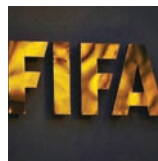




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**Iran's annual gas exports up 26%** **5**



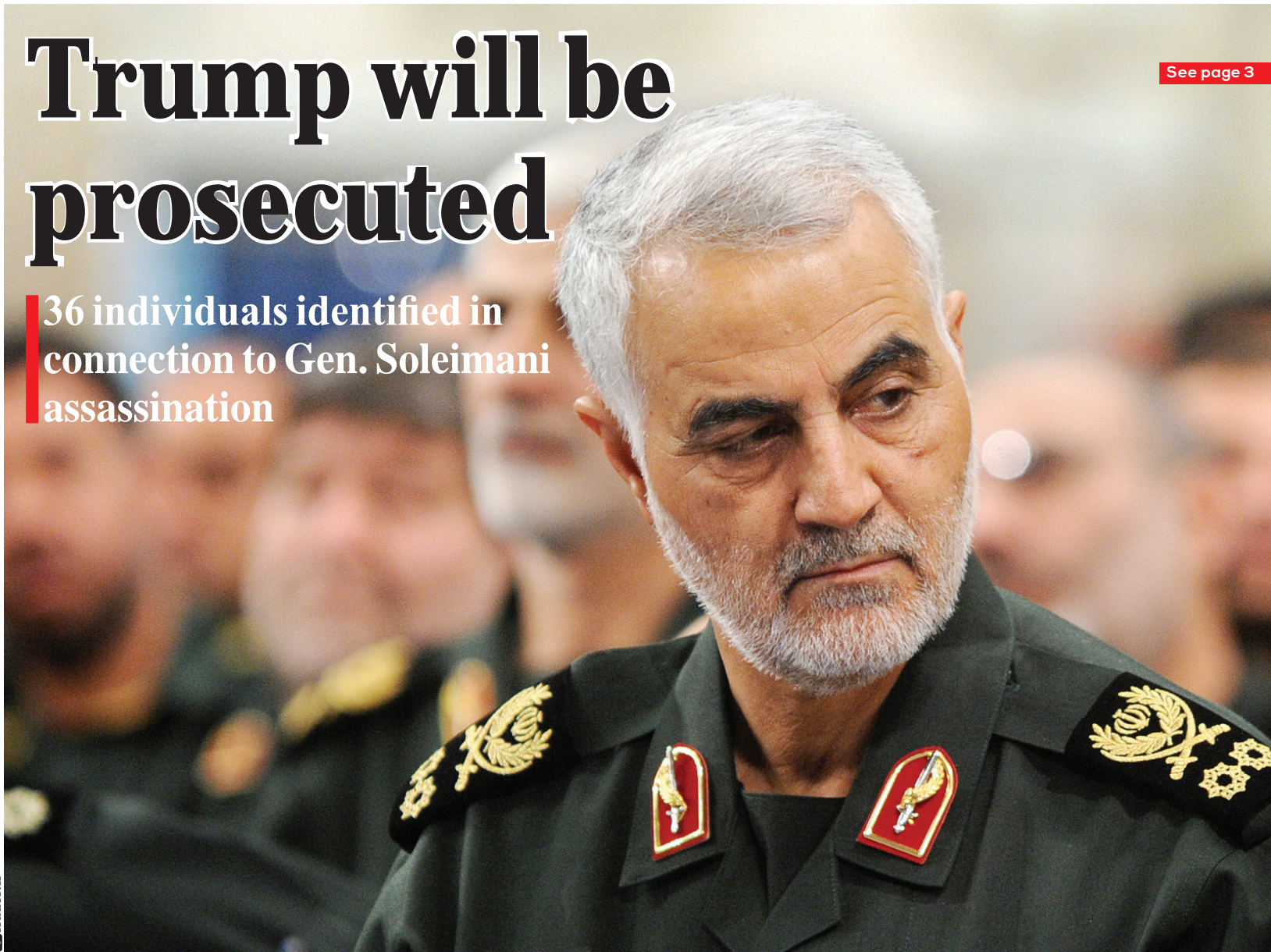
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# Trump will be prosecuted

**36 individuals identified in connection to Gen. Soleimani assassination**



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## ISIPO revives over 200 idle production units in 3 months

**TEHRAN** — Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has revived 211 idle production units during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), ILNA reported.

As reported, the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry plans to bring 1500 idle units, mostly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), back into operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar

year (March 2021).

