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Contents

■ Happy Nowruz	2
■ Iran's Foreign Trade	3
■ Nowruz, Everything about Nowruz, Iranian New Year	5
■ Rudaki	10
■ Iranian Miniature	11
■ The Great Wall of Gorgan	18
■ Old trees in Khorasan Razavi made national heritage.....	19
■ The road to Biden's foreign policy runs through Senator Menendez: Politico	20
■ Dollar depreciation may continue in 2021 too: steve Hanke	22
■ Why Joe Biden might Not find it so easy to Reboot the Iran Deal	23
■ Museum dedicated to handmade jewelry inaugurated in Kerman	24
■ Take a look at position of Mehr Damavand Project..	25
■ Scholar says it's not clear Biden can Overcom polarization soon	25
■ Mother tongue is the soup of life	26
■ IBCCIM's New Members	27
■ Statistic Repot (Key Economic Indicators).....	28



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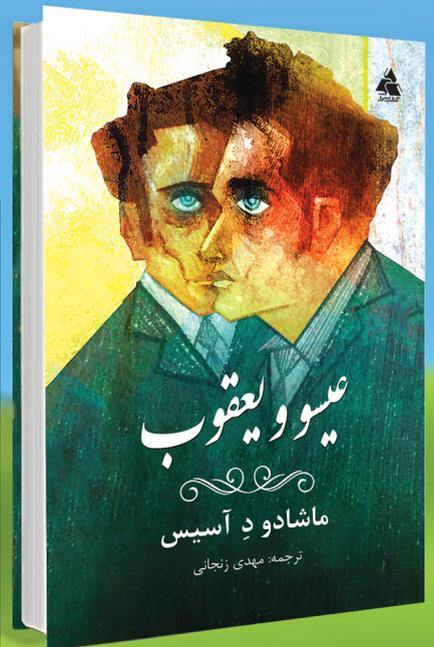
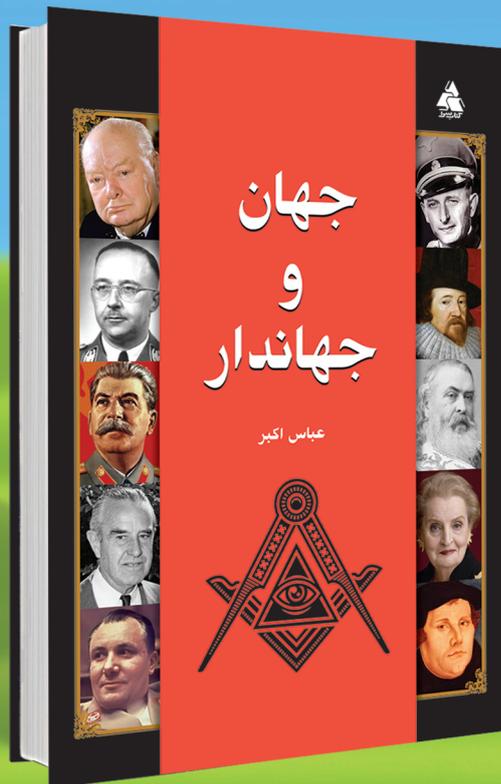
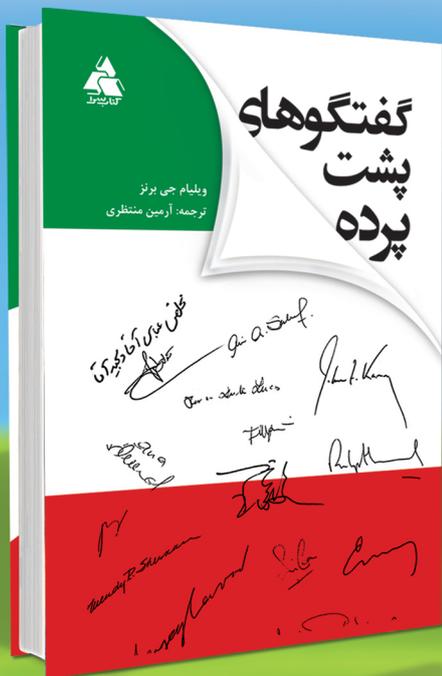




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Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's foreign trade during the Ten month of year 1399

(20 March to 20 Jan 2021)

According to the statistics of the IR of Iran's Customs Department, the Iran's foreign trades volume during the Ten month

of the year 1399 are as indicated in the following tables:

Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's Liquidities during the Ten month of 1399

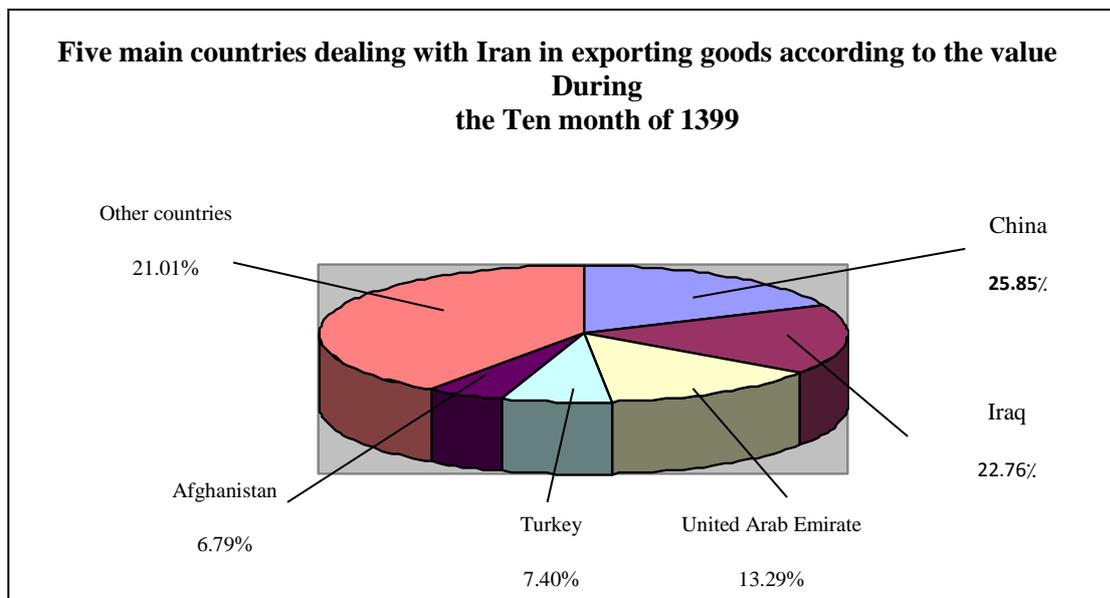
Activity	Ten month of the year 1399		Ten month of the year 1398		Percent of changes	
	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Value
Import	28.249	30.639	28.884	36.280	-2.20	-15.55
Export	94.541	28.063	114.877	35.106	-17.70	-20.06

Exports:

The most important exports during the Ten month of 1398, have been done with countries, as follows:

1) "China" with 7.254 million Dollars and 25.85 percent of value, 2) "Iraq" with 6.388 million Dollars and 22.76 percent of value, 3) "United Arab

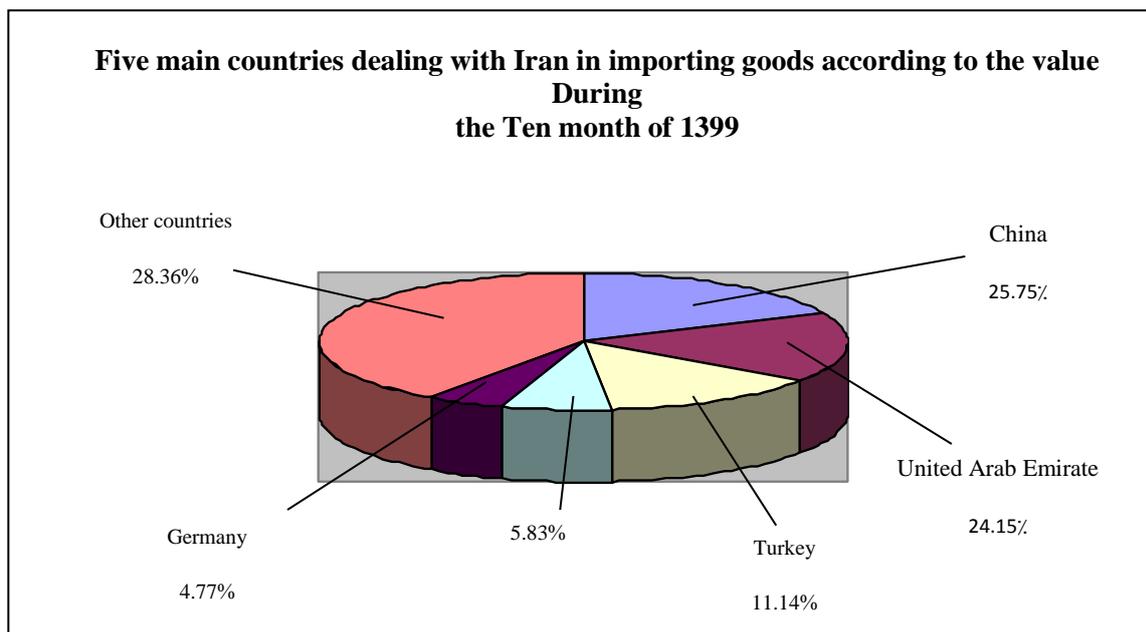
Emirate" with 2.729 million Dollars and 13.29 percent of value, 4) "Turkey" with 2.048 million Dollars and 7.30 percent of value and 5) "Afghanistan" with 1.950 million Dollars and 6.79 percent of value.



