



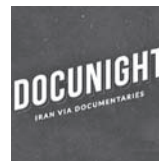
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# Guterres report is flawed

©File photo



**ARTICLE**  
**Greta Berlin**  
A co-founder of  
"Free Gaza Movement"

June 6, 1976.....

Where did the years go? And why has life become worse for the Palestinians? America is one month short of celebrating 200 years of independence and Palestinians are nine years into Israel occupying the rest of their land. I sit at my window seat in Chicago on a sunny June afternoon and remember the day I became a Palestinian.

It was 1967, the six-day war, begun on June 6 ended ignominiously for the Arabs on June 12. Of course, it took years for the truth to come out that one of the reasons they suffered such a terrible setback to their pride, their military might, and their dreams of a unified Arab world was because Israel struck first. To hear stories when it happened, Israel just reacted to the bullying Egyptians. Bullshit. No one defensively knocks out an entire air force in minutes. No, that's an offensive move. Those damned Israelis struck first.

I went to bed the night of June 5 a middle-class, young, high-school English teacher, with a three-year-old and a six-month-old, happy to be married to the Arab myth of my childhood, a man who literally came out of nowhere on a white horse (OK, OK, so it was a Chicago city bus, but I thought he rode in on a white horse) and swept me away to his tent (OK, it wasn't a tent either). I had been raised reading 1001 Nights and Scheherazade. Maybe I'll become the Scheherazade for the Palestinians one day, telling his stories of fighting and being a Nakba survivor, because I know he won't.

Ribhi had become my teacher, small-town girl that I was, correcting my ignorance about the Middle East with stories of the 1948 war with the Jews, where he fought as a 19-year-old kid, hopelessly trying to save his family's home in Safad.

I listened carefully to his stories of that tragedy. After all, I had gone to see "Exodus", and, like many Americans, thought that the noble European Jews were fighting these terrible people for a "Land without people for a people without land," as Theodore Herzl, the father of Zionism, spouted.

Boy, was I surprised to find out that there were a considerable number of people already there called Palestinians. I remember asking him during the first months we dated: **→7**

## Biden would seek to reenter JCPOA: Woodrow Wilson researcher

By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — A research assistant at the National Security Archive and Woodrow Wilson International Center is of the opinion that if Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden wins the November elections, he will continue pressuring Beijing to contain China but he would seek rejoining the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

However, Sina Azodi tells the Tehran Times, the Trump administration "has engaged in a 'scorched earth' policy to destroy the JCPOA completely."

Following is the text of the interview with Azodi:

■ What is your analysis of Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as he is facing reelection in November?

A: In terms of Trump's performance one should note that Trump initially called it a hoax and disregarded the intelligence warnings about the virus. He then shifted course and tried to tackle the virus. However, in an elections year, the performance of economy is a major player and a great factor on the voters' decisions. With the number of unemployment rising and economy in a "coma", Trump naturally is pushing to get the economy back and running again. Meanwhile, Biden will try to use Trump's weak performance to his own benefit. At this stage, even small things such as wearing the mask has become political. Trump recently mocked Biden for wearing a mask in public - while his chief health officials have repeatedly stated that wearing masks is essential. **→2**

## Bolton rips Trump: 'Getting reelected was the only thing that mattered'

Donald Trump repeatedly endangered national security — and committed a series of potentially impeachable offenses — to boost his reelection prospects, former national security adviser John Bolton argues in a forthcoming White House memoir.

Bolton writes that the House should have broadened its impeachment inquiry to other areas of his foreign policy, contending that he can document — and identify witnesses to — "Ukraine-like transgressions ... across the full range of his foreign policy," according to a de-

scription by Simon & Schuster released Friday.

Despite his swipe at the House, Bolton famously refused to cooperate with House investigators as they pursued allegations that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate his Democratic adversaries.

Per the publisher, Bolton's book, "The Room Where It Happened," not only covers "chaos in the White House," but also "assessments of major players, the president's inconsistent, scattershot decision-making process, and his dealings with allies and enemies alike."

## George Floyd protesters hit streets across U.S. for third weekend

By staff & agencies

Demonstrators demanding justice after the death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer took to the streets in cities across the U.S. as protests entered their third weekend.

In New York City, demonstrators took a knee Friday afternoon in Union Square Park. Not long afterward, two City Council leaders unveiled a plan that would cut \$1 billion from the New York Police Department's budget through officer attrition, overtime cost reductions and shifting some department responsibilities to other agencies, NBC News reported.

Demonstrators Friday night marched on the Williamsburg Bridge, shutting down traffic headed to Manhattan, city officials tweeted. In Seattle, hundreds of people organized by the local chapter of Black Lives Matter moved from park to park as they participated in a "March of Silence" for racial justice.

In Baltimore, demonstrators marched downtown, where "DEFUND POLICE" was painted in white capital letters on the street in front of City Hall.

Protesters painted "BLACK LIVES MATTER" on a street leading to San Francisco City Hall, NBC Bay Area reported. Demonstrations were scheduled for San Francisco and in the cities of Oakland, Alameda and East Palo Alto.

In Miami, authorities closed Interstate 95 in anticipation of a large demonstration downtown. Police advised non-essential businesses in the area to close their doors.

An estimated 50 people protested outside the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters Friday afternoon, said Officer Tony Im.

Demonstrators in Nashville, Tennessee, occupied a civic plaza in an attempt to create an "autonomous zone" like Seattle's and call attention to police brutality. **→10**

## Sanctioning ICC shows U.S. anti-human rights spirit, Iran says

**TEHRAN** — Presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi wrote in a Twitter post on Saturday that the United States' move in imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court's judges and employees shows "the anti-human rights spirit" of the White House.

However Vaezi said the "inefficiency of these sanctions has been proven by resistance of the Iranian people."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, and Attorney General William Barr, on the heels of an executive order from President Trump, announced on Thursday that the U.S. will authorize economic sanctions against members of the ICC for investigating alleged U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan.

Pompeo said, "We cannot, we will not stand by as our people are threatened by a kangaroo court."

In March, the ICC began an investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan that could involve Americans — the first time the court's prosecutor had been cleared to investigate U.S. forces. The decision was made on appeal after judges initially rejected the request from chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, whose visa was revoked by the U.S. in April 2019.

The case involves allegations of war crimes committed by Afghan national security forces, Taliban and Haqqani Network fighters, as well as U.S. forces and intelligence officials in Afghanistan since May 2003.

Switzerland on Friday urged the United States to revoke the sanctions. The Swiss Foreign Ministry noted that by prosecuting the most serious crimes — genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and acts of aggression — the ICC contributes to peace and international stability.



© Mehr/ Amin Borejkar

## Pretty in pink: Maharloo Lake lures nature lovers

Maharloo Lake with an area of 600 sq. km is situated on the outskirts of Shiraz, southern Iran, and is a perfect stopover for nature lovers. The lake turns pink all for a good reason. The growth of bacteria and particularly seaweeds come to change the color of the water body which is rich in potassium and salts.

In mid-summer the lake loses its water due to high evaporation leaving behind a white bed and pinkish color water. The lake water is used for extraction of normal salt and is considered as a natural habitat for migratory birds and wild animals.



## IRGC rejects claims of PKK presence at border

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — IRGC Ground Force Commander Mohammad Pakpour has rejected claims about presence of the Kurdistan Workers Party's elements in Iran's border with Turkey.

"There are good and useful interaction between armed forces in border areas of Iran and Turkey. So, it is expected that officials of the friendly neighboring country of Turkey confirm authenticity of an incident through official channels of the Islamic Republic of Iran before making any comment," Pakpour said during a visit to bases in northwest of the country.

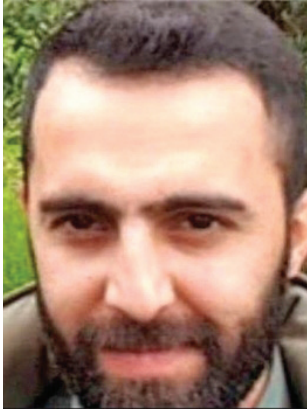
He noted that presence of terrorists along the border is Tehran's redline.

According to Anadolu Agency, the Turkish Defense Ministry said on Monday that Turkey neutralized four PKK terrorists along its border with Iran in an air-backed operation

"Four PKK terrorists detected by our hero commandos on the Iran border line have been neutralized with a successful operation supported by our drones," the ministry said in a statement.

## Iran reveals more details about CIA, Mossad spy

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iran's Judiciary Spokesman Gholam Hossein Esmayeeli disclosed more details about the case and activities of Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi Majd, an Iranian national who has been spying for Mossad and the CIA.



"The verdict (death penalty) has been issued for this person and is the ultimate ruling. Mousavi Majd's detention is not related to the terrorist incident which led to the martyrdom of (IRGC Quds Force Commander) Lieutenant General Soleimani," Esmayeeli told reporters on Saturday.

He said that Mousavi Majd had provided the CIA and Mossad with intelligence on Iran's defensive and military fields, specially the defense minister, the IRGC Quds Force, the traffic of military

officials and places where martyr Qassem Soleimani stayed during (the Iranian years of) 1396 and 1397 (March 21, 2017 to March 20, 2019).

Esmayeeli said that the spy and his family resided in Syria, adding that he pretended to be cooperating with Iranian advisors in the Arab country, but collected intelligence on them and relayed the intel to the enemies.

Esmayeeli had on Tuesday announced that Mousavi Majd was sentenced to death.

"Recently, Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi Majd who was linked both to the Mossad and CIA and spied in the security field and on Armed Forces in exchange for dollar payments was arrested," Esmayeeli told reporters.

"This person was sentenced to death," he said, adding that he will be executed soon so that his masters see the faith of betrayers.

He said Mousavi Majd had disclosed itinerary of the routes taken by the martyred Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

Yet, a later Judiciary statement reminded that Majd had played no role in the U.S. terror attack on Martyred General Soleimani, implying that his spying pertained to the time before Gen. Soleimani's martyrdom.

Esmayeeli said that despite the strenuous attempts by the U.S. and Israel to spy on Iran, the Iranian security and intelligence forces foil their plots by preventing the espionage activities.

## Biden would seek to reenter JCPOA: Woodrow Wilson researcher

**"Trump engaged in 'scorched earth' policy to destroy JCPOA completely", says Sina Azodi**

**1 →** ■ To what extent can the reopening of the economy lead to the deterioration of the situation?

A: The issue of reopening or keeping the economy in an induced coma, is a major dilemma for every political leader. In terms of saving lives and preventing a human catastrophe, it is necessary to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of the virus, but at the same time nations are facing serious financial and economic challenges. At the end however, I think that one cannot be prosperous if they are dead- meaning that preventing the further spread of virus is of more importance than opulence.

■ One of the foreign policy approaches of the Trump administration seems to have been taken from Henry Kissinger to contain China. In line with this policy, the U.S. has stepped up operations in the South China Sea. Any comments here?

I believe Kissinger's view on China is more understanding of the situation, and Beijing's view on itself and the world. That being said, the United States sees a great deal of challenge emerging from a rising China. After four decades of massive economic boom, naturally transferred to military might, the U.S. is keen on controlling and ideally pushing back against China. Interestingly, Trump's China approach falls within Obama's approach to contain China and prevent its further rise.

■ If Joe Biden is elected the next president of the United States, will he change policy toward China? What would be his approach to Iran and the nuclear deal?

A: Approach to China I believe will be the same as Trump. While he may avoid openly poking China by starting trade wars, I believe that the U.S. will continue exercising pressure on China to contain it. On Iran, I think that Biden would seek to reenter the JCPOA- but the Trump administration has engaged in a "scorched earth" policy to destroy the JCPOA completely. Brian Hook, State Department's Iran point man recently said that there won't be any JCPOA left, for a Biden administration to come back to. Generally speaking however, I unfortunately do not see any fundamental changes in U.S.-Iranian relations because the Trump administration has destroyed any political capital for the pro-engagement political factions in Iran. Essentially, Iranian politicians will have a hard time selling direct talks with the U.S.

# U.S. attempt to extend arms embargo on Iran is 'shameful': Webster University prof.

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN**

**d e s k** — Warren Rosenblum, a professor at Webster University, has said that the United States' attempt to extend arms embargo on Iran is "unjustified" and "shameful".

This decision of U.S. President Donald Trump is shameful and shows weakness of the United States' status in the world, Rosenblum told ILNA in an interview published on Saturday.

He also said that the U.S. pressure to extend the arms embargo on Iran lacks any "integrated political objective".

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft have said that extending a permanent arms embargo against Iran is now a top priority for Washington.

President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that Iran expects permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, especially friendly countries of Russia and China, to stand against the U.S. plots.

Rouhani noted that arms embargo on Iran will expire in October based on the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 which endorses the 2015 nuclear deal.

On Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the Trump administration of unleashing a politically motivated campaign against Iran and he called for "universal condemnation" of the U.S. attempt to get the UN Security Council to impose a permanent arms embargo.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has slammed the U.S. threats to reimpose arms embargo on Iran, saying it violates Resolution 2231.

Wang urged the U.S. to stop its unilateral sanctions, return to the correct track of observing the Iran nuclear deal and UNSC resolutions, work with all parties to maintain the international nuclear non-proliferation system, and maintain peace and stability in the Middle



East, CGTN reported on Thursday.

According to Reuters, Russia and China have started making the case at the United Nations against Washington's claim that it can trigger a return of all sanctions on Iran at the Security Council, with Moscow invoking a 50-year-old international legal opinion to argue against the move.

The European Union's top diplomat said Tuesday

that since the United States has already withdrawn from the international nuclear agreement, it can't now use its former membership of the pact to try to impose a permanent arms embargo on the Islamic Republic.

Speaking to reporters after talks with the Chinese foreign minister, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell insisted that since the U.S. has pulled out of the nuclear deal, it can no longer claim to have a role in it.

"The United States has withdrawn from the JCPOA, and now they cannot claim that they are still part of the JCPOA in order to deal with this issue from the JCPOA agreement. They withdraw. It's clear. They withdraw," Borrell said.

■ **'Fuel delivery a symbolic act of standing against U.S.'**

Rosenblum also said that Iran-Venezuela cooperation in fuel delivery was a symbolic action of standing against the U.S. bullying.

Venezuela's envoy to the UN Jorge Valero has said that Iran and Venezuela will continue fighting U.S. President Donald Trump's hostile policies.

"The people of Iran and Venezuela are two brotherly nations and will continue their war against Trump's hostile policies," ISNA quoted him as saying on Tuesday in an interview with Al Mayadeen TV channel.

Valero also praised Iran's humanitarian aid to Venezuela.

Five Iranian oil tankers by the names of Petunia, Forest, Faxon, Clavel, and Fortune carried fuel to Venezuela despite the United States' sanctions. The last of them entered Venezuelan waters on June 1.

The tankers carried 1,520,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel fuel to Venezuela. There was also a team of Iranian engineers and specialists from the oil industry on board heading for the country.

## U.S. has left no option but to resist bullying, Rabiei says

**'Iran does not take Trump's readiness for talks seriously'**

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN**

**d e s k** — Government spokesman Ali Rabiei has said that Iran does not take U.S. President Donald Trump's readiness for talks seriously.

"Today, the United States has left no option for us but to stand against bullying and also to call on all the responsible nations in the world to accompany us," the Mehr news agency quoted him as saying on Saturday in an article.

"It seems that the bullying United States seeks to put its knee on the neck of the world's credible lawyers and make it hard for justice and human values breathe. This action is enough for Iran not to take Trump's readiness to hold talks seriously," he pointed out.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, and Attorney General William Barr, on the heels of an executive order from President

Trump, announced on Thursday that the U.S. will authorize economic sanctions against members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for investigating alleged U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan.

Trump signed the executive order to block the financial assets of court employees and bar them and their immediate relatives from entering the U.S.

Pompeo said, "We cannot, we will not stand by as our people are threatened by a kangaroo court."