Based on the ministry's plans for the current year, reviving 1,020 unproductive small mines is also on the ministry's agenda.

ISIPO managed to revive 1,185 idle production units across the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), according to Ali-Asghar Mosaheb, ISIPO deputy head for small industries affairs. **→4**

## Benefactors donate \$700m to construct schools nationwide

**TEHRAN** — School building benefactors association has allocated a total of 30 trillion rials (about \$700 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to construct educational spaces in the current Iranian calendar year (began March 20), IRNA reported on Monday.

Nasser Ghofli, head of the association, said that a budget of 15 trillion rials (around \$350 million) allocated for the construc-

tion of school last year.

According to Ghofli, 450 school-building charities have been registered in the country so far.

In line with the document of the fundamental transformation of education, people who have a popular reputation are being invited as ambassadors to attract public participation for school construction. **→9**

## Europeans' trust in U.S. falls during coronavirus pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has left Europeans uncertain who they can rely on with just two per cent now seeing the U.S. as a "useful" ally on matters of global significance, a major new survey has found.

Overall, around two-thirds of people polled by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) in Denmark (71 per cent), Portugal (70 per cent), France (68 per cent), Germany (65 per cent) and Spain (64 per cent), said their perception

of the U.S. had become increasingly negative.

The deterioration in trust towards Washington is particularly pronounced in France and Germany, the two states at the center of EU policymaking, the ECFR flagged in its latest report.

Forty-six per cent of French respondents and 42 per cent of Germans said their views of the U.S. had worsened "a lot" as a result of the pandemic — the highest results among the nine member states surveyed which also included Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, and Sweden. **→10**

## Amid anti-racist protests Trump retweets video where man shouts 'White Power'

The controversial U.S. President Donald Trump amid Anti-racist protests globally retweets a video in which a man shouts 'White Power'. However after immense backlash Trump deleted this video.

The edited racist video shows a white man riding in a golf cart bearing "Trump 2020" and "America First" signs during what appears to be an angry clash over the president and race between white residents of a Florida retirement community. Mr. Trump deleted the tweet more than three hours after posting it.

In response to a protester shouting "Where's your white hood?" and other taunts, the man in the golf cart pumps his fist in the air and says "White power!" twice. The two-minute video continues to show profane exchanges between protesters and other Trump supporters riding on more golf carts.

The president retweeted the video to his millions of followers just after 7:30 a.m., thanking

"the great people of The Villages," the Florida retirement community where the clash apparently took place. He added: "The Radical Left Do Nothing Democrats will Fall in the Fall. Corrupt Joe is shot. See you soon!!!"

The tweet was widely criticized as racist and insensitive, and again demonstrated the president's willingness use social media to amplify some of the most hateful commentary of some of his followers, even at a moment of national unrest.

Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, the only black Republican senator, called the video "offensive" and asked Mr. Trump to take it off his Twitter page.

"There is no question he should not have retweeted it, and he should just take it down," Mr. Scott said on the CNN program "State of the Union." "We can play politics with it or we can't. I'm not going to. I think it's indefensible. We should take it down." **→10**

## 49 tourism projects worth \$273m to come on stream

**TEHRAN** — A total of 49 tourism projects, worth 11,500 billion rials (some \$273m at the official rate of 42,000 rials) will soon be inaugurated across the country.

The projects will be inaugurated in 12 provinces, adding 774 rooms and 2,131 beds to the country's hospitality sector and creating 1,253 jobs, said Alireza Baay, the public relations director at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official noted that over 5.7 million overnight stays, mainly by domestic travelers, were recorded across Iran during the month of Khordad (May 21—June 20) at authorized accommodation centers such as hotels, traditional lodging houses, eco-lodge units, pilgrim's guest houses, apartment hotels, guest houses, and tourist centers.

Referring to the reopening of tourism centers following months of closure due to the coronavirus

outbreak, he noted "These statistics show that Iran's tourism boom will be realized sooner than expected."

During Khordad, over 11,000 surveillance visits were made to tourist facilities including accommodation centers, restaurants, catering businesses, travel agencies, restaurants across the country, which shows the ministry's simultaneous attention to travel and travel safety, he explained.

He also reminded of the United Nations World Tourism Organization's recent message to the ministry of tourism, in which UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili praised Iran's efforts made to manage the travel industry during the pandemic.