Imports:

The most important imports during the ten month of 1399, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 7.888 million Dollars and 25.75 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirate" with 7.399 million Dollars and 24.15 percent of value,

3) "Turkey" with 3.412 million Dollars and 11.14 percent of value, 4) "India" with 1.786 million Dollars and 5.83 percent of value and 5) "Germany" with 1.460 million Dollars and 4.77 percent of value.



Nowruz

Everything about Nowruz, Iranian New Year



Nowruz is the traditional Iranian festival of spring which starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox, commencing the start of the spring. It is considered as the start of the New Year among Iranians. The name comes from Avesta, meaning “new day/daylight”. Nowruz is celebrated March 20/21 each year, at the time the sun enters Aries and Spring begins.

Nowruz has been celebrated for at least 3,000 years and is deeply rooted in the rituals and traditions of the Zoroastrian religion. Today the festival of Nowruz is celebrated in Iran, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The Zoroastrian Parsis of India celebrate Nowruz

twice, firstly in common with their Iranian brethren



on the vernal equinox as Jamshid Nowruz and secondly on a day in July or August, depending upon whether they follow the Kadmi or the Shahanshahi calendar. This is because the practice of intercalation in the Zoroastrian calendar was lost on their arrival in India. The Kadmi New Year always precedes the Shahanshahi New Year by 30 days. In 2005, Nowruz is celebrated on August 20 (Shahanshahi).



The Baha'i Faith, a religion with its origin in Iran, celebrates this day (spelling it "nowruz") as a religious holiday marking not only the new year according to the Baha'i calendar, but the end of their Nineteen Day Fast. Persian Baha'is still observe many Iranian customs associated with it, but Bahai's all over the world celebrate it as a festive day, according to local custom. American Baha'i communities, for example, may have a potluck dinner, along with prayers and readings from Baha'i scripture. While Nowruz, according to scripture, begins on the vernal equinox, Baha'is currently celebrate it on March 21, regardless of what day the equinox falls. Baha'is are required to suspend work and school in observance.

Although the Persian Calendar is very precise about the very moment of turn of the new year, Noruz itself is by definition the very first calendar day of the year, regardless of when the natural turn of the year happens. For instance, in some years, the actual natural moment of turn of the year could happen before the midnight of the first calendar day, but the calendar still starts at 00:00 hours for 24 hours, and those 24 hours constitute the Nowruz. Iranians typically observe the exact

moment of the turn of the year.

History of Nowruz

The name of Nowruz does not occur until the second century AD in any Persian records. We have reasons to believe that the celebration is much older than that date and was surely celebrated by the people and royalty during the Achaemenid times (555-330 BC). It has often been suggested that the famous Persepolis Complex, or at least the palace of Apadana and Hundred Columns Hall, were built for the specific purpose of celebrating Nowruz. However, no mention of the name of Nowruz exists in any Achaemenid inscription.

Our oldest records of Nowruz go back to the Arsacid/Parthian times (247 BC-224 AD). There are specific references to the celebration of Nowruz during the reign of Arsacid Emperor Vologasses I (51-78 AD). Unfortunately, the lack of any substantial records about the reign of the Arsacid leaves us with little to explore about the details of Nowruz during their times.

After the accession of Ardeshir, the founder of the Sasanian Dynasty (224 AD), consistent data for the celebration of Nowruz were recorded.

Throughout the Sasanian era (224-650 AD), Noruz was celebrated as the most prominent ritual during



the year. Most royal traditions of Noruz such as yearly common audiences, cash gifts, and pardon of prisoners, were established during the Sasanian era and they persisted unchanged until the modern times.

Nowruz, along with Sadeh that is celebrated in mid-winter, were the two pre-Islamic celebrations that survived in the Islamic society after 650 AD.

Other celebrations such as Gahanbar and Mohegans were eventually side-lined or were only followed by the Zoroastrians who carried them as far as India. Nowruz, however, was most honored even by the early founders of Islam.

There are records of the Four Great Caliphs presiding over Noruz celebrations, and during the Abbasid era, it was adopted as the main royal holiday.

Following the demise of the Caliphate and re-emergence of Persian dynasties such as the Samanids and Buyids, Nowruz was elevated into an even more important event. The Buyids revived the ancient traditions of Sasanian times and restored many smaller celebrations that had been eliminated by the Caliphate. Even the Turkish and Mongol invaders of Iran did not attempt to abolish Nowruz in favor of any other celebration. Thus, Nowruz remained as the main celebration in the Persian lands by both the officials and the people.

Celebrations

During the Nowruz holidays people are expected to pay house visits to one another (mostly limited



to families, friends and neighbors) in the form of short house visits and the other side will also pay you a visit during the holidays before the 13th day of the spring.

Typically, on the first day of Nowruz, family members gather around the table, with the Haft Seen on the table or set next to it, and await the exact moment of the arrival of the spring. At that time gifts are exchanged. Later in the day, on the very first day, the first house visits are paid to the most senior family members.

Typically, the youngers visit the elders first, and the elders return their visit later. The visits naturally have to be relatively short, otherwise one will not be able to visit everybody on their list. Every family announces in advance to their relatives and friends which days of the holidays are their reception days.

A visit generally lasts around 30 minutes, where you often run into other visiting relatives and friends who happen to be paying a visit to





the same house at that time. Because of the house visits, you make sure you have a sufficient supply of pastry, cookies, fresh and dried fruits and special nuts on hand, as you typically serve your visitors with these items plus tea or syrup.

Many Iranians will throw large Nowruz parties in a central location as a way of dealing with the long distances between groups of friends and family.

Some Noruz celebrants believe that whatever a person does on Noruz will affect the rest of the year. So, if a person is warm and kind to their relatives, friends and neighbors on Noruz, then the new year will be a good one. On the other hand, if there are fights and disagreements, the year will be a bad one. Also, many people do a significant amount of "Spring Cleaning" prior to Noruz to rid

the house of last year's dirt and germs in preparation for a good new year.

One tradition that may not be very widespread (that is, it may belong to only a few families) is to place something sweet, such as honey or candy, in a safe place outside overnight. On the first

morning of the new year, the first person up brings the sweet stuff into the house as another means of attaining a good new year.

The traditional herald of the Noruz season is called Haji Pirooz, or Hadji Firuz. He symbolizes the rebirth of the Sumerian god of sacrifice, Domuzi, who was killed at the end of each year and reborn at the beginning of the New Year. Wearing black make up and a red costume, Haji Pirooz sings and dances through the streets with tambourines and trumpets spreading good cheer and the news of the coming New Year.

The thirteenth day of the New Year festival is called *Sizdah Bedar* (meaning "thirteen outdoors"). It often falls on or very close to April Fool's Day, as it is celebrated in some countries. People go out in the nature in groups and spend all day outdoors in the nature in form of family picnics. It is a day of festivity in the nature, where children play and music and dancing is abundant. On this day, people throw their sabzeh away in the nature as a symbolic act of making the nature greener, and to dispose of the bad luck that the sprouts are said to have been collecting from the household.

The thirteenth day celebrations, *Sizdah Bedar*, stem from the belief of the ancient Persians that the twelve constellations in the Zodiac controlled the months of the year, and each ruled the earth for a





ed all the sickness and bad luck) is thrown away into running water to exorcise the demons (divs) and evil eyes from the house hold. It is also customary for young single women to tie the leaves of the sabzeh, prior to discarding it, symbolizing their wish to be married before the next year's Sizdah Bedar. When tying the leaves, they whisper.

Countries that have Nowruz as a public holiday include:

-  Afghanistan (21 March)
-  Albania (22 March)
-  Azerbaijan (20 March to 26 March, total of 7 days)
-  Georgia
-  Iran (20 March to 24 March, total of 5 days in general and total of 14 days for schools,

universities)

thousand years. At the end of which, the sky and the earth collapsed in chaos.

