

**Key Biden adviser slams 'sheer hypocrisy' to extend Iran arms embargo** **2**

**Railway fleet receives 56 new domestically-made wagons, locomotives** **4**

**Iran denies Andrea Stramaccioni link** **11**

**Santur virtuoso Puya Sarai remakes Shajarian's "Rabbana"** **12**



## Iran to build houses on Persian Gulf islands

© IRNA

**ARTICLE**  
**Mahdi Garshasbi**  
Tehran Times journalist

### Persian Gulf, the eternal heritage of ancient Iran

Tenth of the second Iranian calendar month Ordibehesht (April 29) marks the National Persian Gulf Day, which is the anniversary of the victory over Portuguese troops during a war in the Persian Gulf in 1622.

The occasion commemorates the exit of colonial and foreign forces from the strategic waterway.

The Persian Gulf and its equivalent in different languages has been used continuously since 2,500 years ago in all languages and all over the world, especially in the Arab world.

Geography, as the most ancient human knowledge is an applied science which has different aspects. It studies the reciprocal relation of man and nature and provides the results to the users in the form of documents in writing, books and maps.

The name of a feature cannot be observed on the land like the feature itself. Thus, by mentioning the case on maps, Atlases, and books, it will be protected during different eras as a part of historical, cultural identity and saved as human's heritage.

For the same reason, any change, destruction, or alteration of the names registered in historical deeds and maps is like the destruction of ancient works and is considered as an improper action.

The Persian Gulf is located in the southwest of the Asian Continent on the south side of the vast country of Iran, with a length of 1,259 kilometers.

During all the centuries, and at least during the past 2,500 years, i.e. as of the time of the powerful Pars Empire there has never been seen such a unanimity in the West Asia among writers and historians on one name during history, according to the Persian Gulf Studies Center.

#### ■ Persian Gulf in historical documents

No written deed has remained since the era before the Pars Empire, but in the oral history and culture, the Iranians have called the southern waters: Jam Sea, Iran Sea, Pars Sea.

In the travel account of Pythagoras, several chapters are related to description of his travels accompanied by Darioush, a king of Achaemenid, to Shoush and Perspolis, and the area is described. **->9**

### JCPOA parties unlikely to accept U.S. argument to extend arms embargo on Iran: Pillar

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Paul Pillar, who was CIA intelligence analyst for 28 years, says the Trump administration is arguing that it is still a party to the JCPOA even though it has grossly violated its obligations under the agreement.

Pillar says, "Indeed, previous declarations by the administration have been nothing short of a complete renunciation of the JCPOA. Other parties to the agreement, especially Russia and China, are unlikely to accept the U.S. argument."

"Other members of the Council realize that it was the United States under the Trump administration that violated the JCPOA and went

directly against Security Council Resolution 2231, which is the formal international endorsement of the JCPOA," Pillar tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ The United States is working to extend arms sanctions on Iran in the UN Security Council. Given that the United States has violated and withdrawn from the JCPOA, can it legally make such a request?

A: As a permanent member of the Security Council, the United States can make requests for Council action on all sorts of things. The legality of the request is not really the issue. Other members of the Council realize that it was the United States under the Trump administration that violated the JCPOA and went

See page 2

### Iranian scientist contracts coronavirus in U.S. jail

TEHRAN — An Iranian scientist imprisoned in the United States has contracted the novel coronavirus, according to his family and attorneys.

Dr. Sirous Asgari, who has been pleading for weeks to be released from a U.S. immigration jail due to health problems, is in an isolation cell inside an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) jail in Louisiana.

Asgari's lawyers learned on Tuesday

that his COVID-19 test was positive, and in a phone call with The Guardian, Asgari had a bad cough and said he had had a fever for days.

He and his family are calling for his release to a medical facility where he can receive proper care.

"It makes sense to send me to the hospital as soon as possible. I don't trust them at all," the 59-year-old said on Tuesday amid repeated coughing fits. **->3**

### Bank loans to economic sectors up 26% in a year

TEHRAN — Iranian banking system has paid 9.749 quadrillion rials (over \$232 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), registering a 26-percent rise from its preceding year, IRNA reported.

According to the data provided by Central Bank of Iran (CBI), working

capital loans paid to different economic sectors were above 5.261 quadrillion rials (about \$125.26 billion) accounting for 54 percent of the total provided facilities in the said period.

As reported, the total working capital loans provided in the mentioned period increased by 21.8 percent compared to the figure for the preceding year 1397. **->4**

### Coronavirus: grave of Parthian warrior accidentally unearthed in Iran

TEHRAN — An ancient tomb chamber has recently been discovered in a graveyard near Sari, northern Iran, as an excavator was digging down quite deep to entomb a coronavirus victim, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Excavation at the grave yielded remains of a human skeleton, vestiges of a pottery vessel, an iron dagger, a quiver, and a piece of iron object, which is believed to be [piece of] a weaponry.