"A series of measures that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran has taken, in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of UNWTO, has truly earned plaudits as an effective practice to mitigate the impact on tourism," a segment of the message reads. **→8**

## Iran volleyball need a great coach: Ahmad Masajedi

By Masoud Hossein

**TEHRAN** — Former Iran national volleyball team player Ahmad Masajedi believes that Iran need a great coach if they want to keep moving forward.

Masajedi, who represented Iran at the 1998 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship, worked as Julio Velasco's assistant in Iran national volleyball team from 2011 to 2014.

The ex-Iran opposite spiker, who currently leads Japanese team Nagano Tridents, says that the Iranian coaches are not of the caliber to help

Iran progress.

"I have full respect for all Iranian coaches but I think they cannot help the National Team. Iran have so many talented players and need a great coach," Masajedi told Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

"Many times, the players play a key role in our national team and the success of the team has nothing to do with the coach. Iran volleyball federation must appoint an experienced coach who can help the team. The new head coach needs

to get help from his assistants. Different views will surely be helpful in a team. Juan Cichello was Velasco's assistant but sometimes he disagreed with the head coach and there was the argument between them," he added.

"We have great stars like Mohammad Mousavi, Amir Ghafour, Saeid Marouf and Milad Ebadipour in our team but a big question remains unanswered: How do we want to keep going without the players? The federation has to answer the question," he added. **→11**



© IRNA / Mahsa Ramezani

## Harvest season brings new life to Iran's Alamut

A farmer harvests red cherries in a garden on the outskirts of Alamut in Qazvin province, north-central Iran, June 29, 2020. The harvest season commenced a couple of days ago in numerous lush gardens that are dotted in the mountainous region.

Alamut is also famed for being home to a well-fortified ruined castle once sheltering the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124), a leader of Ismaili sect, known as 'Assassins'. In early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins".

## Why Arab rulers remain silent on George Floyd's death

From New Zealand and Australia, through Europe, to Canada and Brazil, many countries of the world witnessed demonstrations in solidarity with the protests in the United States against racism after the Minneapolis police officer killed a black American.

However, the Arab streets were quiet, except for Tunisia and social media.

Policies of Donald Trump in dealing with the protests came in for harsh criticism by leaders of western countries allied to the United States. They condemned racism and criticized the U.S.s' approach towards the protests. Among those leaders, names like Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau can be seen.

Even leaders of East and West Asian countries such as China, Iran, and Turkey made comments on the developments in the U.S. and slammed discrimination against the black community in the United States.

However, the leaders of Arab states did not say a word. They remained silent on Trump's inflammatory remarks and the protests taking place on the streets of American cities.

It seems that Arab regimes prefer to consider the protests just as an "internal American issue". Arab states and their foreign ministries didn't take a stand, even if they are not satisfied with Trump's policies. They tried not to anger the American president. They know very well that Trump does not even tolerate any criticism, even if it is soft.

These rulers prefer to remain silent due to political reasons. They try to avoid challenging an administration that supports their regimes, ignoring their human rights violations among other things. **→7**



### ARTICLE

**Salman Parviz**  
Journalist

## Despite economic fallout Tehran real estate market flourishes

For thousands of years, houses with secluded gardens and courtyards have been a cornerstone of Iranian architecture, where a garden or a big terrace was common. I grew up in one of these houses near the Mehrabad Airport. In the evenings there was plenty of time for youngsters to play football in the streets where traffic was almost non-existent and air was fresh.

As the population of Tehran grew in the post-revolution era the houses fell out of favor and were widely demolished to make way for apartment blocks.

Today, with a population of over 12 million people, housing is the cornerstone in people's lives and personal investment.

"Despite the economic fallout (following the sanctions and coronavirus pandemic)", says a downtown real estate agent H. Moradi, "the only thing that has kept up with the rising forex rate is the real estate market." As paradoxical as it might sound, today the real estate markets all over the world are experiencing a downward trend in pricing amid the pandemic and its economic consequences.

A second part to this series will cover the negative impact on the global real estate markets amid the pandemic.

However, for the general public in Iran the housing market remains one of the safest investment in this grueling economic times.

According to a recent real estate survey by the Statistical Center of Iran, lands, home and rent prices rose by 43.1, 43.7 and 47.9 percent respectively on a year on year basis during the fourth quarter of the last Iranian year (Dec. 22, 2019-March 19, 2020).

According to the report the number of land and rent deals decreased by 10.3 percent and 48.7 percent respectively while home deals increased by 12.8 percent. **→7**



## Rouhani advisor Hamid Aboutalebi submits resignation

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Hamid Aboutalebi, a political advisor to President Hassan Rouhani, has submitted his resignation.