Hence, nowruz lasts twelve days and the thirteenth day represents the time of chaos when families put order aside and avoid the bad luck associated with the number thirteen by going outdoors and having picnics and parties.

At the end of the celebrations on this day, the sabzeh grown for the Haft Seen spread (which has symbolically collect-



universities)

-  Iraq (*de jure* in  Iraqi Kurdistan, *de facto* national) (21 March)



-  Kazakhstan (21 March to 24 March, total of four days)

-  Kosovo (21 March)

-  Kyrgyzstan (21 March)

-  Bayan-Ölgii, Mongolia (22 March, regional state holiday only)

-  Tajikistan (20 March to 23 March, total of 4 days)

-  Turkmenistan (21 March to 22 March, total of 2 days)

-  Uzbekistan (21 March)

The Canadian parliament, on 30 March 2009, by unanimous consent, passed a bill to add Nowruz to the national calendar of Canada.

Rudaki, Father of the Persian poem



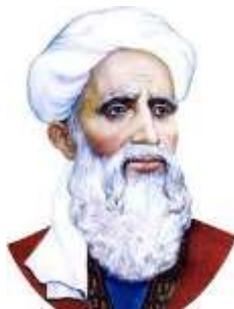
Abdollah Jafar-ebn-Mohammad known as Rudaki is the first Persian poet. He was born in 244 AH in Banoj (near Rudak) in the region of He memorized Quran when he was only 8 years old. In the same year he started to writing poetry. He was also played Harp. Roudaki was one of the most prolific Iranian poets. His poems were between 100,000 to 1,000,000 distiches, but nowadays about 1,000 distiches of his poems are remain that includes a set of verses, couplet poems, pieces, and quotes.

Regular version of Kelile and Demne (an Indian story that Mohammad Balami was translated it from Arabic to Persian) was written by Rudaki (to the order of Amir Naser and Abolfazl Balami)

Unfortunately, this literary book has been lost and only a few dispersed distiches of that are available.

Amir Samani liked Rudaki and his poems. He gave a lot of rewards to Rudaki and converted him into one of the wealthiest people of Bokhara.

Amir Samani and Rudaki were travelled to a nice weather region. Amir liked that region so much;



so he ordered to Rudaki to write a poem about that region to remember their memories.

Rudaki wrote Boo-e-jooy-e-molian poem which is one of the most famous poems of recently submitted an inclusive dossier on its caravanserais to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The dossier comprises the obligatory data about a selection of 56 caravanserais, which are scattered across the ancient land. And the shortlist includes qualified caravanserais located in at least 24 provinces, the deputy

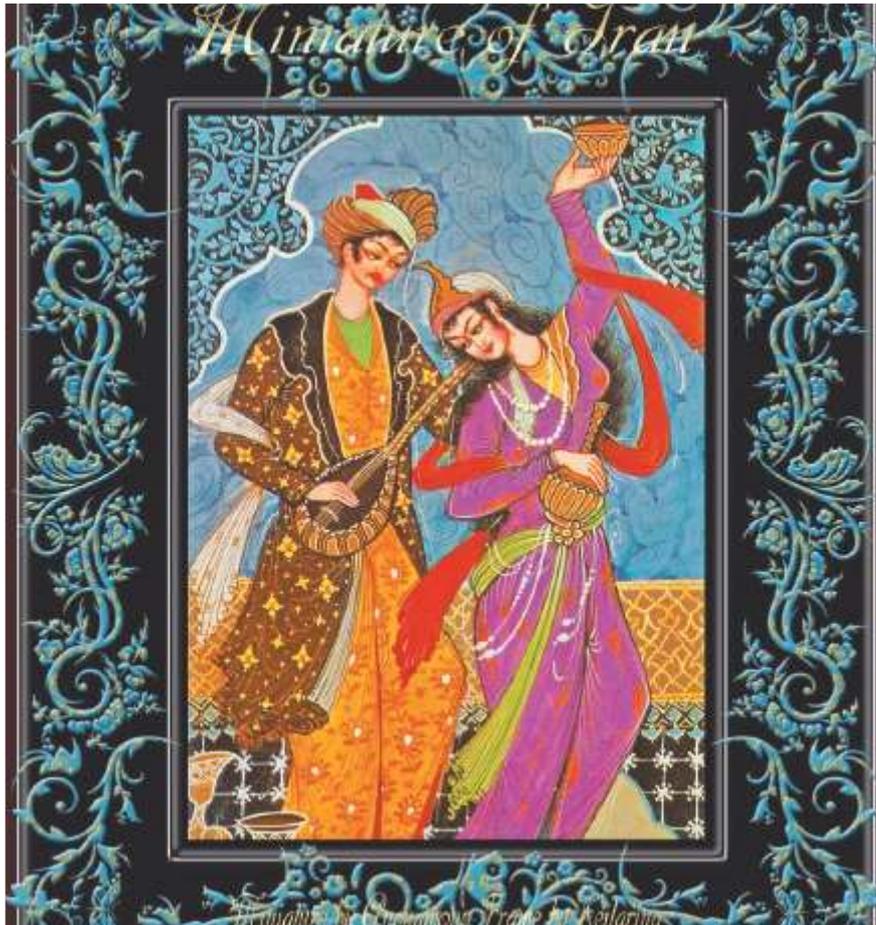
tourism minister, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, said on Thursday. The concept of Iranian caravan-serai, like Persian houses, gardens, qanat, and towers, has unique characteristics that carry high social, cultural, and architectural values, regard-



less of their special architectural characteristics, the official said. It seems that the construction of caravan-serais in Iran dates back to the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC) and

since then until the early Pahlavi period (1925-1979) different types of caravanserais were built sites in Iran.

Iranian Miniature



A Persian miniature is a richly detailed miniature painting which depicts religious or mythological themes from the region of the Middle East now known as Iran. The art of miniature painting in Persia flourished from the 13th through the 16th centuries, and continues to this day, with several con-temporary artists producing notable Persian miniatures. These delicate, lush paintings are typically visually stunning, with a level of detail which can only be achieved with a very fine hand and an extremely small brush.

Introduction:

Persian miniature is a small painting, whether a book illustration or a separate work of art intended to be kept in an al-bum of such works. The techniques are broadly comparable to the Western and Byzantine traditions of miniatures in illuminated manuscripts, which probably had an influence on the origins of the Persian tradition.

Although there is an equally well-established Persian tradition of wall painting, the survival rate and state of preservation of miniatures is better, and

miniatures are much the best-known form of Persian painting in the West. Several features about Persian miniatures stand out. The first is the size and level of detail; many of these paintings are quite small, but they feature rich, complex scenes which can occupy a viewer for hours.

Classically, a Persian miniature also features accents in gold and silver leaf, along with a very vivid array of colors. The perspective in a Persian miniature also tends to be very intriguing, with elements overlaid on each other in ways which sometimes

feel awkward to people who are accustomed to the look and feel of Western art.

History:

Originally, Persian miniatures were commissioned as book illustrations for Persian illuminated manuscripts. Only the wealthiest of patrons could afford these illustrations, with some Persian miniatures taking up to a year to complete. Eventually, people also began collecting these works of art on their own, binding them into separate books. Many of these collections fortunately survive to this day, along with other examples of Persian art such as Iran's famous pile car-pets.

The Persian miniature was probably inspired by Chinese art, given the very Chinese themes which appear in some early examples of Persian miniatures. Many of the mythological creatures depicted in early Persian art, for example, bear a striking resemblance to animals in Chinese myth. Over time, however, Persian artists developed their own style and themes, and the concept of the Persian miniature was picked up by neighboring regions.

Many museums of Asian art have Persian miniatures in their collections, and it is well worth visiting to see examples of this distinctive art form in person. Persian miniatures also merit undivided attention; the longer one looks at a Persian miniature, the more details and themes emerge. The study of a single miniature can take up an entire day, as more and more details unfold, and many museums conveniently have detailed guides to the figures and themes in their Persian miniatures so that visitors can learn more about what they are seeing.

Miniature painting became a significant Persian form in the 13th century, and the highest point in the tradition was reached in the 15th and 16th centuries. The tradition continued, under some Western influence. The Persian miniature was the dominant influence on other Islamic miniature traditions, principally the Ottoman miniature in Turkey, and the Mogul miniature in the Indian sub-continent.

Though at various stages it has been affected by Chinese and Eastern influences, Persian miniature art has developed its own distinctive features. Iran's miniature artists are recognizable for their emphasis on natural and realist motifs. Also worth noting is the Persian technique of "layering" perspectives to create a sense of space. For example, in the miniature piece at right, the variety of views is noticeable in the arrangement of objects: birds inhabit both the fore-ground and background of the piece, with the floral objects positioned in between. This gives the viewer a sense of three-dimensional space and the



ability to focus on certain aspects of the piece to the exclusion of others.