The International Criminal Court announced that Trump's decision to impose sanctions on court employees is not only an attack on the court and the system of international criminal justice, but on the interests of the victims of atrocities.

"These are the latest in a series of unprecedented attacks on the ICC," the Hague-based court said in a statement. "These attacks constitute an escalation

and an unacceptable attempt to interfere with the rule of law and the Court's judicial proceedings," said the ICC.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has attacked the U.S. sanctions on the ICC, saying the ICC was blackmailed by a "lawless gang" posing as diplomats.

"International Criminal COURT now blackmailed by lawless gang posing as diplomats," Zarif wrote in his Twitter page on Thursday.

He added, "What else will it take for the global community to wake up & smell the consequences of appeasing the bully? And who else should the US terrorize before appeasers realize EVEN they might be next?"

Iranian presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi also wrote on Saturday that the U.S. move in imposing sanctions on ICC judges and employees shows the "anti-human rights spirit" of the White



House.

However, Vaezi added, the inefficiency of these sanctions "has been proved by resistance of the Iranian people".

## Diplomat calls for continuation of consultation with Japan

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN**

**d e s k** — Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has called for continuation of consultation and cooperation with Japan.

In talks with Japanese Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeo Mori through videoconference, the diplomats discussed international developments and also cooperation in fighting the coronavirus, Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

During a visit to Japan in December 2019, Araghchi said that Iran is aiming to strengthen its relationship with Japan, and keep all channels open.

Araghchi, who accompanied President Hassan Rouhani to Japan, said there are obstacles in the way of better ties between Iran and Japan.

The problem stems from "the unilateral, illegal



## Iranian Foreign Ministry summons Afghan ambassador

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN**

**d e s k** — Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday summoned Afghan Ambassador Abdolghafour Lival over actions of certain anti-Iran groups in Afghanistan.

Certain groups which have a record of opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the good neighborliness, the Foreign Ministry said.

Rasoul Mousavi, an assistant to Iran's foreign minister and the director-general of the Foreign Ministry Department for West Asia, expressed concerns over effects of these groups' actions on relations between the two countries.

Certain groups have recently attacked the Iranian embassy in Kabul under the pretext that some Afghan migrants were drowned while they were trying to enter Iran illegally.

Afghan media outlets have claimed that about 50 Afghan migrants had been beaten and thrown into a river in the border. Iranian political and border officials have refuted the claim, saying the incident happened on the Afghan side of the Harirud River.

According to some reports, 18 of the migrants, including a 12-year old boy, were drowned in the river.

Iran and Afghanistan have launched an inquiry into the tragedy.

Iran has said it has extensive evidence that the incident has not happened on its borders.

According to Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi, the confirmed reports received from Iranian border guards show that such an incident has not occurred on the mentioned date and location.

He added that due to weather conditions of the region, not a single Afghan citizen entered the Iranian territory



on that date.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohsen Baharvand has blamed illegal traffic of Afghan migrants for the human tragedy.

Iranian diplomats and border guards have carried out investigations which show the Iranian guards were not involved in the incident, Baharvand added.

"Our investigation does not show that incident in Harirud was caused by interference of the Iranian border guards. However, we considered evidence of the Afghan side important and gave it to the related bodies," Baharvand told IRNA in an interview published on June 7.

He said, "Due to Afghan armed forces' fight against

terrorism, Afghanistan has dismantled its border stations and this has caused lack of control over borders by Afghanistan. This issue has led to problems caused by human traffickers."

Baharvand also said that Iran and Afghanistan will form a joint border committee.

The deputy foreign minister for international and legal affairs had said on May 27 that Iran and Afghanistan are in agreement on the incident.

Iranian and Afghan political delegations held their last round of talks on the incident in Kabul on May 26.

Also, on June 3 a number of Afghan migrants were killed in a car accident in Yazd province.

Following the incident, Ambassador Lival held a meeting with officials of the province. He said, "We believe that human traffickers and the driver are responsible for the incident."

According to Lival, the driver has been identified and judicial authorities are striving to arrest him.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has announced it will dispatch a high-level delegation to Tehran to investigate the recent incidents for Afghan citizens.

It said the purpose of the team is to draw up a plan to prevent illegal traffic by focusing on ensuring better border security and prevent a recurrence of similar incidents.

The ministry also said the delegation will discuss with Iranian officials the fight against human trafficking on both sides of the border, the beginning of the process of establishing the identity of Afghan citizens and the legalization of immigrant residency, as well as the implementation of the draft law on legal employment of Afghan workers.



# Iran slams Guterres report as flawed and inaccurate

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations has rejected the UN secretary general's report on the implementation of the Security Council resolution 2231 as flawed and inaccurate.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council in a report seen by Reuters on Thursday that cruise missiles used in several attacks on oil facilities and an international airport in Saudi Arabia in November 2019 and February 2020 had been of "Iranian origin".

He also said the "items may have been transferred in a manner inconsistent" with Security Council Resolution 2231, which enshrines the international nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — signed between Iran and world powers in 2015.

Guterres said in his report that the United Nations had examined the debris of weapons used in the attacks on an oil facility in Afif in May, the Abha international airport in June and August, and the Aramco oil facilities in Khurais and Abqaiq in September.

In a press release on Friday, the mission said that the UN Secretariat lacks the capacity, expertise, and knowledge to conduct such a sophisticated and sensitive investigation.

Full text of the press release is as follows:

Unfortunately, there are a number of serious flaws, inaccuracies and discrepancies in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Security Council resolution 2231, related to the so-called Iranian connection to the export of weapons or their components that are used in attacks on



**The Report has based its findings on the alleged seizures of arms by the United States as well as the attacks on Saudi Arabia, reproducing the exact claims made by the United States. In essence, the U.S. is sitting in the driver's seat to shape the so-called "assessment" regarding the Iranian connection to the attacks.**

Saudi Arabia. In this context, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to state the following:

\* The UN Secretariat lacks the capacity, expertise, and knowledge to conduct such a sophisticated and sensitive investigation.

\* Some of the alleged seized arms which have been examined were found not to conform to the ones manufactured by Iran.

\* Iran categorically rejects the observations contained in the Report concerning the Iranian connection to the export of weapons

or their components that are used in attacks on Saudi Arabia and the Iranian origin of alleged U.S. seizures of armaments.

\* The Report has based its findings on the alleged seizures of arms by the United States as well as the attacks on Saudi Arabia, reproducing the exact claims made by the United States. In essence, the U.S. is sitting in the driver's seat to shape the so-called "assessment" regarding the Iranian connection to the attacks.

Conclusion of such baseless allegations is not surprising because the U.S. and its allies have a long history of disinformation and Iran-bashing.

\* In an extremely unprofessional conduct, only some images such as media pictures of military exhibitions have been used to verify and conclude about the alleged similarities of some items. Resorting to such methods of attribution seriously undermines the credibility of the Report.

\* The reliance on unsubstantiated and vague wordings such as "reportedly recovered", "highly likely made", "similarity" and "may have been transferred" in the Report, to make allegations against Iran, once again calls into question the validity of the findings.

\* In the absence of solid and reliable technical information which is vital to conduct a professional review of highly sophisticated technical items, one cannot but consider the allegations against Iran as politically-motivated.

\* While the "Iranian origin" of the arms mentioned in the Report is a fallacy, the origin of sophisticated weaponry being poured into our region by the U.S. and its allies killing and maiming innocent people is quite obvious.

## Canada agrees with Iran on sending downed plane's black boxes to France

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Canada agrees with Iran's plan to send the black boxes of a downed Ukrainian passenger plane directly to France instead of Ukraine, Canadian Transport Minister Marc Garneau said on Friday.

"We think it is perfectly acceptable, in fact, it is a good idea to send those black boxes to France," Garneau said, according to Canadian media.

"We know that the BEA, which is an agency in France like our Transportation Safety Board, has the capability and the expertise to analyze these boxes and we are strongly encouraging Iran to move those boxes to Paris as quickly as possible," he added.



Iranian investigators have asked France's BEA air accident agency to read black boxes of a Ukrainian plane which was mistakenly shot down in January near Tehran.

"Iran's AATB recently made a request to the BEA that the recorders should be taken by Iran to the BEA's premises in France to be read in the presence of representatives of other involved countries and ICAO if the BEA is in a position to accommodate this," Farhad Parvaresh, Iran's representative to the UN agency, told Reuters by telephone.

The BEA said it had not formally received the request and remained in discussions with Iran, Canada, and Ukraine on any involvement it may have.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohsen Baharvand said on June 7 Iran is ready to deliver the black box of the downed plane to a French or any other foreign company capable of decoding it.

"According to our investigations, Iran, Ukraine, and many other countries are not capable of decoding the black box due to the aircraft's modern technology," Mehr quoted Baharvand as saying.

"Iran can deliver it to a French or any other foreign company capable of decoding it but we have to make sure that there are no risks of abuse of the black box," he added.

## Guterres' anti-Iran allegations leveled under U.S., Saudi pressure: Tehran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Foreign Ministry has dismissed the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' anti-Iran allegations, saying the allegations were leveled under political pressure from the U.S. and Saudi regimes.

In a statement on Friday, the Foreign Ministry expressed deep concern over the abuse of the UN Secretariat for political purposes, Foreign Ministry website reported.

According to the statement, the Secretariat has so far refrained from reporting on numerous violations by the United States and European States with respect to the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA (Annex A to the Resolution), the unlawful withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA, which is a grave violation of Resolution 2231 and its subsequent illegal actions towards UN Security Council Resolution 2231 by re-imposition of sanctions.

"While the Secretariat has treated with utmost tolerance and leniency towards these violations so far, it is now surprisingly engaged with an issue in which it has no authority to point out highly technical and legal findings, and its so-called technical report is in no way in line with the practical arrangements of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 to perform its functions," the statement read.

The Foreign Ministry also pointed out that the Secretariat's report coincides with the U.S. move to propose a dangerous draft resolution that paves the way for extension of arms restrictions on Iran in an illegal way.

And yet more surprisingly, it continued, the content of this report is used by the U.S. two weeks prior to its official release.

"The aforementioned fact creates the impression that the report has been prepared under direction of the United States and to be used in the efforts of that State in the Security Council against Iran," it added.

"Levelling accusations against other states using self-created processes and arbitrary procedures is a dangerous heresy, which is not accepted by the international community," the ministry warned.

It noted that such reports will not only fail to help bring peace and security to the region and implement the UN resolutions, but will also completely destroy the credibility and reputation of the United Nations.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly recommends that the UN Secretariat not move in the pre-planned U.S. scenario to prevent the lifting of Iran's arms restrictions and not assist a violating State in this dangerous process by circulating such unlawful reports. The United States itself is the gravest violator of Security Council Resolution 2231, and no one can clear the name of that State from systematic violations of international rules," the statement concluded.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht-Ravanchi also condemned the report, saying it has been made under political pressure from the U.S.

Iran rejects allegations in the UN Secretariat report, including the "Iranian origin" of the arms, Takht-Ravanchi said via Twitter on Friday.

"UN Secretariat lacks capacity, expertise & knowledge to conduct investigations," he wrote.

"Seems the US—with its history of Iran-bashing—sits in the driver's seat to shape UN 'assessments'," he added.

## Iranian judge Gholamreza Mansouri arrested in Romania



**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian judge accused of corruption and taking more than \$500,000 in bribes has been arrested in Romania, Iran's Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili announced on Saturday.

Following the Judiciary's legal measure, Gholamreza Mansouri was arrested in Romania and was handed to Interpol, Esmaili said.

"Mr. Mansouri had announced that 'I will return to Iran and attend the [court's] session', but after conducting investigations we realized that this announcement is not serious and is more like a show," he stated, according to ISNA.

He explained that Mansouri cannot be transferred to Iran at the moment due to the coronavirus circumstances, but "this will happen in the following days."

Mansouri is among several judges who were accused of corruption during the high-profile trial of a former senior Judiciary official that opened in Tehran on June 7.

In a video posted online on June 8, Mansouri didn't give details about his whereabouts, but he said he would return to Iran as soon as travel restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic are eased.

"I have full trust in the Islamic republic, Supreme Leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei], and the judicial system," Mansouri said in the video.

On Thursday June 11, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) filed an official complaint with German federal judicial authorities demanding Mansouri's arrest for suppressing and jailing dozens of Iranian journalists.

## Why the world should fear Trump's UN moves against Iran

**(National Interest)** — President Donald Trump is unwavering in his commitment to a "might is right" approach to international relations. His administration has explicitly had it out for multilateral arrangements, from UNESCO, the WHO, the International Criminal Court, the Paris Climate Accords, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and others. Now, the White House's relentless drive to increase pressure on Iran threatens to shatter the vital role the UN Security Council (UNSC) plays in the international system.

The Trump administration's ham-handed efforts to insist that the coronavirus be called the Wuhan virus have already limited the Security Council's ability to function amid the greatest twenty-first-century threat.

Now, as made clear in a talk by the State Department's Special Envoy to Iran Brian Hook at the Heritage Foundation, the Trump administration seeks to force the reimposition of UN sanctions on Iran. Such an action is further evidence that the UNSC is breaking, thanks to the Trump administration's bull-headed and self-defeating campaigns.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's preeminent goal as secretary of state has been to compel the collapse or capitulation of the Iranian government. Having failed in this aim despite two years of a far-reaching "maximum pressure" campaign, Pompeo now wants to use the issue of the looming expiration of a UN arms embargo on Iran to increase sanctions.

Pompeo intends to cite the inevitable rejection of a new arms embargo by the UNSC as a reason to unilaterally force the imposition of UN sanctions against Iran. Doing so gives Pompeo a chance to kill the Iran nuclear deal and complicate its resuscitation by a Joe Biden administration.

Pompeo's gambit not only creates many risks in terms of escalating the crisis with Iran, but it will also mark an unprecedented assault on the UN Security Council.

The U.S. would effectively be hijacking the UNSC process and going against the will of the other permanent members, threatening the prevailing world order that has existed since World War II.

### ■ The White House's dangerous escalations against Iran

Pompeo's proposition will harm both the United States and the international system. In order to "snap back" UN sanctions on Iran, he seeks to argue that the United States is still a "participant" in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, despite the Trump administration reneging on that agreement in 2018.

The "snap back" measure in Resolution 2231 gives JCPOA participants the ability to reimpose past UN sanctions against Iran if Tehran violated the nuclear deal, provided that they worked through the deal's dispute resolution mechanism. Pompeo wants to draw on this mechanism from outside the accord even as traditional U.S. allies in Europe continue to keep the deal alive.

The EU and Russia have already said they do not view the United States as a participant in Resolution 2231 and that consequently, it cannot trigger snapback. The stage is set for an ugly fight at the UNSC that will further strain the fraught trans-Atlantic alliance.

Even if Pompeo fails, he will be setting back U.S. interests



by further eroding trust in the United States. The snapback mechanism negotiated by the Obama administration marked a significant diplomatic achievement by allowing the U.S. to easily reimpose UN sanctions if Iran cheated. By blatantly distorting and abusing this mechanism, Pompeo is handing Iran a powerful argument to not agree to a similar measure in any future deal and eliminating a powerful U.S. leverage tool.

If Pompeo succeeds and triggers snapback, then the consequences will be severe in the short and long-term. In the immediate aftermath, Iran will likely decisively break the confines of the nuclear deal and significantly expand its nuclear program. It will seek to boost its nuclear bargaining chip: increasing its stockpile of enriched uranium, level of enrichment, and the number and type of centrifuges it has enriching uranium.

Iran would drastically be reducing its breakout time, or the amount of time it would need to amass enough fissile material for a single nuclear weapon should it decide to dash for the bomb. The nuclear deal extended Iran's breakout time to one year. It is currently estimated to be at six months, with Iran having already ceased compliance with aspects of the deal in response to the Trump administration's wholesale abrogation of the agreement.

