister, there will be much repercussions for both inside and outside of UK."

Abdolreza Farajirad said that undoubtedly, the first issue he will put on the agenda will be Brexit and will stress that we must respect the vote of the people and unite our country. "The second thing that will happen is that London inching closer to the U.S. government and Donald Trump's policy. Boris Johnson is looking for Britain's exit from the European Union, which is precisely on the Trump agenda," a former Iranian diplomat, Abdolreza Farajirad said. He added, "Without doubt, Johnson becomes a strong

partner for Washington on the international world.

During Mr. Trump's state visit to the U.K. this month, the president said Mr.

Johnson, one of the architects of Brexit, would do a "very good job" in the role, which he is favorite to assume next month after a ballot among members of his Conservative Party. The public prefer Boris Johnson to Jeremy Hunt as next prime minister - and see Mr Johnson as the Conservatives' best hope of winning a general election, according to a Sky Data poll.



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Headlines

New Sanctions on Iran Aim to Placate US Allies: Analyst

5

Iran Police Using Facial Recognition Cameras against Illegal Currency Dealers

4

Zoroastrians' Dakhmeh: "Tower of Silence"

3

CALL TO PRAYER TIME IN ISFAHAN

Morning call to prayer:

04:18:16

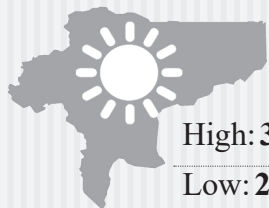
Noon call to prayer:

13:06:21

Evening call to prayer:

20:35:07

WEATHER



High: 38 °C

Low: 20 °C



Iran still holds door open for diplomacy: Deputy FM

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says that Iran has held the door open for diplomacy despite its decision to press ahead with previously announced diminishing JCPOA commitments. Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made the remarks in a meeting with State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Lukáš Parížek and his accompanying delegation. Araghchi said that "unfortunately there is not any balance between Iran's obligations and its rights in the JCPOA anymore and given the lack of action from the Europeans side, there is no reason for Iran to carry out its commitments unilaterally."



120,000 Iraqi tourists visit Arvand Free Zone in a month

4

Kushner unveils economic portion of Middle East peace plan; Reuters

The White House on Saturday outlined a 50\$ billion Middle East economic plan that would create a global investment fund to lift the Palestinian and neighboring Arab state economies, and fund a 5\$ billion transportation corridor to connect the West Bank and Gaza.



The "peace to prosperity" plan, set to be presented by White House senior adviser Jared Kushner at an international conference in Bahrain next week, includes 179 infrastructure and business projects, according to details of the plan and interviews with U.S. officials. The approach toward reviving the moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace process was criticized by the Palestinians on Saturday. The ambitious economic revival plan, the product of two years of work by Kushner and other aides, would take place only if a political solution to the region's long-running problems is reached. More than half of the \$50 billion would be spent in the economically troubled Palestinian territories over 10 years while the rest would be split between Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan. Some of the projects would be in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, where investments could benefit Palestinians living in adjacent Gaza, a crowded and impoverished coastal enclave. The plan also proposes nearly a billion dollars to build up the Palestinians' tourism sector, a seemingly impractical notion for now given the frequent flareups between Israeli forces and militants from Hamas-ruled Gaza, and the tenuous security in the occupied West Bank. (For factbox with more on the plan see) The Trump administration hopes that wealthy Persian Gulf states and nations in Europe and Asia, along with private investors, would foot much of the bill, Kushner told Reuters. "The whole notion here is that we want