Content and form are fundamental elements of Persian miniature painting, and miniature artists are renowned for their modest, subtle use of color. The themes of Persian miniature are mostly related to Persian mythology and poetry. Western artists discovered the Persian miniature around the beginning of the 20th century. Persian miniatures uses pure geometry and a vivid palette. The allure of Persian miniature painting lies in its absorbing complexities and in the surprising way it speaks to large questions about the nature of art and the perception of its masterpieces.

The history of the art of painting in Iran, goes back to the cave age. In the caves of Lorestan province, painted mages of animals and hunting scenes have been discovered.

Paintings discovered by W. Semner, on the walls of buildings, in Mallyan heights, in Fars, belong to 5,000 years ago.

Paintings discovered on earthenware in Lorestan, and other archaeological sites, prove that the artists of this region were familiar with the art of painting. Also from the Ashkanid era, few mural paintings, most of them discovered in the northern parts of Forat River, have been uncovered. One of these paintings is a display of a hunting scene. The position of



riders and animals, and the style in this work reminds us of the Iranian miniatures.

In the paintings of Achaemenid era, profile work was preferred by the artists. The proportion and beauty of colors of this era are remarkable. The colors are shadeless, and have the same tune. In some cases, black stripes limited the colorful surfaces.

The paintings of "Torfan", discovered in the desert of "Gall", a region situated in the Turkistan province in China, belong to 840 to 860 AD. These mural paintings exhibit Iranian scenes and portraits. Images of tree branches also exist in these paintings. The most ancient paintings of the Islamic period, are quite scarce, and were created in the first half of the 13th century.

China, perhaps since the 7th century, as an artistic center, has been the most important incentive for the art of painting in Iran. Ever since, a relation has been established between Buddhist Chinese painters and Iranian artists. From the historic viewpoint, the most important evolution in Iranian art has been the adoption of Chinese designs and coloring that were mixed with the specific conception of Iranian artists. In the first centuries, after the emergence of Islam, Iranian artists began adorning books.

The preface and the margins of books were adorned. These designs were passed on to the next centuries, together with precise principles and rules, which is known as the "Art of Illumination."

Paintings from the beginning of the Islamic period had the reputation of belonging to Baghdad school.

Miniatures of Baghdad school have totally lost the style and methods of the usual paintings of the pre-Islamic period.

These primitive and innovative paintings do not possess the necessary artistic stress. The miniatures of Baghdad school are not proportional. Portraits show the "Sami" race and light colors are used. Artists of the Baghdad school, after years of stagnancy, were eager to create and innovate. The particular views of this school, is in drawing animals and illustrating stories.

Although the Baghdad school, considering the pre-Islamic art, is to some extent, superficial and primitive, but the art of Iranian miniature, in the same period, was widespread in every region in which, Islam was propagated: Far East, Africa and Europe.

Among illustrated books in the Baghdad style, "Kelileh and Demneh" can be named. Images are painted larger than normal and are not proportional. Only few colors are used in these paintings.

Most of the handwritten books of the 13th century are enriched with images of animals, vegetables, and illustrations from fables and stories.

An example of the most ancient Iranian miniature is the drawings of a book called "ManafealHayvan" (1299 AD). This book describes the characteristics





of animals. The natural history is mixed and narrated through the ancient fables in this book.

Diverse subjects of this book, require numerous images that are so important in familiarizing the reader with the Iranian art of painting. Colors are bright and laying step after the old style of the Baghdad school.

After the invasion of Moguls, a new school appeared in Iran. This school was totally under the influence of the Chinese and Mogul style. These paintings are all minute, dry, motionless, and pure, in the Chinese style Mogul emperors, after the invasion of Iran, were impressed by the Iranian art and encouraged the painters, initiating the former kings of Iran. Among the characteristics of the Iranian art which can also be observed in the paintings of Mogul style, we can enumerate, subtleties, decorative compositions, and fine short lines. The style of the Iranian paintings is linear and not dimensional. Artists in this field have demonstrated a particular creativity and genuineness.

Artists of the Mogul royal court honored not only the techniques but also Iranian themes. A part of their work consisted of illustrating Iranian literary masterpieces such as “The Shahnameh” of Ferdowsi. Contrary to Baghdad and Mogul schools, more works remain from Harat school. The founders of the style of painting called the Harat school, were Teimoor’s ancestors, and the school was named after the place in which it was founded.

Artists and Schools:

Art experts believe that during Taymoor’s era, the art of painting in Iran, had reached a climax. During this period, outstanding masters, such as Kamala dl-Din Behzād, con-tributed a new touch to the Ira-nian painting.

KamaladDin Behzād Herawī, also known as Kamal al-din Behzād or Kamaledin Behzād (c. 1450 – c. 1535) was a painter of Persian miniatures and head of the royal ateliers in Herat and Tabriz during the late Taymurid and early Sa-favid periods.

Behzād is the most famous of Per-sian miniature painters, though he is more accurately understood as

the director of a workshop (or *kitabkhāna*) producing manuscript illuminations in a style he conceived. Persian painting of the period frequently uses an arrangement of geometric architectural elements as the structural or compositional context in which the figures are arranged. Behzad is equally skilled with the organic areas of landscape, but where he uses the traditional geometric style Behzad stretches that compositional device in a couple ways. One is that he often uses open, un-patterned empty areas around which action moves. Also he pins his compositions to a mastery at moving the eye of the observer around the picture plane in a quirky organic flow. The gestures of figures and objects are not only uniquely natural, expressive and active, they are arranged to keep moving the eye throughout the picture plane. He uses value (dark-light contrast) more emphatically, and skillfully than other medieval miniaturists. Another quality common to his work is narrative playfulness: the almost hidden eye and partial face of



Bahram as he peers out the blinds to watch the frolicking girls in the pool below, the upright goat that looks like a demon along the edge of the horizon in a story about an old woman confronting the sins of Sanjar, the amazing cosmopolitan variety of humans work-ing on the wall in the sample image. This surprising individuality of character and narrative creativity are some qualities that distinguish Behzād's works and that match their literary intent. Behzād also uses Sufi symbolism and symbolic colour to convey meaning. He introduced greater naturalism to Persian painting, particularly in the depiction of more individualized figures and the use of realistic gestures and expressions.

Behzād's most famous works include "The Seduction of Yusuf" from Saadi's *Bustan* of 1488, and paintings from the British Library's Nezami manuscript of 1494-95 - particularly scenes from Layli and Majnun and the *Haft Paykar*. The attribution of specific paintings to Behzād himself is often problematic (and, many academics would now argue, unimportant), but the majority of works commonly attributed to him date from 1488 to 1495.

He is also mentioned in Orhan Pamuk's famous novel "My Name is Red" as one of the greatest Persian miniature painters. In Pamuk's novel it is said that Kamal al-Din Behzād blinded himself with a needle. Behzād was born, lived and worked in Herat (in present day Afghanistan) under the Taymurid, and later in Tabriz under the Safavid dynasty. An orphan, he was raised by the prominent painter

Mirak Naqqash, and was a protégé of Mir Ali Shir Nava'i. His major patrons in Herat were the Taymurid sultan Hossein Bayqarah (ruled 1469 - 1506) and other amirs in his circle. After the fall of the Taymurids, he was employed by Shah Ismail I Safavi in Tabriz, where, as director of the royal atelier, he had a decisive impact on the development of later Safavid painting. Behzād died in 1535 and his tomb is located in Tabriz, 2-Kamal Tomb. A statue of Behzād is placed in 2-

Kamal Tomb.

During the Safavid era, the artistic center was moved to Tabriz. A few artists also settled in Qazvin. However, the Safavid School of painting was established in Isfahan.

The miniature of Iran, in the Isfahan of Safavid era, was detached from the influence of the Chinese out and stepped on a new road. The painters were then more inclined towards naturalism.

Agha Reza Reza-e Abbasi (also Reza Abbasi) (1565 - 1635) was the most renowned Persian miniaturist, painter and calligrapher of the Isfahan School, which flourished during the Safavid period under the patronage of Shah Abbas I.

Reza Abbasi, founded the "Safavid School of painting". The art of design during the Safavid era was subjected to a brilliant transformation.

He is considered to be one of the foremost Persian artists of all time. He received his training in the atelier of his father, Ali Asghar, and was received into the workshop of Shah Abbas I at a young age.

At the age of about 38 he received the honorific title of Abbasi from his patron, but soon left the Shah's employ, apparently seeking greater freedom to associate with simple people. In 1610 he returned to the court and continued in the employ of the Shah until his death. His specialty was the Persian miniature, with a preference for naturalistic subjects often portrayed in an effeminate and impressionistic manner, a style which came to be popular during the late Safavid court.