Iran has also threatened that snapback would lead to it withdrawing from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, which commits it to not developing nuclear weapons. Notably, this is the path North Korea took to developing nuclear weapons. Iran would no longer be under a legal constraint to not build the bomb. The Iranian nuclear crisis would return with a vengeance, and without a diplomatic off-ramp in sight.

The downsides of the United States forcing the return of UN sanctions against Iran may be even more consequential for the world. It is no secret that the Trump administration has sought to undermine the norms of multilateralism that have long moderated global behavior. But weakening the UN Security Council will dangerously alter the international order as it has been known.

### ■ Undermining the United Nations

The UN Security Council is the most important multilateral institution engaged in global governance and cooperative rule-setting. Created in the aftermath of two successive and catastrophic world wars, the council's legal structure of giving veto power to the major world powers has helped maintain peace between major powers for over seventy-five years. Its decisions mark the highest level of international law.

The raison d'être of the UNSC is to prevent the unilateral use of force by countries. The council relies on consensus decision-making among the five permanent members, ensuring the world's most powerful countries are constantly in dialogue over pressing security matters. The council's approval is required to launch wars and the resolutions it passes are binding on all UN members.

Crucially, the veto power the UNSC affords the United States, China, Russia, the UK, and France gives these leading powers a stake in the global order. This helps obstruct zero-sum competition from taking hold among them, which could easily spiral into the kind of worldwide conflicts that reaped immense suffering in the last century.

Notably, powers like the UK and France are given disproportionate influence globally by the UNSC relative to economic and military prowess, especially in comparison to countries like India and Brazil. They would stand to lose the most from a weakened UNSC.

The prospect of a punitive UNSC resolution (the return of UN sanctions against Iran) being implemented against the will of most of the council would mark a turning point for the current global order. The consensus-driven body will be faced with abiding by sanctions that most of its members oppose. Many countries will question their validity and continue discrete trade with Iran.

The precedent will be set for countries, even the major global powers with a stake in the UN, to ignore a UNSC resolution. The United States will be tarnishing the credibility of the UNSC, taking the post-World War II economic and political order into dangerous and uncharted territory. This may play into the broader aim of Trump and his "America First" acolytes but would be supplanting the norms of global cooperation for the law of the jungle.

A dysfunctioning UN Security Council will make it even more challenging to address the major crises facing the world: the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the North Korean nuclear weapons program, and climate change, among others. Instead, at a time of increased competition between the United States, Russia, and China, the world will be bereft of an effective and strong institution that helps mend their disputes.

### ■ Multilateralism must be safeguarded

The Trump administration revels in the unparalleled power of the United States but mistakes power for influence. The hubris of Trump and his senior officials have manifested in the pursuit of aims that are damaging the multilateral institutions that play a key role in securing global peace and stability.

The arms embargo issue over Iran is a red herring. An Iran impoverished by economic sanctions will not suddenly be able to purchase vast amounts of Russian and Chinese arms and upset the regional military balance of power, which is decisively stacked against it. The Trump administration's broader animus against multilateralism is turning the United States into a predatory state and ushering in a more dangerous world order.

Congress and traditional U.S. allies in Europe should not abet Trump's destabilizing actions by falling for the bait of increasing pressure on Iran.



## Nearly \$420m of facilities allocated to production units in 2 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry announced that a total of 17.6 trillion rials (about \$419.04 million) of facilities have been allocated to support 465 production units in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20).



As reported by IRNA, under the framework of the production and employment program, 168 units were introduced to the country's acting banks in the mentioned two months, of which 69 units received facilities worth 2.8 trillion rials (about \$66.6 million).

Following a program to support domestic production in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) which was called the year of "Pick-up in Production" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, over 15 months from February 20, 2019, to May 20, 2020, a total of 2,500 production units were referred to the country's acting banks, of which 737 units have received facilities amounted at 40.4 trillion rials (about \$961.9 million).

According to the data provided by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the Iranian banking system paid 9.749 quadrillion rials (over \$232 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the past Iranian calendar year, 26 percent more than the preceding year.

Last year, the Industry Ministry implemented several programs for promoting domestic production and increasing exports which included supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and reviving the country's idle production units.

The ministry is continuing to pursue the mentioned programs in the current Iranian calendar year which is called the year of "Surge in Production" by the leader.

In this regard, CBI has been supporting the ministry by offering facilities to the production sectors.

Back in May, CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said promoting domestic production is the main priority of the country's banking system in the current Iranian calendar year.

Hemmati mentioned the CBI strategies for supporting domestic production, saying: "The Central Bank has taken effective measures, including granting facilities to production companies, small and medium enterprises, and knowledge-based companies to support this sector."

## Making Shahr-e-Aftab an FTZ on agenda

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Making Iran's Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Center a free trade zone (FTZ) is on the agenda, the center's managing director announced.

Mohammad-Raouf Ghaderi made the announcement in a meeting with the members of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), IRIB reported.



The meeting was attended by Head of ICCIMA Export Promotion Committee Jamshid Nafar, Head of Tehran Home of Industry Mohammad-Reza Mortazavi, and Board Member of Iran's Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association Hamed Chamanrokh, along with a handful of deputies and managers from Shahr-e-Aftab International Exhibition Center.

Speaking in the meeting, Ghaderi expressed the center's complete readiness for all-out cooperation with the country's private sector for realizing the country's micro-economic goals.

"We are ready to cooperate with the private sector in all areas to realize the country's macro-economic goals and strategies" the official stressed.

He underlined the center's great potentials and capacities and noted: "Shahr-e-Aftab Exhibition [Center] is located in the best geographical location in terms of access to Tehran's communication corridors, which does not impose any traffic load that leads to environmental pollution to the capital."

With the completion of phases 2 and 3 of the center along with the establishment of the free economic zone, one of the largest exhibition centers in the region will be formed which can play a significant role as a national asset for the development of exports, Ghaderi said.

Covering a total area of 138 hectares, Shahr-e-Aftab International Exhibition Center is located in the south of capital Tehran.

Development of existing free trade zones and establishment of new FTZs is currently one of the major economic approaches of Iran and in a bid to attract more investments to these zones Iranian government offers various incentives to the investors.

Tax exemption is one of those incentives which has been offered for more than a decade to the investors in the free zones.

Establishment of free trade zones in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989- March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote the non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

# Tehran hosting anti-corona medical achievements exhibit

**1 →** According to the Managing Director of Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) Bahman Hosseinzadeh, all necessary measures have been taken to assure the safety and health of both visitors and exhibitors during the event.

Ensuring a safe distance between visitors and exhibitors, providing sanitizers and disinfection equipment such as spray tunnels in the exhibition hall's entrance, providing alcohol spray in the booths as well as providing protection masks are among

such measures.

According to Hosseinzadeh, in addition to experts and scholars, commercial attachés and ambassadors of various countries have also been invited to visit the exhibition.

It is also possible for the visitors to tour this exhibition virtually, the official said.

"This exhibition can play a significant role in the development of exports and domestic markets," he added.

Focusing on the "surge in production", which is the motto of the current Iranian



calendar year (started on March 20), the event is aimed to introduce laboratory equipment, medical staff uniforms, and all kinds of protection masks, while presenting new

technologies in the field of disinfectant and sanitizer production developed by Iranian manufacturers during the coronavirus outbreak, the official said.

## Annual non-oil GDP growth at -0.6%: SCI



**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) excluding the oil fell 0.6 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19), according to Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

The figure including oil fell seven percent, Tasnim reported.

Based on the SCI data, the oil and gas sector recorded the highest negative growth of 35 percent, while the GDP growth for the mining sector fell 32.8 percent.

Meanwhile, the industry sector registered a negative growth of 14.7 percent which indicated a more intense shrinkage for this sector compared to the previous calendar year.

Earlier this month, the World Bank predicted that Iran's GDP is going to increase by 2.1 percent in 2021 after experiencing a 5.3 percent fall in the current year due to the negative impacts of the coronavirus outbreak.

"Iran's GDP is expected to shrink again in 2020, by 5.3 percent, partly reflecting the effects of the large-scale COVID-19 outbreak on domestic consumption and the services sectors (e.g., tourism)," WB said in its latest report on the global economy dubbed "Global Economic Prospects" released on June 6.

Based on the report, the pandemic will shrink global GDP by 5.2 percent in 2020, the worst since World War II and nearly three times as steep as the 2009 global recession.

Back in March, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) reported that the country's GDP registered a positive growth rate of 1.3 percent in the first nine months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2019).

The CBI statistical reports indicate that in the third quarter of the year, non-oil economic growth stood at 3.3 percent and economic growth with oil was 1.2 percent.

## Iran's exports to Azerbaijan through Astara railway up 178%



**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported 41,535 tons of commodities to Azerbaijan from its northern Astara railway terminal during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20), which was 178 percent more than the figure of the same period of time in the past year, according to a railway official.

The managing director of north railway Gholam-Hossein Valadi told IRNA that cement, clinker, chemical products, tiles, steel, and home appliances were among the goods exported to Azerbaijan.

As previously reported, the value of exports from Iran's northern Gilan Province during the first two months of the present year rose 16 percent compared to the same period of time in the previous year, according to a provincial official.

Farhad Dalq-Poush, the director-general of Gilan Province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department told IRNA that 166,000 tons of commodities worth \$80 million have been exported from the province during the mentioned two-month period.

With a share of 180 tons of goods valued at \$33,000, Astara County accounted for the biggest part of the province's two-month exports, the official said, adding Astara has special trading capacities and can operate as Iran's export center in the north of the country.

Astara Port is the westernmost Iranian city on the southern coasts of the Caspian

Sea with a population of 91,000 people. The city also borders the Azerbaijan Republic.

In early March 2017, Azerbaijan officially launched a rail link with Iran by sending a train across the border to Iran's northern city of Astara thus taking an ambitious multimodal transport project that connects northern Europe to India closer to reality, Press TV reported at the time.

The train arrived in Iran simultaneously with a visit to the Islamic Republic by Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev where he discussed the implementation of the North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC) with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani.

Aliyev told reporters after meeting Rouhani that the NSTC was an important project, stressing that it could have positive effects on the economies of its host countries.

The NSTC is a multi-modal route to link India and West Asia to the Caucasus, Central Asia and Europe.

The ship, road and rail route connects India's Mumbai to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and further to Baku in Azerbaijan as well as Astrakhan, Moscow and St Petersburg in Russia before stretching to northern Europe and Scandinavia.

In addition to Iran, India and Russia, countries that are on board to integrate into the transit network include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Turkey, Tajikistan, Oman, Syria and Bulgaria.

## Cut flowers, ornamental plants exports hit \$40m in a year



**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported nearly \$40 million worth of cut flowers, ornamental plants during the previous Iranian calendar year of 1398 (ended on March 19), IRIB reported quoting an official with the Agriculture Ministry.

According to Gholamreza Taghavi, the country's trade balance for cut flowers and ornamental plants was \$25 million positive last year, since only \$15 million worth of such plants and flowers were imported into the country.

As reported, Iran's southern and northern neighbors, including Iraq, Russia, Turkmenistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan were the top export destinations for the mentioned products last year.

The production of cut flowers, ornamental plants increased by about 22 to 25 percent in the mentioned year, the official said.

Currently, over 7,800 hectares of land,

including greenhouses and farms, are under cultivation of flowers and ornamental plants, according to Taghavi.

"About four billion flowers, pots, and ornamental plants are grown in the country, every year," he added.

According to the official, more than 150,000 people are working directly and indirectly in this field, and significant investments have been made by the private sector in this area.

Referring to the outbreak of coronavirus in Iran and across the world, Taghavi said: "production, and exports [of cut flowers and ornamental plants] is faced with serious problems; currently, there is demand for flowers and ornamental plants in the country, however, the problem is transportation restrictions."

Taghavi further noted that by providing proper export infrastructure, exports of such products can reach a very good level after the containment of the coronavirus.

## Kordestan Province's 2-month exports at over 685,000 tons



**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The exports from Iran's western Kordestan Province stood at 685,793 tons worth \$258.48 million during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-April 20), the director-general of the province's customs department announced.

Bakhtiar Rahmanipour told IRNA that the two-month exports from the province have risen 69 percent in weight and 13 percent in value, compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The official said that 78,792 tons of goods worth \$24.608 million were exported through Siranband customs with eight percent rise in weight and 14 percent growth in value.

He added that exports from Sanandaj (the center of province) stood at 4,147 tons worth \$324,467 with 36 percent growth in weight.

Rahmanipour went on to say that 433,727 tons of goods worth \$145.535 million were exported through Bashmaq border which experienced 109 percent rise in weight and 27 percent growth in value.

Last week, Bashmaq border market between Iran and Iraq's Kurdistan region resumed working after several weeks.

As announced by Khaled Jafari, the deputy governor-general of Kordestan Province, delegations from both sides had met in the western Iranian city of Marivan, and decided to open the border market

observing the health protocols.

The trucks have to pass sanitizing tunnels at both sides of the border, the official noted.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year stood at \$9.341 billion.

In the mentioned period Iran imported \$5.041 billion worth of goods, while exporting \$4.3 billion.

The volume of traded goods was estimated at 21 million tons, of which 14.5 million tons were related to exports and about 6.5 million tons were imported goods.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with \$1.19 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$1.107 billion, the UAE with \$682 million, and Afghanistan with \$341 million as well as Turkey with \$144 million, so the country's top five export destinations remained the same in comparison to previous months.

As reported, China accounted for over 27 percent of Iran's total exports, followed by Iraq, UAE, Afghanistan and Turkey with 25 percent, 15 percent, 8 percent, and four percent respectively.

The top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$1.234 billion, the UAE with \$1.78 billion, Turkey with \$535 million, Russia with \$356 million and India with \$335 million worth of imports.



# Over \$1b invested to build 4 petchem parks across Iran

**ENERGY DESK** TEHRAN — Managing Director of Iranian Investment Petrochemical Group (IIPG) says nearly 44 trillion rials (about \$1.04 billion) has been invested to construct four petrochemical parks across the country.

“The construction of these four petrochemical parks would create more than 12,000 direct jobs and the average return rate of the projects is about 30 percent,” Rasoul Ashrafzadeh told IRNA.

According to the official, the first park is going to be established in Urumieh city in West Azarbaijan Province with 7.5 trillion rials (about \$178.5 million) of investment.

This petrochemical park will create direct job opportunities for 940 people, while offering 2,900 indirect jobs, the official said.

“The park will be built to work on six areas, including resin making, melamine sheets, laminate flooring, MDF, HDF and parquet,” he added.

The official further noted that three other parks are going to be constructed in Ilam and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari provinces.

As reported, two parks are set to be built in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province while



the other one is based near Ilam.

These parks will also have different areas for producing a variety of petrochemical products including laminate sheets, paint, leather, synthetic leather, paper industries in seven areas, melamine, chemical fertilizers,

and plastic industries, etc.

The construction of petrochemical parks is considered complementary of the petrochemical industry's value chain and can prevent the sale of raw materials and the import of similar products, thus preventing

the outflow of revenue from the country.

Petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

Iran has been highly developing this sector over the recent years as the development of the giant South Pars gas field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) has been supplying more feedstock to the petrochemical units.

Also, the U.S. sanctioning Iran's oil exports has encouraged more development of the petrochemical industry to boost exports from this sector.

The country has also been developing the industry's downstream sector in order to promote the production of products with more added-value.

In this regard construction of petrochemical parks, petro-refineries alongside the development of the country's current petrochemical complexes is highly pursued by the oil ministry and especially the National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

## Reducing electricity losses saves Iran €240m in a year

**ENERGY DESK** TEHRAN — Iranian Energy Ministry has announced that reduction of electricity losses in the national power grid has saved the country €240m in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the ministry's news portal, Paven, published.

The mentioned saved amount has been allocated to the construction of new power plants throughout the country.

Through different measures taken by the Energy Ministry, the national grid experienced a single-digit figure (9.76 percent) of electricity losses in the past year, which was unprecedented.

The seven-percent annual decline also economized on 500 million cubic meters of gas consumption in the power plants and prevented from the emission of one million tons of carbon dioxide.