people to agree on the plan and then we'll have a discussion with people to see who is interested in potentially doing what," Kushner told Reuters Television. The unveiling of the economic blueprint follows two years of deliberations and delays in rolling out a broader peace plan between Israelis and Palestinians. The Palestinians, who are boycotting the event, have refused to talk to the Trump administration since it recognized Jerusalem as the Israeli capital in late 2017. Veteran Palestinian negotiator Hanan Ashrawi dismissed the proposals on Saturday, saying: "These are all intentions, these are all abstract promises" and said only a political solution would solve the conflict. Kushner made clear in two interviews with Reuters that he sees his detailed formula as a game-changer, despite the view of many Middle East experts that he has little chance of success where decades of U.S.-backed peace efforts have failed. "I laugh when they attack this as the 'Deal of the Century'," Kushner said of Palestinian leaders who have dismissed his plan as an attempt to buy off their aspirations for statehood. "This is going to be the 'Opportunity of the Century' if they have the courage to pursue it." Kushner said some Palestinian business executives have confirmed their participation in the conference, but he declined to identify them. The overwhelming majority of the Palestinian business community will not attend, businessmen in the West Bank city of Ramallah told Reuters. Several Persian Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, will also participate in the June 25-26 U.S.-led gathering in Bahrain's capital, Manama, for Kushner's rollout of the first phase of the Trump peace plan. Their presence, some U.S. officials say privately, appears intended in part to curry favor with Trump as he takes a hard line against Iran, those countries' regional arch-foe.

Trump Muses Privately about Ending Postwar Japan Defense Pact

US President Donald Trump has recently mused to confidants about withdrawing from a longstanding defense treaty with Japan, according to three people familiar with the matter, in his latest complaint about what he sees as unfair US security pacts.



Exiting the pact would jeopardize a postwar alliance that has helped guarantee security in the Asia Pacific, laying the foundation for the region's economic rise. Under the terms of its surrender in World War II, Japan agreed to a pacifist constitution in which it renounced the right to wage war.

Trump regards the accord as too one-sided because it promises US aid if Japan is ever attacked, but doesn't oblige Japan's military to come to America's defense, the people said. The treaty, signed more than 60 years ago, forms the foundation of the alliance between the countries that emerged from World War II. Even so, the US president hasn't taken any steps toward pulling out of the treaty, and administration officials said such a move is highly unlikely. All of the people asked not to be identified discussing Trump's private conversations. While Trump's repeated criticism of security pacts around the world has alarmed allies from Seoul to Paris, he hasn't moved to withdraw from such agreements the way he has with trade deals. Exiting the pact would jeopardize a postwar alliance that has helped guarantee security in the Asia Pacific, laying the foundation for the region's economic rise. Under the terms of its surrender in World War II, Japan agreed to a pacifist constitution in which it renounced the right to wage war. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Tuesday in response to a question about the Bloomberg News report that the security framework was at the core of the country's alliance with the US "There is no talk at all of a review of the Japan-US security alliance as has been reported in the media," Suga said, echoing a statement by the foreign ministry. Scrapping the treaty would risk ceding security of the Western Pacific to China and potentially spurring a fresh nuclear arms

race, if Japan decided it needed to protect itself from nuclear-armed neighbors. It would also call into question the US's military commitments to Australia, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and a host of other allies around the world. The president will make his second trip to Japan in a matter of weeks on Wednesday when he travels for the Group of 20 summit in Osaka. He's expected to again meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who enjoys as good a relationship with the mercurial and unpredictable American president as any foreign leader. Yet as with many US allies, there are growing tensions between the countries over Trump's attitude toward trade. The president has said he may enact tariffs on imports of foreign cars, calling them a threat to national security -- an allegation called preposterous by automakers and many US lawmakers. The question of whether an American president can withdraw from a ratified treaty without congressional approval is unsettled. President George W. Bush withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002 without lawmakers' consent. Trump regards Japan's repeated efforts to move a large US military base in Okinawa as a sort of land-grab, the people said, and has raised the idea of seeking financial compensation for American forces to relocate. Trump's focus on the US defense pact with Japan may foreshadow broader scrutiny of American treaty obligations across the world, two people familiar with the matter said. The White House communications staff declined to comment Monday night. The president has said in private conversations previously that he has Japan's back and is aware of the US's obligations under the treaty. But, as with his stance on other multilateral agreements, he wants the relationship to be more reciprocal.

More than half of the 50\$ billion would be spent in the economically troubled Palestinian territories over 10 years while the rest would be split between Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan. Some of the projects would be in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, where investments could benefit Palestinians living in adjacent Gaza, a crowded and impoverished coastal enclave.