Many of his works depict handsome youths, often in the role of saqi, or “wine pourer,” who at times are the focus of the admiring gaze of an older man and according to Louis Crompton, a manifestation of the Persian tradition of “appreciating youthful male beauty” (2003, p.171).

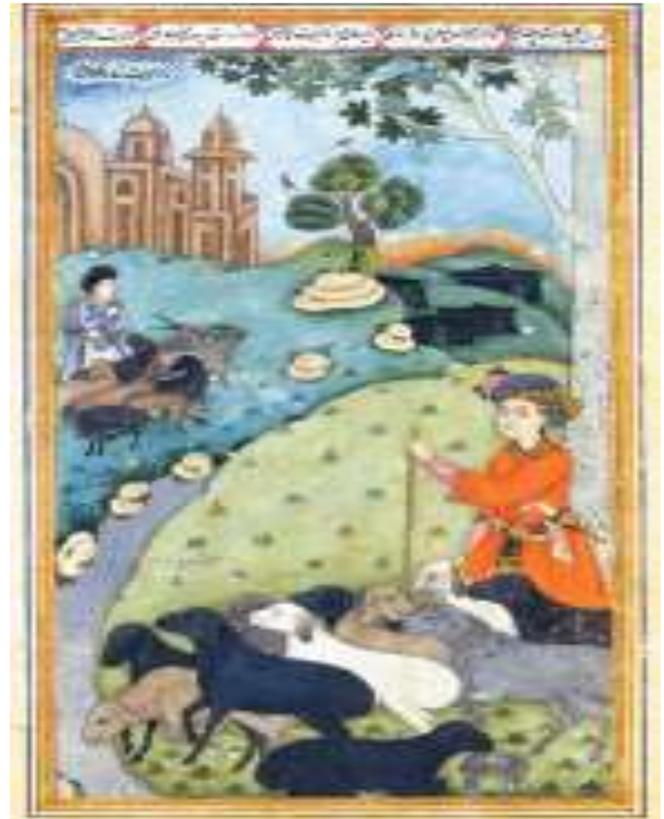
Today his works can be found in the museum that bears his name in Tehran, as well as in many of the major museums of the West, such as the Smithsonian, the Louvre and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Miniatures created under the Safavid School, were not exclusively aimed for adorning and illustrating books. The Safavid style is softer in form than those of the Teimoorian School, specially the Mongolian. Human images and their behavior are not vain and artificial, in the contrary quiet natural, and close to reality.

In Safavid paintings, the splendor and the grandeur of this period is the main attraction. The themes of the paintings are about the life in the royal court, the nobles, beautiful palaces, pleasant good-ness, scenes of battles and banquets.

Humans are drawn in sumptuous garments, handsome faces and elegant statues colors are glowingly bright.

Artists paid more attention to generalities and, avoided unnecessary details, as used in Harat and Tabriz styles. The smoothness of lines, the quick



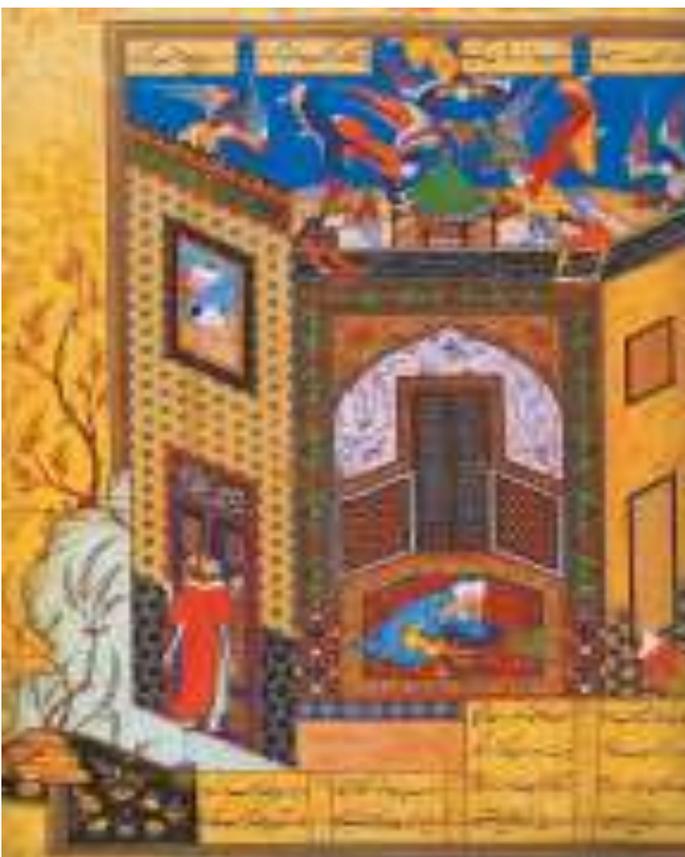
expression of feelings, and condensing the subjects are the characteristics of the Safavid style of painting. Since the end of the Safavid era, perspective and shading, a result of the European style, appeared in the Iranian paintings.

Paintings of the Qajar era, are a combination of the classic European arts and Safavid miniature techniques. In this period, Mohammad Gaffari Kamal – ulMolk, pushed forward the European classical style of painting in Iran. Under the Qajar, a kind of painting known as the “Teahouse” painting found its place. This kind of painting is a new phenomenon in the history of the Iranian art.

The great Iranian master miniaturist, Hossein Behzād the son of pen-holder designer, Mirza Lotfollah Esfahani was born in Tehran in 1894. He was greatly interested in painting in his early childhood, and his father put him under the care of Molla Ali in Madjma-os-Sanayeh, the Art Center to gain miniature painting skills. Behzād once said; an unknown and obscure feeling, pulled me toward painting, and when I took pencil or pen following this feeling, I felt like a thirsty man who reaches a limpid and refreshing spring.

It was not long before his father and his trainer died by the attack of cholera. The hard and tragic period of the life of this sensitive and talented child started since this time.

Now Hossein become the apprentice of Hossein Peikar-Negar who once was Molla Ali’s apprentice.



Behzād worked for him for twelve years developing his experience while making a living. He finally left Peikar-Negar in the age of 18, and opened a work shop of his own at Haji- Rahim Khan Caravanserai near Sabzeh Maidan.

At first Behzād followed the style of old masters like Kamaledin Behzād and Reza Abbasi. His works was so skill-fully that one could not tell the difference between his works and the old masters'. He got married to Azizeh Khanam in 1921, who gave birth to their only child, Parviz.

Behzād left for France in 1934, stayed in Paris for thir-teen months during which he surveyed various Eastern and Western painting styles in Louvre, Guimet and Versailles museums. The result of this trip was the invention of a new style in miniature art by Behzād. He states about this travel as;

My talent budded and I be-come aware of my ability, my fingers attained new sensation and pas-sion.

After his return from Paris, Behzād stopped imitating old masters works, while pursuing the miniature principles.

My study in various Iranian and foreign miniature styles aimed to create a new Iranian style conformed to the modern art. Miniature painting which had been turned to undesirable and unbecoming art, was grad-ually disappearing and I tried to bring a new style to save it from fall-ing into oblivion.

On the occasion of the Avicenna millennium in 1953, an exhibi-tion of Behzad's works was held at the Iran Bastan Museum which drew attention of Ori-entalist guests from 64 countries. Turkish miniaturist and the pro-fessor of medicine. Solheil An-var wrote in an article in Vatan newspaper published in Istanbul as;

Behzād, this great artist be-longs not only to Iran but also to the world. The French news-papers published many articles in praise of this Iranian artist.

The Iran Bastan exhibition was a big start for Behzād to win the fame worldwide. Following it, an exhibition of his works was held in Modern Art Museum in Paris by the French government and sever-al exhibitions in the Library of Congress of the United States was welcomed and praised by Americans.

Behzād trained some trainees during his productive artistic life, one of the most famous is engineer Mo-hammad Naseripour, who was his accompany and now is a miniaturist pursuing Behzad's style.

Mahmoud Farshchian (born January 24, 1930) is a world renowned master of Persian painting and miniatures. He was born in the city of Isfahan in Iran, a place famed for its art and artists, and it was here where he started to learn art, painting and sculpting.



Despite obstacles, the Great Wall of Gorgan could win UNESCO status, deputy tourism minister says



TEHRAN – Gaining a UNESCO tag for the Great Wall of Gorgan -- one of the longest brick barriers of the ancient world -- is not hard as it is comparable to the Great Wall of China in terms of age, function, and size, deputy tourism minister has said.

Situated in the city of Gorgan, the capital of northern Golestan province, the defensive wall is about 200 km in length and it was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes. It is said to be the longest architectural work of ancient Iran, which was built in 90 years.