Electricity losses in Iran's power grid are currently lower than that of many countries like Brazil, Turkey, Mexico, Hungary, Croatia, India, and Pakistan.

The country is seriously determined to reduce the losses more in the current and next years.

Last month, an official with Iran's Power Generation and Distribution Company



(known as TAVANIR) announced that Energy Ministry managed to save 3,876 megawatts (MW) of electricity in the previous calendar year by implementing consumption management programs.

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said cooperation with the various sectors resulted

in reducing the consumption by 3,876 MW which is equal to the output of five 1000MW-capacity power plants.

According to the official, Energy Ministry signed memorandums of understanding with 135,000 industrial, agricultural, and domestic subscribers under the framework

of consumption management programs, last year, to pass the summer consumption peak without outages.

Back in January, Tavanir head had said that Energy Ministry managed to prevent the consumption of 70 trillion rials (about \$1.66 billion) worth of electricity during the summer peak period by implementing consumption management programs.

“Implementation of this program allowed us to pass the summer without any power outages,” the official said in a meeting of directors of the Energy Ministry subsidiaries' public relations departments.

He noted that Iran's electricity network has 100 percent coverage across the country, adding that this is an indication of the Iranian electricity industry's leadership in the region and the world.

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new strategies in recent years to manage the consumption and lessen the electricity losses in the national grid.

## Oil's weekly winning streak ends with demand recovery shaky

After six straight periods of gains, U.S. benchmark crude futures dropped 8.3 percent this week. Market sentiment soured after the Federal Reserve warned of the coronavirus pandemic's prolonged damage to the economy. Plus, fears over a second wave of virus infections threaten to disrupt any demand recovery.

While crude has pushed higher from a historic crash below zero in April -- buoyed by OPEC+ production curbs that began in May -- the market largely shrugged off the alliance's recent move to extend those cuts, Bloomberg reported.

“The past 24 hours have highlighted the perils of underestimating the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic and the threat of fresh lockdowns,” said PVM Oil Associates analyst Stephen Brennock. “This isn't the first and won't be the last time

that markets are guilty of complacency.”

Any recovery in crude will be largely dependent on a consumption comeback. Barclays Plc predicts the market has already seen the fastest improvement in demand and steepest drop in supply. Meanwhile, Mercuria Energy Group Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Marco Dunand said this week that global crude consumption will return to about 95 million barrels a day by December, unless there is a significant second wave of coronavirus infections.

“We're going to be stuck in this range between \$35 and \$40 a barrel,” said Andy Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates LLC in Houston. Breaking out is a matter of “how many additional virus cases prevent us from increasing demand.”

Likely adding to the pressure on crude was the record withdrawal Thursday from

one of the largest exchange-traded funds in the oil market. WisdomTree's WTI Crude Oil ETF had a little over \$128 million worth of outflows, according to filings.

### Prices

West Texas Intermediate crude for July settlement fell 8 cents to settle at \$36.26 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent for August delivery rose 18 cents to end the session at \$38.73 a barrel. Prices tumbled 8.4 percent this week.

Optimism at the start of the week over the agreement by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies to extend curbs by a month quickly diminished after Saudi Arabia said it would cease extra voluntary cuts at the end of June. The deal even secured commitments from laggards such as Iraq and Nigeria after they were called out for their non-compliance.

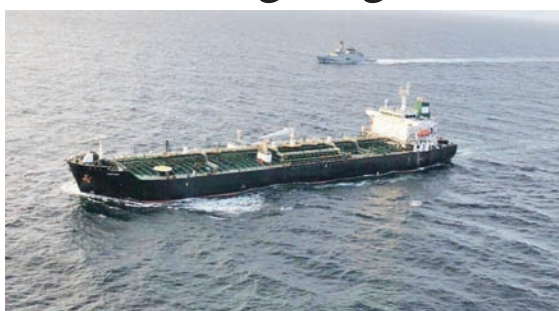
### More oil news

Explorers slashed drilling in the world's biggest shale patch for a 13th straight week as they wrangle with a global pandemic that's crimping demand for crude and leaving many strapped for cash.

Chesapeake Energy Corp.'s spiral toward oblivion accelerated this week with executives said to be preparing for a potential bankruptcy filing.

The U.S. Oil Fund received approval from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to issue 1 billion new shares, paving the way for renewed investments into the product that's been the center of controversy.

State-run Saudi Aramco will reduce contractual crude oil supply to at least three refiners in Asia for July, according to traders who were notified by the producer.



U.S. since last year.

Sources said the U.S. is now studying options to expand this list and could affect as many as 50-60 tankers including VLCCs, Suezmaxes and Aframaxes.

“We continue to engage with companies in the energy sector on the possible risks they face by conducting business with PDVSA,” a U.S. State Department spokesperson said when asked about additional sanctions against tankers.

But a spokesperson from the U.S. Department of the Treasury said, the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control “does not comment on possible or pending investigations, according to confirm whether or not one exists.”

### Extra precautions

Analysts said oil traders had been spooked by the U.S. move to impose sanctions on four tankers, and with the growing likelihood of the list being expanded, many companies are

taking extra precautions.

Alphatanker, a market analysis division of shipping brokerage BRS, said that 7%, 9% and 7% of the total VLCC, Suezmax and Aframax fleets, respectively have called at Venezuelan ports in the past 12 months, which highlight the potential for disruption to the tanker market if sanctions were expanded.

The U.S. imposed sanctions on six Chinese companies in September 2019, including two entities under Cosco Shipping, which pushed some VLCC freight rates to all-time highs, spurred on by tightening of tonnage. These sanctions were removed earlier this year.

“Even without additional sanctions, it is certain that there will now be even fewer tankers willing to call at Venezuelan ports and aside from PDVSA, [Russian] and Cuban importers, very few companies will be willing to purchase Venezuelan barrels,” analysts at Alphatanker said in a recent note.

“This will undoubtedly see Venezuelan crude production and exports fall further as both imports of naphtha and willing crude buyers dry up.”

Venezuelan oil production plunged to just 550,000 bpd in May, down 7,000 bpd month on month, according to the latest S&P Global Platts survey of OPEC production.

But crude production is poised to slump further as the oil sector is being crippled by the U.S. sanctions

“Our forecast for Venezuelan crude supply to remain capped at 300,000 bpd hinges on few buyers willing to risk U.S. sanctions after Rosneft ceased trading operations, as well as persistent refining problems,” S&P Global Platts Analytics said in a recent note.

## Iran's ambassador attends Romanian online energy conference

**BELGRADE (IRNA)** — Energy Conference in Bucharest was held online in Romania with the participation of prominent Romanian officials and activists and the Iran's ambassador to the country.

According to the Iranian Embassy to Romania, the conference, held in Bucharest on Thursday, focused on various issues, including strategic policies on how to improve situation in the European Union after the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as strategic policies on the investment of the state-owned energy companies.



During the conference, Iran's Ambassador to Romania Morteza Abutalebi dealt with Iran's capabilities in the field of energy, positive background of Iran-Romania relations, strategic policies of the two countries in the field of energy transfer and Iran's unique geographical location in transferring energy from West Asia to Europe.

He also hailed capabilities of the Iranian companies in pipe laying operations, production, equipment and repair of power transmission towers, gas and steam turbines, wind turbines, spare parts for turbines and construction and installation of thermal and water generators.

## China's patchy aviation recovery portends more pain for oil

As China's economy began to recover from coronavirus-induced stay-at-home orders in April, Victor Li took to the sky again.

The 31-year-old investment manager, who used to fly about 150 times a year, has flown from his home in Beijing to Shanghai four times since lockdowns were lifted and recently found himself on a local flight that was about 90 percent full.

But while Li's happy to be traveling again, he still can't fly to Hong Kong for work, which he typically does around 10 times a year. He's also missing quick getaways to Southeast Asian beaches, as well as holidays farther afield.

Li's experience sums up the predicament of China's aviation market and provides a glimpse of what's likely to happen in other countries as well. While domestic flights have rebounded, the busy concourses don't extend to the international terminals. And that portends a long and slow recovery for airlines, the refiners who produce jet fuel and, in turn, oil prices.

### Jet setting

What the world's largest national aviation market is experiencing is a warning sign for other countries emerging from lockdowns. While China's domestic flight capacity on main routes has already recovered to within 7 percent of year-earlier levels, international capacity is still down by 95 percent, according to Jefferies Group analyst Andrew Lee.

Even if countries can successfully reopen their economies, the cooperation needed to reboot international travel could lag



years behind, while it's uncertain if there will ever be a Covid-19 vaccine. The worsening relations between the U.S. and China -- the world's two largest economies -- don't bode well for the type of global coordination needed to hasten the recovery.

“The psychological hesitation of consumers and slow adoption of aviation industry policies to contain Covid-19 will be the biggest obstacles,” said Matthew Chew, associate director at energy consultancy IHS Markit. “Aviation leisure travel is by far the largest discretionary sector for consumers and will be severely hindered as the globe recovers from a recession.”

### Headaches for refiners

The uneven recovery in China has resulted in demand for jet fuel getting back to about 70 percent of pre-virus levels, according to Beijing-based consultancy SIA Energy. Other aviation markets -- in Europe, the West Asia and Southeast Asia -- that don't have the cushion of a large domestic base will struggle to get to that level. Joseph Gatlula, head of oil and gas analysis at Fitch Solutions, doesn't expect global jet fuel consumption to fully recover until 2026.

In the U.S., the hardest hit market is the West Coast, which has lost about 250,000 barrels a day of demand in large part because fuel-guzzling trans-Pacific flights have all but disappeared. Los Angeles jet fuel prices have lagged behind those in New York, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

“Normally a lot of flights go across the Pacific, which chew up a lot of fuel,” said John Faustich, senior associate at transport fuels consultancy Stillwater Associates in Irvine, California.

To be sure, jet fuel typically accounts for just a fraction of the overall barrel of oil. Aviation fuel made up about 11 percent of the production of U.S. refiners last year, compared to 46 percent for gasoline and 30 percent for diesel, Energy Information Administration data show. But prolonged weakness in one product could cause headaches for refiners as it adds to gluts of other fuels.

The easiest way to reduce jet fuel output is for refineries to split kerosene, the raw ingredient used to produce aviation fuel, into lighter and heavier streams, IHS Markit's Chew said. Light-end kerosene will likely be used to make gasoline or petrochemical feedstock, while heavy-end kerosene can be blended into diesel supplies, he said.

The evisceration of jet fuel demand is already contributing to a global diesel glut that's dragging down overall refining margins. It's also not possible for refineries to cut jet fuel and diesel production as they need to meet demand for other fuels like gasoline as the same barrel of oil is used to make a variety of products. That means jet fuel is likely to keep dragging down refinery profits and crude prices for some time to come.





Agricultural Support Services Company

ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER  
SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT6232/99/55  
14/06/2020

Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

## AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below 7 items of pesticides technical and raw materials, through one step international tender.

ITEM	Name	PACKING	Quantity KG
1	Cartaphydrochloride tech Min 95%	25 kg bag	27000
2	Fipronil (premix) Tech 18.8-21.2%	200 kg drum	8000
3	Deltamethrin tech Min. 98.5%	200 kg drum	3000
4	Permethrin tech Min.95%	200 kg drum	5500
5	Stabilizer PAP	200 kg drum	8400
6	Adjuvant NP85 or P-Z	215 kg drum	12000
7	Phosphoric acid 85%	50 kg gallon	4200

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 13/06/2020 until Monday dated 22/06/2020 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9<sup>th</sup> floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 35803978226350065000000000000006.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Monday dated 27/07/2020 (during official working hours) to our security office located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Tuesday Dated 28/07/2020 at 02:00 PM with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee hall (9<sup>th</sup> floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond amount should be in cash or bank guarantee as follows:

- 1- € 24405 for Cartaphydrochloride Tech Min 95 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 4062291000.
- 2- € 31805 for Fipronil (premix) Tech (18.8-21.2) pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 5294200000.
- 3- € 7946 for Deltamethrin Tech Min 98.5 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 1323000000.
- 4- € 3039 for Permethrin Tech 95 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 505815750.
- 5- € 1136 for Stabilizer PAP equivalent to Iranian Rials 189000000.
- 6- € 1911 for Adjuvant NP85 or P-Z equivalent to Iranian Rials 318000000.
- 7- € 310 for Phosphoric acid 85 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 51450000.

For more information, you may refer to our website [www.assc.ir](http://www.assc.ir), and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

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شرکت پتروشیمی سازند (سهامی عام)

## آگهی مناقصه عمومی شماره 99-122

## موضوع: خرید 4/500/000 کیلوگرم CARBON BLACK

شرکت پتروشیمی سازند در نظر دارد جهت خرید 4/500/000 کیلوگرم CARBON BLACK از طریق مناقصه عمومی اقدام نماید. لذا بدینوسیله از شرکتهای توانمند و دارای شرایط ذیل جهت شرکت در مناقصه دعوت بعمل می آید.

## الف) شرایط شرکت در مناقصه

- 1- کربن بلک با گرید *Printex Alpha A Beads* تولید شرکت دگوسا (Orion) آلمان و در بسته بندی اصلی دگوسا (Orion) و در جامبوپک های 1000 کیلوپی از سایت آلمان تامین شود.
- 2- حداقل دارای دو سال *Shelf life* با تاریخ تولید جدید باشد.
- 3- بازرسی *visual* و کیفی در آلمان توسط بازرس پتروشیمی سازند و در آزمایشگاه معتبر در آلمان انجام گردد.

## Visual Inspection;

The each and every one of 1000 – kg bags must have original orion labels including information such as Name of manufacturer, Name of Product ( Carbon Black Printex Alpha A Bead ), Shelf life, Production Date & Batch Number.

1. Packing: **in 1000 kg Jambo bags**
2. Markings to include:
  - Production date should be fresh ( new )
  - Shelf life
  - Name of the Manufacturer: **Orion Company**
  - Batch number
  - Description of the Goods: **Carbon Black Printex Alpha A**
3. Quantity ( ? kg ):
4. Quality (Exterior shape) : **without physical damage on any of the bags, like Tearing or hole that may cause any leakage.**

## Quality Inspection;

The product quality test inspection should be checked at the accredited laboratory in Germany.

Tinting strength  
DBP Absorption  
Toluene extract  
Ash (650 C  
Sulfur content  
BET  
PH  
Heating Loss(950 C  
Sieve residue 45 micron  
Sieve residue 25 micron

– تحویل پاکت فنی و مالی تا ساعت 15 روز شنبه مورخ 99/03/31 می باشد .

– ضمناً به پیشنهادهایی که بعد از اتمام تاریخ فوق می باشد ترتیب اثر داده نمی شود.

– جهت کسب اطلاعات بیشتر با شماره تلفن 82122543 – 021 تماس حاصل فرمایید.

– محل تحویل پاکت ها تهران ، خ ولیعصر، بالاتر از میرداماد، خیابان تابان غربی، پلاک 68 (امور حقوقی و پیمانها)

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**Oil min. holds phone talk with Russia's energy min. on reducing oil output**

TEHRAN, Feb. 20 (MNA) – Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh held a phone conversation with the Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak on Thu. with regards to the cooperation of the two countries within the framework of OPEC Plus.

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# Joe Biden narrows list of potential running mates

Media in the United States reported on Friday that Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden's search for a running mate is entering a second round of vetting - and the narrowed list circulating in some circles is as much notable for who is not on it as who is.