"Considering the type of construction of

the dagger and a three-sided arrow found in the grave, it seems that it belongs to the Parthian soldier," the news agency quoted an expert as saying.

Two years ago, a necklace and a bronze ring were discovered in the cemetery, which dates back to about 3,500 to 5,000 years ago, the report added.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. **->8**

**ARTICLE**  
**Morteza Rahmani**  
Journalist

### Persian Gulf: From rich history to security depth

Iran is celebrating the Persian Gulf National Day, which marks the anniversary of the expulsion of colonial and foreign forces from the strategic water body in 1622.

The 10th day of Ordibehesht — the second month on the Iranian calendar, which fell on April 29 this year — has been designated as the Persian Gulf National Day to commemorate not only the historical victory of the Iranian forces against the trespassers in the southern waters but also to remind all that the true name of the Persian Gulf will remain so forever.

The Persian Gulf has always been a source of pride and honor for Iranians. For thousands of years, people of Iran have lived alongside the Persian Gulf and have enjoyed its endless benefits.

In addition to having vast resources of energy and economic significance, the Persian Gulf has an ancient and unique history and culture that can be seen in the people who lived by it.

The rare cultural and artistic identity of the neighboring regions of the Persian Gulf is a category that entails a true strive to preserve and promote until it passes on this ancient culture to the next generations.

#### ■ History

The southern Iranian gulf has been referred by historians and ancient texts as "Persian" since the Achaemenid Empire was established (550 BC) in what is now modern-day Iran.

According to the book "Documents on the Persian Gulf's Name, the Eternal Heritage of Ancient Time," the term Persian Gulf and its equivalents have been used continuously since earlier than 400 BC in all languages, especially in the Arabic language.

On almost all maps printed before 1960, and in most modern international treaties, documents and maps, this body of water is known by the name "Persian Gulf."

Persia is the historic name for Iran. However, since the mid-19th century, some Arab-speaking countries, along with their western allies, have been trying to change the historical name of the Persian Gulf in the mass media but Iran has attributed such efforts as politically motivated which will be of no avail. **->7**

### Iranian windmills one step closer to UNESCO status

TEHRAN — Iran is further moving towards inscribing its ancient windmills on the UNESCO World Heritage list as the country has recently completed their documentation as a preliminary stage.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has almost completed preparations for a chain of ancient vertical-axis windmills for possibly becoming a UNESCO World Heritage. Vertical-axis windmills, which are locally known as "Asbads" can be found in Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces, southeast, south, and northeast of the country, respectively.

"[A select of] Asbads that are scattered in Nashtifan region of Khaf county [in Razavi Khorasan province] has been documented and mapped for being inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage list," CHTN quote Mohammad Rokni,

the director of Asbad cultural heritage sites of Iran, as saying on Tuesday.

The magnificent collection is composed of 30 Asbads located in the historical core of Khaf county, the official said.

"Documentation and mapping work has been carried out by a group of six people specializing in mapping and restoration of historical buildings and structures."

"Documentation and mapping of Khaf Asbads include various architectural plans, cross-section geometry, and perspectives of 30 Asbad devices, their photogrammetric photographs, their ownership documents, and determining proper points for the mapping projects," Rokni explained.

The official also reminded: "All the documenting and mapping stages have been carried out based on the UNESCO standards and criteria."

directly against Security Council Resolution 2231, which is the formal international endorsement of the JCPOA. For that and other reasons, the Trump administration can expect substantial resistance to its attempt to extend the arms embargo.

■ The United States, despite violating the JCPOA, is set to establish itself as a participant in the agreement. Why is the United States looking for this?

A: The Trump administration has been using every means possible to put every form of pressure it can on Iran. It argues that it still should be considered a participant in the JCPOA so that it can use the "snapback" mechanism the agreement established to restore sanctions on Iran that had previously been lifted. **->2**

Briefing on the windmills and their stances, the official noted there are 107 Asbads within Khaf county, of which 36 located in Nashtifan, and six of them are still operational producing flour.

Iran plans to register a wide collection of its Asbads that are located in the three eastern provinces.

Asbad used to be a smart technique to grind grains. It also bears testimony to the human being's adaption with nature by transforming environmental obstacles into opportunities.

"Asbad is a smart technique to grind grains, a technique which goes back to ancient times when the people living in the eastern parts of Iran, in an attempt to adapt themselves with the nature and transform environmental obstacles into opportunities, managed to invent it," according to UNESCO website. **->8**



© IRNA / Behrouz Shahraki

### Precipitation brings Hamoun wetland back to life

After two decades of dryness, enough rains have finally come to bring Hamoun wetland back to life in southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, reviving agriculture in the region as well.

The Hamoun Biosphere Reserve includes both terrestrial and wetland ecosystems encompassing a total of seven habitat types, including desert and semi-desert areas, as well as Hamoun Lake, with its marshlands and watersheds. The three wetlands of the biosphere reserve are the most important in the region. The area is also a hotspot for migratory birds (183 species) and home to 30 mammal species and 55 plant species.