Although there are some issues and obstacles, further efforts to preserve and restore the millennia-old wall could be an acceptable justification for UNESCO to add this structure to the World Heritage list, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian announced on Thursday.

To get to that point, complete and accurate mapping of the remnants of the wall is needed, for which a budget of 20 billion rials (\$476,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated so far, the official added.

However, considering the destruction of a large part of the Great Wall of Gorgan throughout history, there is no expectation of a complete recon-

struction and restoration of this historical monument, he explained.

He also noted that if the mapping project comes to an end by the end of the current Iranian year 1399 (March 20, 2021), the inscription of the wall on the World Heritage list will be discussed and possibly approved by the end of the next summer.

Also known as Red Wall, which in some ancient texts is referred to as the Red Snake, this wall is the longest brick ancient barrier between Central Europe and China, longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together and the third-largest wall in the world after the walls of China and Germany.

Most parts of the gigantic monument are still hidden underneath the surface through some segments have so far been unearthed and even restored to former glory.

Archaeological excavations have so far identified ditches, brick kilns, earthen dams, water canals, 38 forts, and watchtowers attached to the wall, and more than 25 castles in the southern margin of the wall as well as several ancient sites from prehistoric, historic, and Islamic eras.

The gigantic barrier is also more than three times the length of the longest late Roman defensive wall

built from scratch, the Anastasian Wall west of Constantinople. The combined area of the forts on the Gorgan Wall exceeds that of those on Hadrian's Wall about threefold.

According to UNESCO, the Gorgan Wall is remarkable not only in terms of its physical scale, but even more so in terms of its technical sophistication. To enable construction works, canals had to be dug along the course of the defensive barrier, to provide the water needed for brick production. These canals received their water from supplier canals, which bridged the Gorgan River via qanats. One of these, the Sadd-e Garkaz, survives to 700 m in length and 20 m in height but was originally almost one kilometer long.

The Gorgan Wall and its associated ancient military monuments provide a unique testimony to the engineering skills and military organization of the Sassanian Empire. They help to explain its geographic extent, from Mesopotamia to the west of the Indian Subcontinent, and how effective border defense contributed to the Empire's prosperity in the interior and its longevity.

These monuments are, in terms of their scale, historical importance, and sophistication, of global significance.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

By Mehdi Garshasbi

Old trees in Khorasan Razavi made national heritage

TEHRAN – A total of eight old trees across the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list. A juniper and four plane trees, which stand in the city of Neishabur, as well as an old plane and two cypress trees in Gona-bad make up the entire list, IRNA reported on Friday.

Plane trees have always been symbols of fertility and greenery of nature in the ancient Iranian culture, which has the idea that such trees could prevent the spread of fever and infectious diseases. They have been mostly planted in sacred areas such as churches and holy shrines. Juniper is a very valuable and long-lasting species that grows in mountainous and high areas and has a special place in the legends and myths of Iranian people. It has long been a symbol of immortality in Iranian culture and it can be seen in historical Iranian miniatures.

The evergreen tree of cypress has been presented as an out-standing tree in the world. For being always green Zoroastrians believe that the tree has always had significant importance. A selection of nine Iranian gardens, which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, have been collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden." The genuine concept of the Persian Gar-



den that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

The UNESCO website asserts that the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

The road to Biden's foreign policy runs through Senator Menendez: Politico



TEHRAN- Bob Menendez, the powerful chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will not let Biden repeat Obama's mistakes, according to Politico.

Since Joe Biden has taken office, his administration has bombed Syria, imposed sanctions on Saudi Arabia and Myanmar, and taken steps to rejoin the Iran nuclear deal. But if Biden thinks he can make foreign policy decisions without consulting Robert Menendez, he's got another thing coming.

Menendez has been in this role before, and he criticized the way the Obama administration conducted international affairs. In Menendez's view, Obama treated foreign policy as if it were the sole discretion of the White House. Consequently, he often made things more difficult for Obama, especially in areas that needed congressional approval.

The 67-year-old third-term senator and former longtime House member told Politico that he was often frustrated by Obama, who would simply notify Congress of his decisions rather than consult with lawmakers in advance. Finally, Menendez came down on opposite sides of the White House

on several issues, including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the common name for the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"Beyond the realities of a 50-50 Senate, when we talk about foreign policy, whenever we can get a bipartisan basis for something — maybe not absolute, 100 members — we are stronger in the world," Menendez (D-N.J.) said in an interview. "And I believe President Biden believes that."

Politico acknowledged the White House is off to a

rough start and said, "Menendez quickly registered his dissatisfaction last week when the Biden team did not give him a heads up about the president's retaliatory strikes against Iranian installations in Syria; and he and other Democrats are already calling for more severe punishments against Saudi Arabia after a U.S. intelligence report officially pinned the blame for journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder on the kingdom's crown prince and de facto leader, Mohammed bin Salman."

In a statement, Menendez stressed, "I am hopeful it is only a first step and that the administration plans to take concrete measures holding Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman personally responsible for his role in this heinous crime."

Politico reminded it is critical for Biden's foreign policy to keep Menendez in the loop and wrote, "It's not surprising, then, that there is an ongoing White House campaign to curry favor with Menendez, who hasn't been afraid to break with his party and has a history of making matters difficult for presidents who try to strong-arm Congress."

“That makes all the difference in the world,” Menendez said. “It doesn’t mean that we’re going to agree 100 percent of the time. But it does mean that we will understand each other, where we’re coming from — and more likely than not, we will agree.”

The American publication admitted the hawkish Menendez and the Biden administration disagree on a handful of key areas including the Iran nuclear deal, U.S. relations with Cuba, the use of U.S. military force overseas, and what to do in regard to Nicolas Maduro, the Venezuelan president.

Generally, Menendez opposes negotiations or deals that seem to give any concessions to them. He likely won’t take it easy on the Biden team, many of whose members served under Obama, as they try to revive agreements like the Iran deal, or reestablish ties with Cuba — relationships that were damaged under former President Donald Trump. He’ll also insist on greater congressional say if and when the United States uses military force in abroad.

The Biden team is “right to want to have a good relationship with him. They’re going to agree with him on a lot of things,” said Ben Rhodes, who served as a key force behind diplomatic openings with Cuba and Iran during the Obama years.

“But at a certain point, there’s a Senate view and an administration view, and unless you want [Menendez] to be in charge of your Cuba policy, your Venezuela policy or your Iran policy, you’re likely going to reach a point where you have to have a difficult conversation,” Rhodes remarked.

During the new administration, Menendez told Politico that Biden’s team is already discarding the Obama model — which he asserted did not always value Congress’ role in determining U.S. foreign policy — and instead of working closely with the Senate to coordinate and seek input.

Nevertheless, Politico emphasized senators have reasons to be optimistic because Biden is a former chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken is the former staff director for the panel.

“You haven’t had an administration as populated with people who understand the role of the Senate, and also how helpful the Senate can be,” said Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee who is close with Menendez. “I think they have a huge opportunity with Bob as the chair, given who the players are in the administration, to really have a very good working relationship.”

However, Kaine has been among the outspoken critics of Biden’s airstrikes in Syria last week, insisting that the president should have had authorization from Congress. Kaine is seeking for years to scrap the 2001 and 2002 war authorizations that presidents from both parties have used to justify U.S. military activity in West Asia.

Biden’s top deputies, apparently eager to not repeat the perceived mistakes of the Obama administration, are already working to keep Menendez happy, the American publication wrote.

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, described Menendez “a sounding board, a source of advice, and a leading voice on the most important national security issues of our time. My team and I are making it a personal priority to reach out and engage regularly with him and his team, and we will continue to do so.”

Also, Blinken promised similar engagement, saying Menendez “has proven himself to be both principled and effective.”

“Menendez’s allies say the Biden administration would cross him at its own peril — especially when Biden is looking for lawmakers’ support for a major foreign policy initiative. Menendez’s penchant for working closely with Republicans can be an asset to an administration that came into office emphasizing bipartisanship. And in a 50-50 Senate, every vote counts,” Politico wrote.

“I would encourage the Biden administration to pick his brain because if Bob can get onto something, Republicans are going to take it seriously,” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) underlined.

Pointing to Menendez’s promise to conduct vigorous oversight of the Biden administration’s foreign policy, the American publication wrote, “Something that was sorely lacking under former President Donald Trump, whose administration routinely flouted Congress, ignored the law, and was openly hostile to both Democrats and Republicans.”

“When things aren’t going as well as they should, don’t expect Sen. Menendez to lay back. I expect he’ll be pretty aggressive,” said Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), the second-highest-ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

It pointed out U.S. presidents have long tried to blunt efforts by Congress to disable the executive branch and underscored, “Cardin experienced that hostility first-hand when he led the charge in 2012 for the Magnitsky Act, which imposed sanctions on Russian human rights violators. Obama ultimately signed the bill into law, but Cardin said his

White House was “hostile toward Congress” because lawmakers were seeking to address an issue that was traditionally controlled by the executive branch.