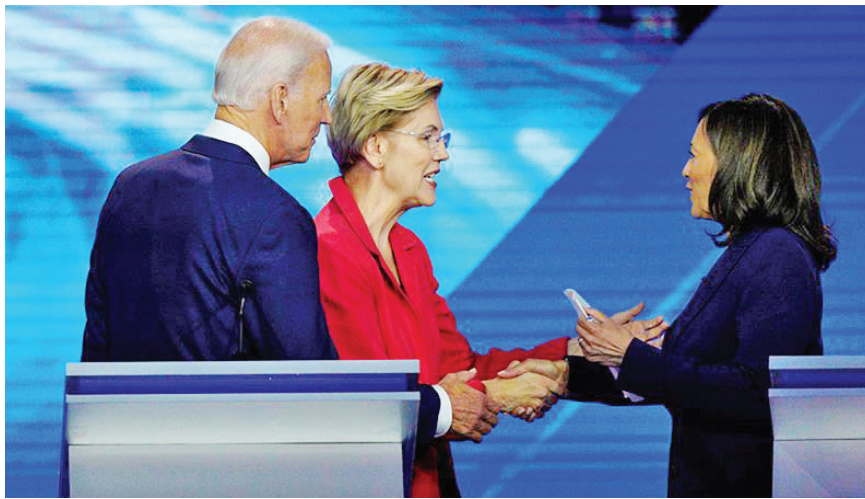
Democrats with knowledge of the process told the Associated Press news agency that Biden's search committee has narrowed the choices to as few as six serious contenders. Those still in contention include U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kamala Harris of California, as well as Susan Rice, who served as former President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

Biden, who boxed himself in by declaring unequivocally in March that he would choose a woman as his running mate, was already under pressure from Democrats to have a woman of colour on the ticket because of the outsized role that Black voters played in his road to the nomination during the primaries.

The more recent reckoning over racism and inequality - roiling the nation following the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white police officer in Minneapolis - has only added to that pressure.

Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor and former Democratic National Committee chairman, said that while Biden's choice was likely to be "all about personal chemistry", it would be "exciting for the party" to have a Black woman on a major party presidential ticket for the first time.

The campaign's shortlist includes several Black women, including Harris and Rice. Advisers have also looked closely at Florida Congresswoman Val Demings



and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, both of whom are Black, and New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Latina.

Biden's vetting committee had conversations with a larger group of women earlier this spring; those continuing on in the process have been asked to turn over financial records, past writings and other documentation. Biden has had various public and private interactions with many of the women his vetting committee has considered thus far, but has not yet had any formal one-on-one interviews expressly to discuss the number-two spot on the ticket. Those aren't expected for several weeks.

**Susan Rice** worked closely with Biden during his time as vice president, and has emerged as a favourite among some former Obama administration officials and is personally close to the former president. She has never held elected office but has extensive foreign policy experience, in-

cluding as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. She's also been an outspoken critic of the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump since leaving the White House and considered running for the U.S. Senate in Maine.

Rice has long been a target of Republicans, including for statements she made blaming the deadly 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya on protests spawned by an internet video. Republicans have also accused her of spying on Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser, though records declassified by the Trump administration show no evidence of Rice improperly accessing any information.

Harris and Warren have been seen as top contenders for the number-two spot since ending their own presidential campaigns.

**Elizabeth Warren** and Biden have forged a surprising bond in recent months and talk regularly about the progressive

policy ideas the Massachusetts senator put at the forefront of her campaign. Biden already has adopted her proposed bankruptcy law overhaul. And now, with the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic slowdown elevating the nuts and bolts of governing, some Democrats see Warren's policy credentials as an asset to the ticket.

A Biden-Warren pairing, however, would mean both Democrats on the ticket are white and in their 70s. Biden is 77, and Warren is 70.

**Kamala Harris** is the lone Black contender who has won statewide office - notable experience given Biden's emphasis on wanting a partner "ready to be president". She and Biden have also demonstrated a comfortable manner with each other in online fundraisers. Harris is an expert voice in discussions of criminal justice, but some Black progressives view her background as a prosecutor sceptically.

**Amy Klobuchar** is a contender whose standing appears to have fallen. The Minnesota Senator was a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis. During that period, more than two dozen people - mostly people of colour - died during encounters with police, and Klobuchar has caught flak for not doing more about it at the time.

**Stacey Abrams** is also notably absent from the shortlist. The former Georgia gubernatorial candidate has mounted an unusually public campaign for the spot, going so far as to declare herself an "excellent" choice during one television appearance. Abrams said this week that she has not been contacted by the campaign.

(Source: al Jazeera)

June 6, 1976.....

1 → "Did you have running water? What about plumbing? And how about the camels, did you ever own any. Did you live in a tent?"

He used to laugh at me all the time and explain that he was a city Arab, born in Bethlehem during the Jewish riots of 1929. The family myth was that he was born in a cave because of the fighting, and I was never able to verify if that was true or not, but it made a great story. He had gone to all the best schools in Jerusalem, then moved back to his family's property in Safad where his grandfather had bought a huge slice of the mountains around the Lake of Galilee after selling gold watches up and down the Americas back in the late 1800s.

He was amazed at the Israeli public relations machine that operated in this country. I used to say to him those first three years of our marriage, wide-eyed Midwestern girl that I was, that the Palestinians should go out and tell their story to the American public; the story of the massacre at Deir Yassien and Kfar Kacem, the bombing of the King David hotel in Jerusalem by European Jewish terrorists, and the raping and pillaging of Palestine.

But no....he said he'd go back to Palestine someday, he wouldn't become an American, and he didn't want to get involved, It wasn't his responsibility to tell his story to a bunch of Americans who didn't care. He was on a laissez-passer, had been since Eisenhower had designated a special dispensation for Palestinian refugees in 1952 so they could come to the U.S. as students. He had gone to Michigan State to become an engineer along with his brothers.

The hope he would return someday to the land he loved was shattered in that six-day war. On June 5, we went to bed a family of four living in Chicago, one husband, one wife, one daughter, one son.

We woke up on June 6, and I became a Palestinian.

## French nuclear submarine on fire as another sub test-fires ballistic missile

Fire has broken out and still raging onboard a French nuclear submarine docked at the Mediterranean port of Toulon, home to France's largest naval base, while another French submarine test-fired a strategic ballistic missile amid the new US-initiated nuclear arms race.

Local authorities also insisted that the fire was under control, according to the report, which further said dozens of firefighters -- assisted by specialized teams and a firefighting ship deployed from Marseille -- responded to the incident on the *Perle*, which was docked at the naval base for repairs.

"The fire is under control. It will not spread, but it has not yet been put out," said a spokeswoman for the Mediterranean prefecture on Friday as quoted in a Reuters report, further noting that no one was harmed by the fire and that no nuclear materials or weapons were on board the vessel.

However, no reason has yet been cited for the blaze on the 74-meter-long nuclear submarine that was launched in 1990 and began active service in 1993.

Meanwhile, a French defense ministry source was also cited as saying that Defense Minister Florence Parly would soon visit the Toulon naval base, which also hosts France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* and the nuclear submarines as well as other warships that escort it on its global missions< Press Tv reported.

The French Ministry of Armed Forces said the Navy *Le Triomphant*-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) "*Le Téméraire*" test-fired an M51 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

## Trump's call to label Antifa 'domestic terrorists' is dangerous



By Sahar Aziz

When U.S. President Trump announced his intention to designate Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization, his disregard for the upsurge of white right-wing extremist violence was obvious. So, too, was his objective - quashing political opposition to his administration.

Antifa, short for anti-fascist, is a far-left ideological movement opposed to fascists, neo-Nazis and far-right groups. A loose collective of individuals and local groups, it lacks a chain of command or designated leaders.

Followers of this decentralized movement engage mostly in nonviolent activities such as protesting, giving speeches, tracking fascist groups and hanging up posters. However, Antifa followers, often clad in all black and wearing masks, justify militant anti-fascism action as self-defense of marginalized people against white supremacists. As a result, some have damaged property and physically attacked ideological opponents during protests. None have killed.

In stark contrast, right-wing hate groups have inspired some of their followers to kill 106 people between 2001 and 2016, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. In Trump's first year as president, right-wing groups were responsible for 31 violent attacks.

And yet, not once has Trump called for one of the nearly 1,000 right-wing extremist groups to be designated as a domestic terrorist organization.

His double standards were on full display in 2017, when he claimed Antifa shared some of the blame for the murder of Heather Heyer during the Unite the Right protest in Charlottesville, Virginia. Heyer was killed when a self-professed neo-Nazi drove his car into a crowd of anti-fascists protesting against the far-right racist groups attending the rally. Refusing to acknowledge that the protest was organized by white supremacists, Trump stunningly stated that there were "very fine people on both sides". Those so-called fine

people included hundreds of Klansmen, Alt-Knights, and the Proud Boys - all of whom are eager to start a race war.

Meanwhile, Trump categorically smears Muslims as "terrorists". Since 2015, he accused Islam of being a violent ideology, suggested creating a "database of all Muslims in the U.S." and issued a Muslim Ban. He continues Bush and Obama's legacy of focusing on Muslims in domestic counterterrorism enforcement.

Indeed, Muslims have been the boogymen propped up by both the Democrats and the Republicans to funnel billions of dollars to the FBI, DHS and DOJ National Security Division. The money, in turn, funds tens of thousands of counterterrorism agents, intelligence officers and prosecutors conducting surveillance, investigations and sting operations in Muslim communities under a preventive model of counterterrorism policing.

These activities had a chilling effect on Muslims' free speech and freedom of religion, and caused many of them to self-censor and refrain from political activism - precisely what the government wants. Trump now wants to expand this rights-infringing schema to his left-wing opposition.

Notably, the grave damage to Muslims' civil rights and liberties occurs through enforcement of international terrorism laws because only foreign organizations can be designated as "terrorist". No law exists authorizing the designation of a domestic group as a terrorist organization. However, domestic terrorism is defined in 18 USC 2331(5) as "acts dangerous to human life that occur primarily in the United States, violate federal or state criminal laws, and are intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or influence government policy by intimidation or coercion".

Should Congress pass a law authorizing domestic groups to be designated as terrorist according to this definition, it would be the death knell of political groups disfavoured by whoever is president at a particular time.

Individuals associated with the designated group, even if not engaged in violent acts, could be prosecuted for material support to terrorism and imprisoned for up to 15 years. Donating funds, providing training, joining protests and other non-violent actions associated with designated domestic groups would be illegal.

The counterterrorism preventive model would also invite pre-emptive surveillance and investigations based on people's ideologies, associations and political memberships.

A domestic terrorism law, thus, would regress the nation back to a dark era when the law was weaponised to quash domestic political dissent. During the 1950s and 1960s, the infamous COINTELPRO under J Edgar Hoover deployed tens of thousands of informants and undercover agents to infiltrate and disrupt the Black Panther Party, Nation of Islam, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, anti-Vietnam war protesters and other civil rights groups.

Moreover, calls for a new statute that would allow for domestic groups to be designated as "terrorist" based on "national security" are belied by the fact that prosecutors can already choose from more than 51 criminal statutes, including murder, possessing or using weapons of mass destruction, bombing and assassination to prosecute politically motivated violence.

But being labelled a terrorist carries a heightened stigma, which in turn gives licence to the FBI to be more aggressive in their surveillance and investigative tactics.

Designating Antifa as a terrorist organization would not only change the public view of Antifa as a radical political group that, while fringe and occasionally violent, falls under Americans' expansive notions of free speech. It would unleash the full force of the government's counterterrorism regime against political dissidents on the left. Nonviolent acts such as tracking fascist groups, counter-protesting against white supremacists, publicly defacing flyers of neo-Nazi speakers, and opposing law enforcement, would be treated as unlawful material support for terrorism.

Absent the terrorist label, the government must be much more careful to focus on violent acts, not radical speech or ideology, in how it investigates Antifa and other groups on the extremes of the political spectrum. Officials who abuse their power will find themselves subjects of Inspector

General Reports exposing illegal surveillance of activists engaging in First Amendment protected activities, which occurred under the Bush administration.

To be sure, Trump's primary targets of a domestic terrorism law will be left wing and minority activists.

But over time no one will be immune from being criminalized for their dissent - leaving us bereft of our strongest defense against authoritarianism.

*Sahar Aziz is professor of law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar at Rutgers Law School.*

First Announcement



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INVITATION TO INTLRNATIONAL TENDER

No.414109

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE  
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2)PRESENT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT IN THIS ADDRESS: RAW MATERIAL  
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AHVAZ & BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD-AHWAZ-IRAN  
P.O.BOX: 1378 - POST CODE: -61788-13111

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BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE 07.jul.2020 THE OPENING DATE OF TECHNICAL  
OFFER ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 11 AM ON THE 11.jul.2020 IN THE BUYER'S  
CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHVAZ-IRAN  
AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATIEND  
THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

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WEBSITE: WWW.KSC.IR



## Iran to launch capsule hotels at airports, train stations

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran aims to install capsule hotels at some of its airports, railway stations, and passenger terminals to promote cheap and basic overnight accommodation for travelers.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan on Saturday unveiled a sample of such bed-sized rooms during a ceremony held at the headquarters of the ministry in Tehran, CHTN reported.



“One of the advantages of such new accommodation places is that they will cause changes in eco-camps and suitable and affordable accommodation places in various camps, airports, passenger terminals, railways, and so on,” Mounesan said.

Capsule or ‘pod’ hotels were initially developed in Japan as a way for budget travelers to have somewhere safe and affordable to sleep. Over the years capsule hotels have remained popular but the experience of staying in one has dramatically changed, with pod hoteliers competing to provide guests with the most stylish and luxurious experience.

## Sassanid-era fort in central Iran made a national heritage

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The ancient fort of Turan Posht, named after Turandokht who was a princess of Persia during the Sassanid era (224 CE–651), has recently been inscribed on the National Heritage List. The monument stands tall on a hillside in Taft county of Yazd province, central Iran.



Narratives say that residents of the historic village of Turan Posht (which shares the name with the fortress) had sought refuge in the past to defend themselves against the threat of predators and aggressors threatening them from the desert between Yazd and Fars provinces.

“The fort is unique in terms of using stones in its construction, and it has a large number of rooms, each offering shelter to a local family when the nearby region was on the verge of a foreign threat or attack,” ISNA reported on Wednesday.

“The fort is considered a biological stronghold as foodstuffs such as beans, nuts, flour, and other ingredients had been classified and stockpiled in special places of the monument.”

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sasanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region” -- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

## Iran’s Baghali-ghatogh amongst world’s top egg dishes

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Baghali-ghatogh, a thick stew of eggs, beans, and dill, which is of high popularity in northern Iran, has recently been shortlisted as one of the top egg dishes in the world.



Some believe that it’s one of the few vegetarian dishes of Persian cuisine which taste is a bit particular because of the generous usage of dill.

“The egg is the star of many other meals, too, and it is beloved for its workhorse qualities in recipes the world over,” CNN wrote in a recent article on top egg dishes including the Iranian stew.

Preparing the dish, eggs should be cooked with dill-scented lima bean -- or vegetarian butter bean stew. To get even more specifically delicious, recipes often call for the Iranian mix of herbs, spinach, and scallions called sabzi. Chef and owner of NYC’s Sofreh restaurant Nasim Alikhani serves her braised butter beans in citrusy dill broth topped with poached eggs rather than whisking them into the stew.

The list also includes the kuku, (or kookoo), a dish made from whipped eggs combined with different, usually vegetarian, ingredients.

# New historical sites come to light near UNESCO-tagged Pasargadae

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Some new historical sites have been discovered near the UNESCO-tagged Pasargadae in Fars province, southern Iran, by the teams of cultural heritage experts, CHTN reported.

The historical sites belong to different historical eras, from Middle Paleolithic, Paleolithic and Epipaleolithic to Achaemenid (c. 550 – 330 BC), Parthian (247 BC – 224 CE) and Sassanid (224 CE–651) periods and even the Islamic era, provincial tourism chief Mohammad Nasiri Haqiqat said on Saturday.

Teams of archeologists and cultural heritage experts are studying the sites with the aim of research studies as well as achieving the best ways for protecting and preserving the sites, considering their geographical location, he added.