“There’s been, historically, under-performance by every administration on dealing with Congress. There is a view that they can do this without us,” Cardin noted.

Politico reminded Obama aides were worrying that Menendez would draw red lines that would box in their options and said, “Menendez, in particular, is loath to appear soft on governments like Cuba and Iran.”

It argued even if the Biden administration keeps Menendez looped into his satisfaction, he may ultimately disagree with some of their initiatives.

“I think it is important to include [us], as long as people are engaged in good faith, not just in being obstructionists at the end of the day,” Menendez asserted.

The Obama administration agreed that keeping Menendez engaged early on was significant. It believed everyone understands the consequences of a Senate split 50-50 between the two parties. Menendez won’t want to be seen as a politician who hurt Democratic Party.

Menendez thought that the Obama administration did not consult enough with him forehand of adopting key foreign policy approaches and said, “They didn’t consult enough on the Iran deal. They just didn’t,” said a person close to Menendez. “They knew it was his No. 1 issue.”

EE/PA

Dollar depreciation may continue in 2021 too: Steve Hanke

Tehran (ISNA) – Janet Yellen will be the next secretary of treasury. According to some reports, the first woman in this position in the American histo-



ry won’t seek a weaker dollar.

For further discussing the economic situation in the coming months, we’d asked professor Hanke for a commentary.

Steve Hanke is a Professor of Applied Economics at Johns Hopkins University and a former member of President Reagan’s Council of Economic Advisers.

The main priorities of Yellen in her new role

According to professor Hanke, Yellen’s main priority appears to be rationalizing the massive increase in government expenditures. Asked about whether he thinks that the dollar’s depreciation trend will

be continued in 2021 too?, Hanke said, “Yes, probably”.

President Biden unveils new \$ 1.9 trillion economic relief package but would it be enough to revive the U.S economy?

According to Professor Hanke, The \$1.9 trillion package will not stimulate the economy but probably slow it down. It’s filled with waste, fraud, and abuse.

The package includes more than \$400 billion to combat the pandemic directly, including money to accelerate vaccine deployment and to safely reopen most schools within 100 days. Another \$350 billion would help state and local governments’ bridge budget shortfalls, while the plan would also include \$1,400 direct payments to individuals, more generous unemployment benefits, federally mandated paid leave for workers and large subsidies for child care costs.

When the dollar is likely to move downward, then the question will be: which currencies will be the best-performing ones in 2021?

According to professor Hanke, for the last 120 years, the Swiss franc has been the world’s best performing currency. It will be strong again in 2021. The Senate Finance Committee on Friday approved of President Joe Biden’s move to name Yellen as Treasury secretary.

Why Joe Biden Might Not Find It So Easy to Reboot the Iran Deal

Iran will likely hold out for terms at least as favorable as those it negotiated in 2015.

by Dov S. Zakheim

President Hassan Rouhani is unlikely to be elected when Iranians go to the polls in the spring. Turnout was low in the most recent parliamentary election, with only 43 percent of the electorate arriving at the polls, and is likely to be low again. The lower the turnout, the stronger the chances that a hardliner closely associated with the Revolutionary Guard Corps will be the winner. And that will complicate the Biden Administration's plans to somehow revive and rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), better known as the Iran nuclear agreement.

The Obama Administration, and John Kerry's State Department in particular, was far too eager to consummate the original deal with Iran. The Iranians were able to obtain concessions in terms of the scope of the deal—no reference to Tehran's malign activities in the region, no reference to its missile program—and to its duration. Indeed, the notion that the deal was somehow a great accomplishment because it delayed the time frame within which Iran could fashion a nuclear weapon from what was expected to be a few months to an estimated year was fanciful at best. On the one hand, a year can pass very quickly, and the difference of a few months might prove to be no difference at all, given uncertainties surrounding what exactly Tehran was up to, and the reluctance of the West to go to war. On the other hand, were the West truly able to detect Iranian activity, it could do so within the few months it would take Iran to build a bomb in defiance of the JCPOA.

Nevertheless, despite its flaws, once the agreement was reached, the United

States was duty bound to adhere to it. Every time America backs out of its commitments, it undermines its credibility as a reliable interlocutor. It was for that reason that many who opposed the deal felt that once America signed the agreement it should not withdraw from it.

Having abandoned the JCPOA, returning to it is, however, an entirely different proposition. Precisely because Iran is likely to be led by a hardliner and has already demonstrated that it can enrich uranium to 20 percent, Tehran now has the ability to build a nuclear weapon in about six months. As a result, Iran has far less of an incentive to limit itself just because Washington had a change of heart. Moreover, Tehran has also demonstrated that it would not capitulate even under the pressure of ever-tighter sanctions and an economy that is buckling under their weight. Finally, the IRGC values what it considers to be the nation's security over economic issues, and in any event, has a stranglehold over the economy, meaning that its members are suffering relatively less than ordinary Iranians. For all of these reasons, Iran will likely hold out for terms at least as favorable as those it



negotiated in 2015, namely, that there be no reference to regional issues, no reference to missile development, and that agreement's sunset clauses be no more onerous than those in the original agreement.

The Biden Administration, for its part, must be wary of making any gestures that the Ayatollahs could pocket without giving anything in return. Washington should not do away with any sanctions unless Iran reciprocates in some fashion. That Tehran could do, for example, by withdrawing support for the Houthis in Yemen. Doing so would be a low-cost gesture for Iran, unlike, say withdrawing its support for Hezbollah, but would create the prospect of some relief for that embattled country and for a longer-term end to its brutal civil war. Iran could also begin to cut back its support for Iraqi militias. These militias have undermined the ability of the Baghdad government to put the country back on its economic and social feet. Iraq poses no threat to Iran, and its previously downtrodden Shi'a population holds sway over the government.

Withdrawing support for the militias would not in any way endanger Tehran's security.

The list of sanctions against Iran is a very long one. Scaling those sanctions back on a gradual basis, as long as Tehran reciprocates in turn, may ultimately lead to the two sides agreeing to and adopting a new updated version of the JCPOA. Whether a hardline Iranian government will be willing to go that far is, of course very much an open question, and it therefore is one about which the Biden negotiating team should have no illusions as it seeks to reach some degree of accommodation with the Tehran regime.

Dov S. Zakheim served as the undersecretary of defense (comptroller) and chief financial officer for the U.S. Department of Defense from 2001–2004 and as the deputy undersecretary of defense (planning and resources) from 1985–1987. He also served as the DoD's civilian coordinator for Afghan reconstruction from 2002–2004. He is vice chairman of the Center for the National Interest.

Museum dedicated to handmade jewelry inaugurated in Kerman

TEHRAN – A museum of gold and jewelry was inaugurated in Qeisarieh Ebrahim historical complex in southeastern Kerman province, IRNA reported on Thursday. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan and Venezuelan Tourism Minister Alí Padrón Paredes, who was making a one-day visit to the province, as well as a number of the cultural and tourism officials. Established by the private sector, the museum is aimed to feature the process of making gold and silver jewelry in different historical eras, the provincial tourism chief, Fereydun Fa'ali, said.

There are a few jewel museums across the country, of which Treasury of the National Jewels, commonly known as the 'Jewels Museum' is the most famous. Located in Tehran and owned by the Central Bank of Iran, the museum is a collection of the most expensive jewels of the world, collected over centuries. Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending vari-



ous regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas. Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

Scholar says it's not clear Biden can Overcome polarization soon

There will certainly be major changes in both domestic and foreign policy. The Democratic Party and the Trump-led Republican Party are ideologically polarized. 1. Domestic policy under Biden and the Democratic Congress will involve far greater spending and a focus on helping minorities and women. 2. Foreign policy will be far more oriented toward multilateral diplomacy. 3. The conduct of executive branch government will be led by people with experience and expertise, rather than amateurs whose major qualification is unquestioning support for the president. Trump was a remarkably unusual president in his personality and lack of any prior political experience. His election in 2016 should not be seen as representing any long-standing characteristics of the American people. It was an act of desperation amid rising inequality and hopelessness, and Hillary Clinton's heavy-handed defeat of Bernie Sanders for the party's nomination. Some believe that the recent presidential election and its aftermath left a deep rift in U.S. domestic political scene. What is your opinion? Hard to deny that. Since the Civil War of 1861-65, the two parties have not been so polarized. That is a very unfortunate situation. It is not clear that President Biden can overcome the polarization any time soon, though the American people very much hope for that.