Pasargadae, Persian Pasargad, first dynastic capital of the Persian Achaemenian dynasty, situated on a plain northeast of Persepolis. According to tradition, Cyrus II (the Great; reigned 559–c. 529 BC) chose the site because it lay near the scene of his victory over Astyages the Mede (550). The name of the city may have been derived from that of the chief Persian tribe, the Pasargadae, although it is possible that the original form of the name was Par-sagadeh (“Throne of Pars”). In 2004 the ruins were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Pasargadae embraces outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization, including remnants of several royal palaces and Persian gardens and above all, the tomb of Cyrus the Great,



the founder of the Achaemenid Empire. The tomb, which still stands almost intact, is constructed of huge white limestone blocks on a rectangular stepped plinth, with six receding stages.

The Greek historian Arrian, according to Britannica Encyclopedia, tells of Alexander’s grief at finding the tomb open and

despoiled on his return from his Indian campaign in 324 BC. Alexander’s general Aristobulus, who was charged with restoring the tomb, also left some description not only of the interior furnishings of the monument, in which the body of Cyrus lay in a gold sarcophagus on a gold couch, but also of the tomb’s exterior appointments,

including a description of the well-watered, lush gardens that once surrounded it.

The empire at its greatest extent stretched from the Balkans to the Indus Valley, spanning 5.5 million square kilometers. The Persian king declared the world’s first charter of human rights, also known as the Cyrus Cylinder.

## All Iranian airports shielded against virus pandemic: EASA

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has recently published a list of airports worldwide it has concluded being shielded against the coronavirus outbreak, evaluating “all airports” in Iran as safe.

Developed by the EU agency, the list includes world airports being taken the necessary measures, including enhanced aircraft disinfection for mitigating risks of transmission of the COVID-19 infection.

The list is mainly based on the information from WHO, ECDC (the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control), and other reputable public health institutes, and will be updated continuously in consultation with these organizations, the source said on Friday.

“It is developed under the sole purpose of ensuring an extra layer of protection for passengers and aircrew and is not intended to suggest travel restrictions or other public health measures (such as quarantine) at State level.”



Ingredients and factors contributing to the selection concern the number of active cases; the number of recovered cases; the trend of active cases per day & trend of new cases per

day; the number of tests per inhabitants; deaths per inhabitants & trend of deaths per day; cases in urban vs rural areas; number & size of the airports serving a specific area/

population.

To lessen the virus’s impact on the travel sector, Iran’s tourism ministry in close collaboration with the health ministry are executing protocols comprising practical guidelines and instructions to improve health standards in hotels, guest houses, eco-lodge units, airports, tourist destinations, transport facilities, recreational centers, and restaurants.

The tourism industry of Iran will get back on the right track sooner than expected thanks to measures taken to tackle the spread of coronavirus, deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri told the Tehran Times in an interview last month.

“I believe that tourism industry of the country will get back on the right track far sooner than generally expected thanks to the measures taken to deal with the spread of coronavirus in tourist destinations, hotels, stopovers, and all the centers which are affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.”

## Centuries-old mosque in Yazd back to former glory



**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The centuries-old Abolmaali Grand Mosque in the central province of Yazd has undergone some rehabilitation works aimed at reviving, preserving, protecting, and strengthening the historical structure, ISNA reported.

The project involved covering and strengthening rooftop using cob material, changing the building’s worn out bricks and repairing the mosque’s badgir (wind catcher), provincial tourism chief Mohammadreza Falahati said on Saturday.

The 13th-century mosque was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1999.

The mosque was built by Khajeh Abolmaali, of a wealthy and trustee family in Yazd. He also built a school, a public bathhouse, and a tomb next to the mosque in a neighborhood, which was located outside the city at the time.

The mosque, which has unique architectural features, includes a big garm-

khaneh (a hot chamber where people perform ablutions), a yard, and a tomb as well as wind catchers. Its walls are decorated with hexagonal azure tiles with square flower pieces in the middle.

With its winding lanes, a forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, being referred to as a ‘don’t miss’ destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The oasis city is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains.

The province has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

## Exports of handicrafts from Qazvin hit \$6.3m in year



**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Handicrafts exports from the northwestern province of Qazvin reached \$6.3 million during the previous Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended March 20), CHTN reported.

Traditional glassware, hand-woven carpets, and rugs, leather works, pottery and traditional jewelry constitute the majority of Qazvin’s handicrafts mostly exported to Iraq, Qatar, Germany, Russia, Azerbaijan, United Arab Emirates, Netherlands and Turkmenistan, provincial tourism chief Seyyed Meysam Hessari said on Saturday.

Some eight high-quality works by artisans in the province were also awarded the National Seal of Excellence during the last year, he added.

Qazvin was once capital the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanse-rai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky

museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book “The Valleys of the Assassins”.

Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanse-rais of the country, Sa’d-al Saltaneh caravanse-rai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it’s a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It’s a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, culinary, and hospitality of Iran.



# From suicide to happiness: meet Iran's mother of brides

**1→** Abandoning all hope, the young girl poured many pills into her hand to swallow, but a dream of being a bride flashed through her mind like a film running at high speed, and suddenly she felt rather hopeful to help few girls fulfill their dream of being a bride.

A day later, she started looking for all those working in the field of wedding services and those looking forward to helping couples in need, so it was the day she could make it and gradually found her friends accompanying her in this way.

Now Sima is the "mother of Iran's brides" and has so far provided 530 brides with home appliances and helped them hold wedding ceremonies.

As an integral part of the Iranian marriage tradition, the bride's family provides the couple with furniture and home appliances, which is called Jahiziyeh, several days before the wedding.

First, she was helping youth with disabilities who could not afford marriage ceremony or home appliances, after a while, she targeted all the financially-struggling couples and help them start their married life.

Holding a big wedding party for 200



couples, for 26-year-old Sima, the youngest benefactor of the wedding ceremonies, was the beginning of a path for making many happy.

Over 110 young volunteers are working with Iran Team, offering all kinds of services to the vulnerable groups of people, with a total of 500 benefactors.

"How I felt about her was neither like a daughter's feelings for her mother nor like a friend's feelings for her friend. I felt like I was meeting an angel. I felt that she was an angel who came down from heaven to do something for young people like us that looked impossible even to ourselves.

That's indescribable that a human enters into such a laborious endeavor without any expectations, and only for young people like me to achieve our dreams. It was very strange for me to see her not sleeping for consecutive nights because of us," Faezeh Zamiri, a 25-year-old bride said about Sima.

"Tonight I felt like you were a doctor for five times, and wore that white medical gown in front of my eyes, my dream of you becoming a doctor finally fulfilled," Sima's father said during the wedding party held for 200 couples.

## 560 rescue teams operating round-the-clock nationwide

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Some 560 relief and rescue teams are operating round-the-clock on roads, as well as coastal, maritime and mountainous areas across the country to provide services to those affected by the natural and man-caused incidents, head of the Red Crescent Society's relief and rescue organization has announced.



These bases include 480 road bases, 20 coastal and maritime bases, 60 mountain bases, which provide 24-hour operations of rescue, relief and search, IRNA quoted Mehdi Valipour as saying on Saturday.

He went on to say that the main tasks of specialized forces include, technical rescue of people trapped in cars due to traffic accidents, and searching for injured people, and transferring the injured to medical centers and hospitals and in some cases emergency accommodation.

## Climate worst-case scenarios may not go far enough, cloud data shows

Worst-case global heating scenarios may need to be revised upwards in light of a better understanding of the role of clouds, scientists have said.

Recent modelling data suggests the climate is considerably more sensitive to carbon emissions than previously believed, and experts said the projections had the potential to be "incredibly alarming", though they stressed further research would be needed to validate the new numbers.

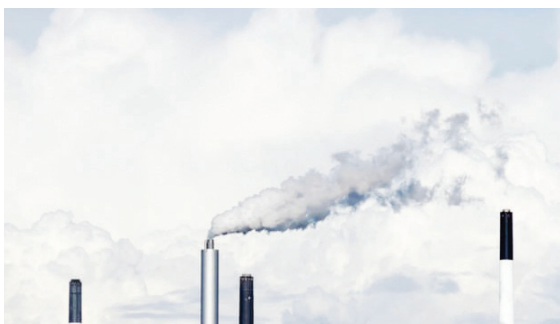
Modelling results from more than 20 institutions are being compiled for the sixth assessment by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is due to be released next year, the Independent reported.

Compared with the last assessment in 2014, 25% of them show a sharp upward shift from 3C to 5C in climate sensitivity – the amount of warming projected from a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide from the preindustrial level of 280 parts per million. This has shocked many veteran observers, because assumptions about climate sensitivity have been relatively unchanged since the 1980s.

"That is a very deep concern," Johan Rockström, the director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said. "Climate sensitivity is the holy grail of climate science. It is the prime indicator of climate risk. For 40 years, it has been around 3C. Now, we are suddenly starting to see big climate models on the best supercomputers showing things could be worse than we thought."

He said climate sensitivity above 5C would reduce the scope for human action to reduce the worst impacts of global heating. "We would have no more space for a soft landing of 1.5C [above preindustrial levels]. The best we could aim for is 2C," he said.

Worst-case projections in excess of 5C have been generated by several of the world's leading climate research bodies, including the UK Met Office's Hadley Centre and



the EU's Community Earth System Model.

Timothy Palmer, a professor in climate physics at Oxford University and a member of the Met Office's advisory board, said the high figure initially made scientists nervous. "It was way outside previous estimates. People asked whether there was a bug in the code," he said. "But it boiled down to relatively small changes in the way clouds are represented in the models."

The role of clouds is one of the most uncertain areas in climate science because they are hard to measure and, depending on altitude, droplet temperature and other factors, can play either a warming or a cooling role. For decades, this has been the focus of fierce academic disputes.

Previous IPCC reports tended to assume that clouds would have a neutral impact because the warming and cooling feedbacks would cancel each other out. But in the past year and a half, a body of evidence has been growing showing that the net effect will be warming. This is based on finer resolution computer models and advanced cloud microphysics.

"Clouds will determine humanity's fate – whether climate is an existential threat or an inconvenience that we will learn to live with," said Palmer. "Most recent

models suggest clouds will make matters worse."

In a recent paper in the journal Nature, Palmer explains how the new Hadley Centre model that produced the 5+C figure on climate sensitivity was tested by assessing its accuracy in forecasting short-term weather. This testing technique had exposed flaws in previous models, but in the latest case, the results reinforced the estimates. "The results are not reassuring – they support the estimates," he wrote. He is calling for other models to be tested in a similar way.

"It's really important. The message to the government and public is, you have to take this high climate sensitivity seriously. [We] must get emissions down as quickly as we can," he said.

The IPCC is expected to include the 5+C climate sensitivity figure in its next report on the range of possible outcomes. Scientists caution that this is a work in progress and that doubts remain because such a high figure does not fit with historical records.

Catherine Senior, head of understanding climate change at the Met Office Hadley Centre, said more studies and more data were needed to fully understand the role of clouds and aerosols.

"This figure has the potential to be incredibly alarming if it is right," she said. "But as a scientist, my first response is: why has the model done that? We are still in the stage of evaluating the processes driving the different response."

While acknowledging the continued uncertainty, Rockström said climate models might still be underestimating the problem because they did not fully take into account tipping points in the biosphere.

"The more we learn, the more fragile the Earth system seems to be and the faster we need to move," he said. "It gives even stronger argument to step out of this Covid-19 crisis and move full speed towards decarbonising the economy."

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## Miankaleh peninsula faces serious risk of disappearing

Hossein Ali Ebrahimi, head of Mazandaran province department of department, has said that almost 20 percent of the peninsula's wetlands have dried up. Drought spell and climate change are two of the key factors contributing to the Miankaleh peninsula dryness, YJC quoted Ebrahimi as saying on Wednesday.

Unfortunately, the province of Mazandaran has also been negatively affected by climate change and less precipitation has increased the peninsula water deficits, Ebrahimi said, stating that additionally mismanagement, unsustainable agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells and groundwater resources have exacerbated Miankaleh peninsula's condition.

## تالاب میانکاله در معرض خشکی کامل

حسین علی ابراهیمی مدیر کل محیط زیست استان مازندران ۲۰ درصد از تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان ابراهیمی ادامه داد: تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این تالاب تأثیر گذار

گفت: متأسفانه استان مازندران نیز مانند سایر استان‌های کشور درگیر تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این استان تأثیر گذار بوده است به همین دلیل قسمتی تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است. وی در ادامه افزود: علاوه بر تغییرات اقلیمی و کمبود نزولات آسمانی، نبود مدیریت صحیح منابع آبی برداشت غیرمجاز از چاه‌ها و و منع آب زیرزمینی و کشاورزی ناپایدار در منطقه، وضعیت این تالاب بحرانی است.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “-ization, -isation”

■ **Meaning:** a word ending that indicates process or result

■ **For example:** The **characterization** is believable, but it's still not a very good book.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Gnaw (away) at somebody/something

■ **Meaning:** to make someone feel worried or frightened, over a period of time

■ **For example:** Something was gnawing at the back of his mind.

### IDIOM

#### A breeze

■ **Meaning:** say that something was a breeze means that it was very easy or that everything went smoothly

■ **For example:** The interview was a breeze - barely 10 minutes and I got the job!

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### WHO report on the world's health

(December 23, 2003)

The World Health Organisation's annual report on the state of the world's health calls for more equality between countries. But economic and social issues continue to affect peoples' health. This report from Ania Lichtarowicz.

**Inequality of health care** is still **paramount**, says the WHO's latest report. Industrialised countries account for less than 20 percent of the world's population but take 90 percent of **health spending**. In Japan more than five hundred dollars is spent on drugs per person per year. This **compares to** just three dollars in Sierra Leone. Only slightly more is spent in many sub-Saharan countries.

Over the last fifty years, **life expectancy** has increased globally from forty six years to sixty five. But today, instead of **the gap** being between the developed and developing countries, it's now biggest between the very poorest nations and all other countries. The burden of infectious diseases, including HIV, as well as **chronic conditions, coupled with** a lack of health care, has led to this situation.

However, it's children who are **most affected**. Almost fifty seven million people died in 2002, nearly twenty per cent children of less than 5 years of age, and ninety eight per cent of these deaths occurred in developing countries.

#### Words

**inequality:** here, a difference in the provision of health care between different groups

**health care:** the system including doctors, nurses and hospitals that keeps people in a country healthy

**paramount:** more important than anything else

**health spending:** the money spent on health care

**compares to:** when you compare two things you consider their similarities or, here, the differences between them

**life expectancy:** the length of time a person normally lives

**the gap:** the difference

**chronic conditions:** medical problems which continue for a long time

**coupled with:** together with, as well as

**most affected:** the greatest impact is on children

(Source: BBC)



## Beijing shuts down several markets after new COVID-19 cases reported

Beijing has shut down several markets, including the largest Xinfadi wholesale food market, and locked down 11 residential communities near it after six new domestically-transmitted coronavirus cases were reported, taking the tally to nine in the capital city in the last three days, while 12 new infections were registered in other parts of China.

Officials in Beijing found the coronavirus on a chopping board of imported salmon at the Xinfadi market.

China's National Health Commission, (NHC) said on Saturday that out of the 18 new coronavirus cases, 11 were confirmed cases reported in the country on Friday, including six domestically-transmitted infections in Beijing.

Also on Friday, seven new asymptomatic cases were reported, taking the total number of such people in quarantine to 98, it said.

Everybody, including customers and meat dealers have undergone nucleic acid tests. In total, six major wholesale markets in Beijing suspended, or partially suspended, operations on Friday, the Global Times report said.

## Facebook fires employee who protested against Trump post inaction

Facebook Inc has fired an employee who had criticised Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg's decision not to take action against inflammatory posts by US President Donald Trump earlier this month, citing the software engineer's tweet challenging a colleague's silence on the issue.

Brandon Dail, a user interface engineer in Seattle, said in a tweet on Friday that he was dismissed for publicly scolding a colleague who had refused to include a statement of support for the Black Lives Matter movement on developer documents he was publishing, al Jazeera reported.

"I don't doubt that violates Facebook's respectful workplace policy," Dail wrote on Friday.

"I'm not claiming I was unjustly terminated. I was fed up with Facebook, the harm it's doing, and the silence of those complicit (including myself)."

Dail sent the offensive tweet a day after joining dozens of employees, including the six other engineers on his team, in abandoning their desks and tweeting objections to Zuckerberg's handling of Trump's posts targeting demonstrators protesting against systemic racial injustice in the country.

## China denounces UK, U.S. 'interference' in Hong Kong's internal affairs

China has once again lambasted the United Kingdom and the United States for their "interference" in the domestic affairs of Hong Kong, China's global financial hub city, stressing that Beijing will resolutely push forward with a decision to impose a recently-passed national security law over the territory.

"Unwarranted foreign interference in Hong Kong's affairs will only make China more determined in advancing the national security legislation for Hong Kong," said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Hua Chunying in a press conference on Friday.

Her comments came in response to a so-called Six-monthly Report by London on Hong Kong issued a day earlier, criticizing Beijing's decision about the national security legislation.

"The UK has no sovereignty, jurisdiction or right to supervise Hong Kong, nor does it have any so-called 'responsibility'," Hua stressed, saying that Beijing has repeatedly expounded on its solemn position on the national security legislation for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Hong Kong returned from British to Chinese rule in 1997. In June last year, unprecedented anti-government protests began in Hong Kong over a proposed extradition bill. It was shelved under pressure from rallies later on, but the turbulent demonstrations continued the next several months and became more violent, endangering the lives and property of citizens.

## Bolton rips Trump: 'Getting reelected was the only thing that mattered'

➔ "At the time the country needed him most, and history will reflect, he chose to sell books," said Rep. Mike Quigley, a member of the House Intelligence Committee. "It wasn't a question in his mind of whether or not he should talk about it. It's whether or not he should profit from talking about it. Not exactly 'Profiles in Courage.'"

It's unclear whether lawmakers will seek Bolton's sworn testimony on the matters he may identify in his book. The immediate reaction from those involved has been to boycott his memoir.

"John, we begged you to testify in impeachment. We tried everything, right up until the very last minute of the trial," said Norm Eisen, a top lawyer for the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment process. "You persistently refused. Now you want us to feel sorry for you & buy your book?"

Quigley, too, said he hoped anyone who cares what Bolton has to say would simply borrow the book rather than buy it. But he added that he hopes the House will revisit enforcing subpoenas it issued during the impeachment process that were never pursued.

The House Intelligence Committee never subpoenaed Bolton but it did initially seek to compel Bolton's deputy Charles Kupperman to appear. Kupperman was represented by Chuck Cooper, a prominent Washington D.C. defense lawyer who also represents Bolton, and whose involvement with Kupperman positioned the case as a proxy for any potential effort by the House to seek Bolton's testimony. In fact, Cooper indicated that had the House subpoenaed Bolton, he would have fought them in court.

# George Floyd protesters hit streets across U.S. for third weekend

➔ Last weekend, some demonstrations took on a party-like atmosphere as protesters welcomed DJs, danced to music and formed drum circles.

■ Gen. Milley sorry for joining Trump walk to church

The top US military officer says he was wrong to have joined President Donald Trump during his controversial walk to a damaged church near the White House.

The 1 June event created "a perception of the military involved in domestic politics", Gen Mark Milley said.

Trump walked to the church and held up a Bible after a peaceful protest at the death of African American George Floyd was forcibly dispersed.

The use of troops to tackle the protests has provoked fierce US debate.

Trump has regularly referred to "law and order", calling in the National Guard to the US capital, vowing to deploy the military to other cities and condemning violent protests.

According to BBC, some of the mostly peaceful initial protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month did turn violent with looting in several cities.

But since four police officers were charged in connection with the death, the protests have been more peaceful, spawning an international movement against police brutality and racial inequality.

■ Trump says 'concept of chokeholds sounds innocent'



Trump said he was "generally" in favor of banning police chokeholds but said they may be appropriate in some circumstances.

"I think the concept of chokeholds sounds so innocent and so perfect," Trump said in a Fox News interview, before addressing how they have been unfairly used against people like George Floyd, who was killed in police custody last month. "It would be, I think, a

very good thing that, generally speaking, it should be ended," Trump said.

■ World Joins U.S. protests but Leaders restrained about Trump

Meanwhile, people have taken to the streets of Berlin, London, Paris and other cities around the world to demonstrate in support of Black Lives Matter protesters in the United States and to vent anger over

## Algeria offers mediating role in Libya as UN condemns mass graves

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has said his country's position on the situation in Libya is to reject military action and to keep a distance from all the parties involved in the crisis.

In a press interview, Tebboune said Algeria has always considered the Libyan capital, Tripoli, a red line, and that its fall into the hands of renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar's forces would have resulted in an all-out civil war, leading to the collapse of the state.

He expressed Algeria's readiness to sponsor a peace agreement in Libya as it did in Mali, noting that Libyan tribes accept Algerian mediation.

"The solution in Libya is seen in our contribution with Egypt and Tunisia in order to reach an agreement on the crisis," Tebboune said.

■ UN horror at mass graves discovery

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a thorough and transparent investigation after mass graves were found in Tarhuna, which was recently recaptured by Libya's internationally recognized government from Haftar's forces.

According to al Jazeera, Guterres said he was "deeply shocked" by the discovery of multiple mass graves in recent days, in a statement from his



spokesman late on Friday.

"Yesterday, the UN Mission in Libya expressed horror at the reports of at least eight mass graves in past days, the majority of them in Tarhuna," said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for Guterres, in a statement late on Friday.

"International law requires that the authorities conduct prompt, effective and transparent investigations into all alleged cases of unlawful deaths, the Mission said," he added.

Guterres called for Libyan authorities to secure the graves, identify the victims, establish causes of death and return the bodies to the next of kin, and offered UN support to do so.

He repeated calls for the fighting to end in Libya and said he hopes a ceasefire will be agreed upon soon.

Philippe Nassif, Amnesty International's director for the West Asia and North Africa, said the group was working to verify the mass killings.

## Thousands march for racial justice in Australia

Thousands of protesters rallied for racial equality in cities across Australia Saturday despite official warnings the demonstrations could undermine the country's success in suppressing the coronavirus.

The biggest demonstration took place in the Western Australian capital, Perth, where several thousand people gathered in a park waving "Black Lives Matter" signs and Aboriginal flags, AFP reported.

Smaller protests for Aboriginal rights were held in Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory, and towns in neighboring Queensland -- both regions with numerous indigenous communities.

"We are here to support our future as indigenous people and to walk against the injustices of... what happens to our people, with over 400 black deaths in custody," one unidentified protestor told public broadcaster ABC at the Darwin march.

With the exception of the Darwin demonstration, which had authorization, the other protests violated official injunctions against mass gatherings instituted three months ago to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

But organizers made efforts to keep the protestors spread out and mostly wearing face masks, and police did not intervene.

It was the second straight weekend of large protests in Australia, initially organized in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States following the killing by a white policeman of African-American George Floyd.

President Donald Trump's response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota.

But at the top, the leaders of traditional allies of the United States have taken pains to avoid criticizing Trump directly, walking a fine line to reconcile international diplomacy with domestic outrage.

According to U.S. News, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau let silence speak for itself when asked to comment on the decision to forcibly clear peaceful protesters outside the White House to make way for a Trump photo-op at a nearby church, standing pensively at his lectern apparently mulling his answer for more than 20 seconds before answering that Canada also suffered from "systemic discrimination" — never mentioning the American president.

"We need to be allies in the fight against discrimination, we need to listen, we need to learn, and we need to work hard to fix, to figure out how we can be part of the solution on fixing things," he said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel side-stepped questions from ZDF public television about Trump last week, saying the killing of Floyd was "really, really terrible. Racism is something terrible, and society in the United States is very polarized."

When pressed, she conceded that Trump's "political style is a very controversial one" but would go no further when asked if she had confidence in him.



The movement has resonated particularly strongly with many in Australia, a country also wrestling with the legacy of racial injustice towards the country's indigenous peoples.

Aboriginal Australians are vastly over-represented in the prison population, and there have been more than 400 indigenous deaths in custody in the last three decades.

No prosecutions have been brought over the deaths, despite dozens of investigations, inquests and in some cases video evidence of abuse.

Many protestors carried signs reflecting the Aboriginal experience, including "Stop deaths in custody" and "White Australia stop lying to yourselves".

In parallel with the Black Lives Matter rallies, dozens of people protested in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne against the prolonged detention of asylum-seekers under the government's tough refugee policies.

## UN issues desperate plea for financial aid in war-ravaged Yemen

The United Nations has warned that three-quarters of the aid programmes backed by its agencies in war-ravaged Yemen will have to shutter in weeks without more funding, even as both COVID-19 and cholera continue to spread in the country facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Yemen's long-running conflict mainly pits Houthis against a pro-government camp supported by a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The fighting has left some 24 million Yemenis - more than two-thirds of the population - to rely on some form of aid.

International donors pledged \$1.35bn for Yemen at a conference on June 2 - but that was well below a \$2.4bn fundraising target needed to prevent severe cutbacks in the UN's aid operation.

"More than 30 of the 41 UN-supported programmes in Yemen will close in the coming weeks if additional funds are not secured," UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville told a briefing in Geneva.

"Now, more than ever, the country needs the outside world's help, and it's not really getting it," he said.

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the U.S. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said only 47 percent of the promised \$1.35bn had actually been received.

Yemen has so far reported 564 confirmed coronavirus infections and 130 related deaths, but the figures lag and may not include all cases in areas controlled by the Houthis



in the north, Colville said.

The challenging situation is compounded by the country's extremely limited testing capacity. According to data compiled by the International Rescue Committee, Yemen has one of the world's lowest testing rates, even compared with other conflict-hit countries, at just 31 tests per million citizens.

Meanwhile, some 137,000 cases of cholera and diarrhoea have been recorded this year, nearly a quarter of them in children below five, according to the UN.

## Russia's total coronavirus cases exceed 520,000

Russia reported 8,706 new coronavirus cases Saturday, raising its cumulative tally above 520,000 as data showed that more than 2,700 people infected with the virus had died in April.

With 520,129 cases, Russia has the third-highest number in the world after the United States and Brazil. Its official death toll stands at 6,829, many times lower than the figure seen in other countries

with serious outbreaks, Reuters reported.

The Kremlin has denied any problem with its official data after the World Health Organization (WHO) said Russia's low death rate was "difficult to understand".

Rosstat, the country's state statistics service, Saturday published data showing that 2,712 people infected with the coronavirus had died in April. The virus was identified as the main cause of death

in 1,660 cases, the data showed.

Rosstat's total death tally was significantly higher than that published earlier by Russia's coronavirus taskforce, which releases data on new cases and deaths on a daily basis. Data from the taskforce indicated that the virus had caused 1,145 deaths in April.

In a briefing on Saturday, Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova, who

chairs the taskforce, said that the statistics on the number of deaths might need to be revised, the RIA news agency reported. The taskforce declined to comment further.

Moscow's health department this week raised its death toll for May, citing changes in the way it determines the cause of death for patients suffering from other health problems.



# Iran to send 10 teams to ABG

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Peyman d e s k Fakhri, Director of the National Teams' Monitoring Center, has said Iran will send 10 teams to the 2020 Asian Beach Games.

Head of Iran National Olympic Committee Reza Salehi Amiri also participated in a session to talk about the Iranian teams' preparation for the Sanya Games.

This edition will bring 45 Asian countries together to compete across 17 sports.

The 2020 Asian Beach Games are scheduled for November 28 to December 6 in Sanya.

In the previous edition held in Danang, Vietnam, Iran finished in fourth place, claiming nine gold, six silver and six bronze medals.

The Asian Beach Games, also known as ABG, is a multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia.

The Games have been organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The Games are described as the second largest Asian multi-sport event, after the Asian Games.

Its popularity is increasing due to the low cost of temporary venues, with beaches and oceans already available, while spectators and tourists are also already available in sand and sea tourist areas.

In its history, six countries have hosted the Asian Beach Games. Forty-five nations have participated in the Games.

The most recent Games were held in Danang, Vietnam from 24 September to 3 October 2016, while the next games will be held in 2020 in Sanya, China; the 2020 Games will be the first to break away from the 2-year cycle.



## Bahman Askari wants to win Olympics gold



**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Iranian karate athlete Bahman Askari says he wants to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games in 2021.

The -75kg karateka secured his berth at the Karate 1-Premier League Dubai in February.

Now, he is going to make a splash in the biggest sports event.

"Coronavirus lockdown forced me to stay home, however I trained individually to keep my fitness. The all

karate competitions were cancelled after the 2020 Karate 1-Premier League Salzburg in late February. It was so bad for all athletes around the world but it also was a chance for us since we needed a rest," Asakri said.

"I am counting down the minutes until I will start my training with my teammates. I will make a huge effort to win the best medal in the Olympics. I also hope the other Iranian karate athletes win gold medals in Tokyo," he added.

## Neku dreams of becoming Iran coach



**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Former Iran national team captain Javad Nekounam has said that he dreams of becoming head coach of Iran national team in the future if he deserves it.

The current head coach of Foolad Khuzestan, Nekounam, said: "Everyone wants to reach such a level to become the coach of the national team. If I deserve it, I hope I can promote to such a position."

Nekounam, 39, also hopes that Foolad would not be banned for upcoming transfer windows.

Based on the reports, the Ahvaz based team will probably face banning from signing any new players for the next three transfer windows over the failure to pay the salary of Brazilian players Vinicius Silva Soares and Vinicius "Neguete" Lopes Laurindo. Regarding the rows brewing over the contract of former Iran national team head coach, Marc Wilmots, Nekounam said: "Wilmots's era in the Iranian football is over. We made mistakes that hit our football. I hope that by correcting these mistakes, we will be able to return to our good days."

## Ronaldo misses penalty as Juve squeeze into final with Milan draw

Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty as Juventus were held to a 0-0 draw by 10-man AC Milan on Friday but the Turin side still squeezed into the Coppa Italia final as the season restarted following a three-month stoppage for the novel coronavirus.

Juve qualified for Wednesday's final on away goals following their 1-1 draw in the first leg of the semi-final, played on Feb. 13, and face Napoli or Inter Milan who meet on Saturday.

The two key moments happened within six seconds of each other early in the match played behind closed doors at the Allianz Stadium.

Juventus were awarded a penalty in the 16th minute after the VAR officials spotted the ball hitting Andrea Conti's elbow but Ronaldo, whose late penalty in the first leg turned out to be decisive, slammed his effort against the foot of the post.

It was the second penalty missed by the 35-year-old in two seasons at the club.



Milan cleared the ball upfield but, as they did so, forward Ante Rebic aimed a wild kick at Danilo and was sent off, forcing the visitors to play for more than 70 minutes with 10 men.

Milan, missing veteran forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic with a calf injury, held out well but rarely threatened to snatch the goal that would have taken them into the final.

They caused Juve only one real fright when Hakan Calhanoglu was close with a diving header early in the second half.

"The emotions are strange," said Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci. "After 90 days, we were playing again in an empty stadium and it was strange at the start."

Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri did not give a post-match interview while his counterpart Stefano Poli was left to reflect on the goal they conceded at home and Rebic's red card.

"We committed the naive act of ending up with a man less. Then afterwards we had a great game and then we had chances to go ahead," he said.

"The results are clear, two draws. The difference was subtle. I don't think we played worse than our opponents in the two games."

(Source: Eurosport)

## Players must use status as role models to fight racism, says Arsenal's Leno

Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno has called on his team mates to act as role models for racial equality in the wake of the death of George Floyd, a black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis.

Floyd died after a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes while detaining him on May 25. Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder.

Several Premier League clubs have shown their support for protests against racism and police brutality.

"We as players have so many people looking up to us as idols. We have to show, as Arsenal, that we support you," the 28-year-old Leno told Sky Sports.