There are ways that the Biden administration could attempt such reconciliation—like adopting some version of the policies that both Trump and social-democrat Bernie Sanders supported (abandonment of trade treaties promoting the interests of large global corporations, restraining illegal migration seen as costing American jobs, and abandoning regime-change wars backed by previous Republican and Democratic governments). Some attempt to reform rather chaotic local vote-counting processes to increase public confidence in election outcomes would help, too. The Democratic Party beginning with Bill Clinton had drastically changed the party's orientation toward labor, and Biden seems inclined to remedy that, as well as to be somewhat more protective of American industrial jobs. However, his encouragement of large-scale immigration is a policy position increasingly controversial in most Western democracies, seen as a threat to both labor and

cultural values (and more recently, to the spread of Covid19). Democrats' efforts to impeach Trump for the second time failed. What are the messages and implications of this failure? One clear message is that the majority of Congress members supported a guilty verdict, but the constitutional process required a 2/3 vote in the Senate. And the legal battle to punish Trump (and those who stormed Congress) for a variety of actions is continuing. Hundreds of Congress invaders will be found guilty, and Trump is forever tainted in the minds of the American majority. There is, and will be increased local and national government attention to the dangers posed by extremist groups, and great social pressure by communities and families of the extremists who invaded Congress. How may the domestic struggle and division ultimately affect the performance of the Biden administration's foreign policy? Domestic struggles will encourage continued moves to protect American jobs in trade policy, and to peacefully constrain China's economic and military power. Skepticism about the friendly policy of both Republican and Democratic parties toward Saudi Arabia has been in evidence for years. And a solid majority of Americans back a return to the Trump-blocked international agreement with Iran, and avoidance of conflict in the Middle East (West Asia). Some claim that the bipartisan (two-party) system is outdated and the U.S. needs a third solution as Democrats and Republicans have failed to tackle the deep-rooted challenges in the country. What is your comment? Well, we've had a two-party system for over 200 years. I can't imagine that changing. Of course, within both parties, there can be discontent and support for change. The Republicans now face the greatest challenge...to secure a majority without the extremely divisive Donald Trump. Democratic politics is inventive. Eventually, the GOP will come up with a non-Trump strategy. A few pundits predict that it will evolve from its long-term orientation as the Party of Capital toward being the Party of the Working Class (and not just the white working-class). Predictions in an established democracy are not easy. But I think most American political historians are confident that democracy will survive. Because the people want it to.

Mother tongue is the soul of life



TEHRAN - International Mother Language Day is celebrated each year on February 21. It is a source of inspiration to build multicultural and inclusive societies where people of all races, faiths, languages, and cultures get respect and can live with dignity.

The United Nations General Assembly has called upon member states "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world".

The day recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goal's focus on leaving no one behind. UNESCO believes education, based on the first language or mother tongue, must begin from the early years as early childhood care and education is the foundation of learning.

This year's observance is a call on policymakers, educators and teachers, parents, and families to scale up their commitment to multilingual education, and inclusion in education to advance education recovery in the context of COVID-19.

Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education, and development, are of strategic importance for people and the planet. Yet, due to globalization processes, they are increasingly under threat of

disappearing altogether. When languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity. Opportunities, traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking and expression — valuable resources for ensuring a better future — are also lost.

It is said that 43 percent of the estimated 6,000 languages spoken in the world are endangered.

Multilingual and multicultural societies exist through their languages which transmit and preserve traditional knowledge and cultures in a sustainable way.

Today there is growing awareness that languages play a vital role in development, in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, but also in strengthening co-operation and attaining quality education for all, in building inclusive knowledge societies and preserving cultural heritage, and in mobilizing political will for applying the benefits of science and technology to sustainable development.

Learning more languages is useful as it offers more windows to the world besides enabling cross-cultural understanding, peace, and harmony. However, it can't be achieved without a strong foundation in one's own first language. Mother tongue is the soul of life.

By Mehdi Garshasbi

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Konam Zar Co.: Foodstuff, M.D.: Ahmad Ali Kiani-an, Address: Postal Code: 1454955671, Fifth floor, No. 594, Kourosh Alley, Satarkhan St., Tehran, Email: kiani-ana@yahoo.com.

Khobregane Tejarate Pars Co.: Commerce, M.D.: Hadi Movarekh, Address: Postal Code: 1939813953, Flat No. 617, Forth Floor, No. 1, Opposite of Beneton, Dolat & Kaveh Bulevard Intersection, Pasdaran, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88538414, Fax: +98 (21) 89777748 .

Kimiya Gostar Ara Co.: Energy Industry, Renewable Energy, Electrical Cars, Oil & Gas, M.D.: Mohammad Hamed Emam Jomeh Zadeh, Address: Postal Code: 1585944611, No. 11, Dey Alley, North Kheradmand St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88315100, Fax: +98 (21) 88822947 .

Rayanoosh Soft Drink Co.: Producing different types of Beverage, M.D.: Mahmoud Zare, Address: Postal Code 7373111328, 50 kilometer of Shiraz-Isfahan Road, Shiraz ,Fax: +98 (713) 6249197, Email:mahmoud.berantin@gmail.com.

Ruby Desert Co.: Nuts & Dried Fruit, M.D.: Mehran Parsian Far, Address: Flat No. 12, No. 20, Golshahr Bulevard, Jordan St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 26209763, Fax: +98 (21) 89774154, Email: parsian@rubidesert.com.

Kondor Sanat Partian Ind. Group: Producing Wellhead Equipment, M.D.: Homayoon Jahan

Bakhsh Esferjani, Address: Flat No. 10, No. 94, Ghafari St., Fajr St., Motahari St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88492628, Fax: +98 (21) 88492582, Email: jahanbakhsh@ksp-ig.com .

Mohandesi Bonyan Mostahkam Khavarmianeh Co.: Engineering, M.D.: Masoumeh Roshankar, Address: Postal Code: 1433873943, Flat No.1, Third Floor, No.83, Ebn-e-Sina St., Yousef Abad St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88104701, Fax: +98 (21) 88104702.

Arian Economic Development Co.: Stock Exchange, Production, Commerce, Petrochemicals, Machinery, M.D.: Seyed Javad Ahmadinejzd, Address: Postal Code: 1517886134, Sixth Floor, No.15, Panzdahom St., Gandi St., Tel: +98 (21) 41624615, Fax: +98 (21) 88856196, Email: info@arianco.ir .

Sepandan Tarabar Atieh Co.: Shipping Agency, M.D.: Mohsen Bahrami, Address: Postal Code: 1533863746, Flat Co.5, No. 4, Rahbar Alley, Khoramshahr St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88769608, Fax: +98 (21) 88764858, Email: info@sta-co.com .

Jam Maral Gharn Co.: Cosmetic Products & Perfumes, M.D.: Ali Parvivarzeshani, Address: Postal Code: No. 123 & 124, West Sadi Bulevard, Abureyhan Industrial City, Eshtehard, Tel: +98 (21) 44707779-80, Fax: +98 (26) 37779681.

Mehr AB Poouyesh Consulting Engineers Co.: Distilled and Drinking Water, M.D.: Farshid Bandi, Address: Postal Code: 1584715319, Building No. 17, No. 55, Shahid Mousa Kalantary St., Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Zand, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 86073152, Fax: +98 (21) 88834609, Email: f.bandi@cembraneiran.com.

Key Economic Indicators in 1399, Q1

Population and Labor Force

Population (1399)	84.0 million
Urban	63.4 million
Rural ¹	20.6 million
Population Growth	1.2 percent
Population Density	51.0 per sq km
Active Population (1399, Q1)	25.5 million
Unemployment Rate (1399, Q1)	9.8 percent
Urban	10.7 percent
Rural	7.3 percent
Male	9.0 percent
Female	13.7 percent
18-35 years old	16.7 percent
15-24 years old	24.5 percent

Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

¹ Includes non-resident population.

External Sector (million US\$)

Current Account Balance	-622
Trade Balance (goods account)	-212
Exports (FOB)	8,938
Imports (FOB)	9,150
Total External Debt (end of period)	8,655
Exchange Rate (US\$/IRR)	42,000

Monetary Sector (growth rate, percent) (Khordad 1399 compared with Esfand 1398)

Liquidity (M2)	7.5
Money (M1)	17.5
Quasi-money	5.4
Non-public Sector Deposits	7.8

Real Sector

GDP Growth (1390=100)	
Oil	-2.8 percent
Non-oil	-0.6 percent
Performance of 1399, Q1 (current prices, trillion Rls.)	
GDP (at basic price)	6,226
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	1,363
Private Consumption Expenditures	3,555
Public Consumption Expenditures	691

Tehran Stock Exchange

Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEPIX)	
(end of period)	1,270,627.0
Value of Shares and Rights Traded	Rls. 5,049.3 trillion
Number of Shares and Rights Traded	488.7 billion

Source: Central Bank