"It is sad in 2020 we are still discussing these things, but this is the reality and we have to keep pushing on this. It doesn't matter if you are black or white, we have to respect each other and everybody should have the same chances in life."



The Premier League on Friday approved a proposal for player surnames to be replaced with the words "Black Lives Matter" on the back of their shirts as a tribute to the anti-racism movement.

Arsenal, who are in ninth place, face a trip to Manchester City on June 17 when the Premier League resumes after a three-month pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Source: Reuters)

## Crowds, yes crowds, return to watch Super Rugby in 'coronavirus-free' New Zealand

While top-class sport is slowly returning to empty stadiums and with strict hygiene and social distancing measures in place, rugby union fans in New Zealand have gone back to what everyone hopes will be the future.

An estimated crowd of 20,000 packed into the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin Saturday to watch the home side Otago Highlanders host the Waikato Chiefs in the Super Rugby Aotearoa competition.

With barely a face mask in sight and with enthusiastic fans hugging each other with delight when points were scored, it was a successful return to the "normal" for Otago, which beat the visitor 28-27 with a last-gasp drop goal from replacement Bryn Gatland.

The lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in New Zealand has allowed fans to return to stadiums as the match between Otago Highlanders and Waikato Chiefs is watched by an estimated crowd of 20,000 at the



Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin.

To make the victory sweeter, Gatland is the son of Chiefs' coach Warren, who will take charge of British and Irish Lions on the planned tour of South Africa next year.

Before the match, Gatland, who stood down as Wales coach after the World Cup last year, spoke for many when he told the BBC that "people are pretty buzzed about being able to watch some live sport."

(Source: CNN)

## Ex-Iran coach Wilmots linked with Schalke 04

Former Iran national football team head coach Marc Wilmots has been linked with a move to German club Schalke 04.

Schalke 04 officials are going to find a new coach as a replacement for David Wagner.

While it's unlikely that the club will be dragged into the Bundesliga relegation battle, the recent run of form has many worried for the 2020/21 campaign.

The Belgian media have reported that the Gelsenkirchen club has set its sight on hiring Wilmots.

The 51-year-old coach has already worked as interim coach at Schalke 04 in 2003.

(Source: VoetbalNieuws.be)



## AFC President extends condolences on the passing of Iraq's Ali Hadi

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has sent his condolences to the Iraqi Football Association and the family and friends of former player and youth coach Ali Hadi who passed away on June 12, 2020 at the age of 53, after contracting COVID-19.

The AFC President said: "On behalf of the whole Asian football family, please accept my heartfelt sympathies and condolences on the passing of Ali Hadi."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been the toughest medical crisis of our time and we are deeply saddened to lose a true servant of the game."

"He will always be remembered for his passion for developing youth football and his contributions to the development of the game in Iraq and Asian football," added Shaikh Salman.

Hadi was a formidable defender who featured for Iraqi giants Air Force Club and Al-Zawraa, leading the latter to four domestic titles in an illustrious club career before dedicating his time to coaching Iraq's national set-up at various age-group levels.

He was part of the backroom staff of the Iraqi U-17 side that made history when they finished fourth at the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey which paved the way for the rise of a golden generation for the Lions of Mesopotamia.

He rose quickly through the coaching ranks to lead Iraq's U-19 side before going on to manage a host of clubs including Al-Samawah, Al-Karkh, Al-Talaba and Zakho FC.

The thoughts and prayers of the AFC and the rest of the Asian football community are with the family and friends of Hadi, the Iraqi Football Association and the Iraq football community during this difficult time.

(Source: the-afc)

## Iran, Serbia review expansion of sports ties

**MNA** — Iranian ambassador to Belgrade Rashid Hassanpour and Serbian Minister of Sports and Youth Vanja Udovicic met and held talks on the expansion of cooperation in the fields of sports and youth.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the need for promoting cooperation in the fields of sports and youth and further development of friendly relations between the two countries.

Udovicic highlighted the significance of signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries, hoping that the document would be signed during the Serbian president's visit to Iran.

He also announced Serbia's full readiness for promoting all-out cooperation with Iran in the fields of sports and youth.

Explaining sports diplomacy in the international scene for further understanding, Iran's ambassador Hassanpour, for his part, said that the two countries enjoy diverse capacities to expand relations in the fields of sports and youth.

Referring to the increase of interactions between Iran and Serbia, he called for boosting collaboration in the field of sports investments.

The two sides also discussed the exchange of knowledge and experience in institutional cooperation in the field of science and technology used in sports, organizing competitions, training specialists, infrastructure, developing sports for children and adolescents, the promotion of sports at the highest level, as well as sports tourism.

## More than 8 million Italians tune in as football returns

The return of Italian football was a hit with television viewers in the country as more than eight million tuned in to watch the cup semi-final second leg between Juventus and AC Milan on Friday.

The match was the first to be played in Italy since the coronavirus pandemic halted the season on March 9.

The 0-0 stalemate, which was enough to send Juventus to the final, drew the biggest TV audience for a football match this term, Italian media reported on Saturday.

When he authorized the resumption of football, Italian Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora welcomed the fact the first matches would be in the Italian Cup, as they are broadcast free-to-air on national network RAI and are thus accessible to everyone.

On Friday, the match attracted almost 8.3 million viewers on RAI 1, with a 34 per cent market share.

The biggest audience before the lockdown was for the first leg of the semi-final which ended 1-1 attracted 8.09 million viewers.

The national team, whose matches are also broadcast free-to-air on RAI, attracted 7.4 million viewers for their Euro 2020 qualifier against Bosnia last June.

(Source: AFP)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

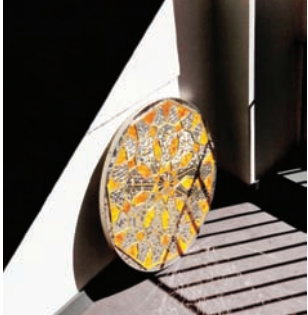
Obtain knowledge wherever possible... The worth  
of everyone depends on what he knows.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Farmanfarmaian’s “Magnified Sacred” sells for nearly €190,000 at Bonhams

→1 Sohrab Sepehri’s untitled painting from the Tree Trunk Series sold for €125,553, and the “Still Life” by Manoucher Yektai went for €125,553.

The modern and contemporary West Asian art market has experienced significant growth since the category began gaining recognition among collectors regionally and globally over the past decade.



Iranian artist Monir Farmanfarmaian’s mirror work “The Magnified Sacred” was the second top seller at the Bonhams auction in London on June 11, 2020.

Twentieth-century Arab and Iranian art has witnessed an extraordinary development that is in keeping with the rich artistic legacy of the region and is reflected in the world’s long-standing fascination and interest in West Asian art and culture.

Bonhams has maintained a significant international presence in the market since the early years of its development. During their inaugural sale of modern West Asian art in Dubai in 2008, Bonhams broke 33 world records and witnessed the first West Asian artwork to achieve an auction sale of over one million dollars; Farhad

Moshiri’s stunning mixed media work “Eshq” (Love).

Since then, Bonhams has firmly established itself as one of the leading auction houses in the category, holding regular bi-annual sales first in Dubai and now in London, in recognition of the growing international market for art from West Asia and surrounding regions.

## Julia Pierpont’s “Feminist Saints” published in Persian

CULTURE d e s k TEHRAN — American author Julia Pierpont’s book “The Little Book of Feminist Saints” has recently been published in Persian.

Parseh is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Abbas Gudarzi.



Front cover of the Persian version of American author Julia Pierpont’s book “The Little Book of Feminist Saints”.

In this book, Pierpont and illustrator Manjit Thapp match short, vibrant and surprising biographies with stunning full-color portraits of female “saints,” champions of strength and progress.

These women broke ground, broke ceilings and broke molds. Among them are Maya Angelou, Jane Austen, Ruby Bridges, Rachel Carson, Shirley Chisholm, Marie Curie and Irene Joliot Curie, Isadora Duncan, Amelia Earhart, Artemisia Gentileschi, Grace Hopper, Dolores Huerta, Frida Kahlo, Billie Jean King, Audre Lorde, Wilma Mankiller, Toni Morrison, Michelle Obama, Sandra Day O’Connor, Sally Ride, Eleanor Roosevelt, Margaret Sanger, Sappho, Nina Simone, Gloria Steinem, Kanno Sugako, Harriet Tubman, Mae West, Virginia Woolf and Malala Yousafzai.

The book also introduces Forugh Farrokhzad, an influential Iranian poet and film director.

## IIDCYA publishes card games inspired by classic Persian stories

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has published 10 card games inspired by stories from classic Persian literature.

Children and young adults become familiar with stories from Jalal ad-Din Rumi’s masterpiece Masnavi-ye Manavi and Farid ud-Din Attar Neyshaburi’s Mantiq at-Tayr (Conference of the Birds) and several other Persian masterpieces through playing the games.

The games have been designed by Iranian game designers and experts on Persian literature.

“Simorgh” inspired by Mantiq at-Tayr, and “The Snake Catcher’s Tale” inspired by Masnavi-ye Manavi, are two of the games.

# Mahdavian, director of political thrillers, to try his hand at comedy with “Shishlik”

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian, director of the political thrillers “Standing in the Dust”, “The Midday Event” and “Trace of Blood”, plans to try his hand at comedy genre with “Shishlik”.

Amir-Mehdi Juleh, writer of the popular comedy series “Pavarchin”, “Noqtechin” and “Barareh Nights”, will collaborate in this project that will be starring Reza Attaran, Pejman Jamshidi and Jamshid Hashempur, a public relations team announced on Friday.

Mohammadreza Mansuri is the producer of the film for which shooting will begin on June 28.

The 39-year-old Mahdavian began his professional career in 2013 with “Standing in the Dust” about the life story of Ahmad Motevasselian, an IRGC commander who was kidnapped by the Zionist regime in 1982 in Lebanon.

The film was critically acclaimed and won him awards at several events in his native country.

His passion for factual political stories from modern Iranian history was increasingly demonstrated in his second movie “The Midday Event” that recounts the terrorist activities of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) in Iran in the 1980s.

Critics viewed his third movie “Lottery” as regressive. It was about the mafia trafficking Iranian women to the United Arab Emirates.

Afterwards, Mahdavian returned to his origin with “Trace of Blood”, a sequel to “The Midday Event”. In this film, Iranian security forces come together in 1988 to trace the MKO’s undercover agents, which had penetrated the security forces in 1982. They also want to foil Operation Eternal Light, which the MKO carried



Director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian in an undated photo. (Mehr/Maryam Kamyab)

out against Iran with the full support of the Iraqi dictator, Saddam.

His latest movie “Walnut Tree” premiered at the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February. The drama based on the true story of the profound tragedy of Iraq’s chemical attack on the Iranian town of Sardasht

in 1987 brought him the Crystal Simorgh for best director.

Despite his skills in transforming real political narratives into films, he has earlier indicated his desire to try his hand at other genres.

“There is no time to lose; life is too short and I haven’t made a lot of films.

Certainly, I will try other genres—I don’t know when—but I want to try something different,” he said.

“I even wanted to make a film for children, because whenever we intend to take our children to the cinema, we can’t find films entertaining enough for children,” he lamented.

## Movies from Iran to compete in Croatia Supertoons animation festival

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Three movies from Iran will be competing in the 10th edition of the Supertoons International Animation Festival in Croatia.

“Eaten” directed by Mohsen Rezapur, “The Eleventh Step” by Maryam Kashkulinia and “Through My Skin – Num” by Puyan Shadpur, Parastu Haqqi will be screened in various section of the festival, which will take place in the Adriatic city of Sibenik from July 20 to 24.

Produced at Iran’s Experimental and Documentary Film Center, “Eaten” has been selected to be screened in the Planktoon – Animated Films for Children Competition.

The story of the animation is set on a mysterious, unknown planet, in which a rabbit-like creature is eaten by a wolf. It meets another rabbit-like creature in the wolf’s stomach and they begin a new life with each other, but that’s not the end of the story.



“The Eleventh Step” by Maryam Kashkulinia.

“The Eleventh Step” will also compete in the Planktoon category. The movie is about a little lion cub born in a zoo. The cub lives in a cage that is only ten steps long. On the eleventh step he bangs his head against the bars, but one day the zookeeper leaves the cage door open. However, the lion cub never dares to take one more step toward his freedom.

“Through My Skin – Num” will be screened in the Supertune – Animated Music Videos Competition.

The Supertoons International Animation Festival specializes in short animated films and takes place every summer in Sibenik, turning the entire city into a bona fide open-air theater.

About 200 of the freshest, most interesting short animated films from around the world will be screened at Mala Loza and Gorica open-air cinemas with all the necessary precautions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and public gatherings.

## Book City to review De Botton’s “Consolations of Philosophy”

CULTURE d e s k TEHRAN — The Book City Institute in Tehran plans to review British philosopher Alain de Botton’s “The Consolations of Philosophy” during a virtual meeting on June 16.

Kargadan, a Tehran-based company, has recently published the book translated by Meysam Mohammad-Amini.

Scholars Yasser Puresmaeil and Babak Abbasi will be attending the meeting, which will be available on the Instagram page of the institute.

“The Consolations of Philosophy” takes the discipline of logic and the mind back to its roots. Drawing inspiration from six of the finest minds in history - Socrates, Epicurus, Seneca, Montaigne, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche - he addresses lack of money, the pain

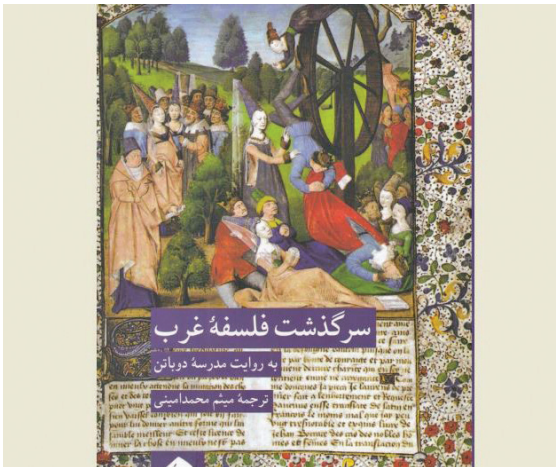
of love, inadequacy, anxiety and conformity.

De Botton’s book led one critic to call philosophy “the new rock and roll.”

Alain has always tried to get ideas to impact on the way we actually live. So in the summer of 2008, Alain and some colleagues set up “The School of Life”.

“The School of Life” is now a global organization with a mission to help people lead more fulfilling lives. At the core of its work, the school helps people understand themselves better – from a feeling that self-knowledge is crucial to better decisions, particularly around love and work.

It has 10 branches around the world and delivers its insights through a number of channels; it publishes books, runs classes and hosts conferences.



Front cover of the Persian translation of “The Consolations of Philosophy” by British philosopher Alain de Botton.

## DEFC, Docunight team up to promote Iranian docs worldwide

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Iran’s Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) and Docunight, an initiative under Kiarostami Foundation, have signed an agreement to collaborate on streaming documentaries by Iranian filmmakers across the world.

Docunight was established in 2014 by filmmaker Ahmad Kiarostami, the son of world-famous Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, to screen and promote Iranian documentaries worldwide.

An online screening platform of Docunight named Docunight On-Demand was launched last month due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

Interested users can watch the documentaries offered on Docunight On-Demand.



A logo for Docunight.

As part of the program of Docunight, several U.S. cities screened the documentary “Plane Grove” about the story of Tehran’s longest street in June 2017.

“Plane Grove” tells the story of the longest street in West Asia that expands 17 kilometers from the southern to the northern parts of Tehran. This is also the largest plane grove found in these parts, with the plane trees lining and adorning the street all along its corridor.

The street has had its name changed in line with the times, from Pahlavi to Mossadeq to the current Vali-e Asr.

Docunight screenings take place monthly in several major cities in North America, including San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Boston, San Diego and Washington.