“With many thanks, I have submitted my resignation as ‘presidential advisor’ to the President...,” he tweeted on Monday.

Rouhani appointed Aboutalebi as his advisor in November 2017. Aboutalebi acted as ambassador of Iran to Australia, the European Union, Belgium, Italy, and as political director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

## IAEA resolution shows efforts to discredit nuclear deal: UCLA professor

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Richard D. Anderson, a professor at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), has said that a resolution issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors shows efforts to discredit the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

In an interview with ILNA published on Monday, Anderson said that opponents of the JCPOA seek to undermine the multilateral agreement.



He added that the Europeans are not capable of standing against the United States.

The professor also said that U.S. President Donald Trump seeks collapse of the JCPOA before the November presidential elections.

The 35-member IAEA board of governors passed a resolution on June 19 demanding access to two old places under the allegation that nuclear work may have been done there.

France, Britain, and Germany, the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, submitted the draft resolution to the IAEA board for approval.

Nine countries out 35 members to the IAEA board did not vote for the resolution. China and Russia voted against the resolution and Thailand, Mongolia, Niger, South Africa, India, Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan abstained to vote.

■ **‘Russia, China to prevent extension of arms embargo’**  
Anderson predicts that Russia and China will prevent extension of an arms embargo on Iran.

He said that Russia and China will use their right to veto in the UN Security Council to kill the U.S.-proposed resolution to extend arms embargo.

The United States has stepped up calls for the extension of UN arms embargo on Iran since April.

Under the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, the arms embargo on Iran expires in October.

Brian Hook, the U.S. special representative for Iran, has reiterated Washington’s call for extending an expiring United Nations arms embargo on the Islamic Republic, saying the world should ignore Iran’s threats to retaliate if the embargo is extended.

Hook told The Associated Press on Sunday that the UN arms embargo, set to expire in October, has stopped Iran from purchasing fighter jets, tanks, warships and other weaponry.

“If we let it expire, you can be certain that what Iran has been doing in the dark, it will do in broad daylight and then some,” he said.

Hook made the comments while on a visit to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the U.S.-allied United Arab Emirates, as part of a Mideast tour.

The Trump administration has threatened that it may seek to trigger a snapback of all sanctions on Iran if its attempts to extend the arms embargo fail.

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.

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 June 11.

In a letter to Guterres and the Security Council circulated on June 8, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the Trump administration of unleashing a politically motivated campaign against Iran and called for “universal condemnation” of the U.S. attempts, AP reported.

Lavrov called the United States’ attempts to impose a permanent arms embargo against Iran “ridiculous” and “irresponsible”.

The Russian foreign minister said the United States withdrew from the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers and now has no legal right to try to use the UN resolution endorsing the deal to indefinitely continue the arms embargo.

## Iranian embassy warns U.S. envoy to stop uttering nonsense

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iran’s Embassy in Lebanon blasted US Ambassador to Beirut Dorothy Shea for baseless allegations about Tehran, warning the American diplomat to stop uttering nonsensical words to harm Iran’s position in Lebanon.

Shea had claimed on Friday that “Hezbollah is destabilizing the country and jeopardizing Lebanon’s economic recovery”.

Then Lebanese Judge Mazieh issued an order in Tyre on Saturday banning all media from publishing the ambassador’s comments for a year after a recent interview in which she criticized Hezbollah group.

Mazieh said Shea’s comments incited sectarian strife and threatened social peace. The judge said while he can’t ban the ambassador from speaking, he can bar the media from interviewing her for a year.

Mazieh said the ambassador had “no right to talk” the Hezbollah, which he described as “a Lebanese party represented in parliament and Cabinet that enjoys a wide popular base”.

Mazieh said he acted after receiving a complaint from a citizen who considered Shea’s comments to a Saudi-owned station “insulting to the Lebanese people”.

# Content of 25-year Iran-China co-op plan will be published when finalized: Tehran

## Iran won’t relinquish defense rights, Foreign Ministry spokesman says

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that Iran-China 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan has not been finalized yet.

However, he said, the content of this “agreement will be published once it is finalized.”

Mousavi dismissed claims of any new negotiation about the cooperation plan.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on June 23 that Iran and China have drafted a 25-year plan for comprehensive cooperation which proves failure of the plots to isolate the Islamic Republic.

“This plan proves failure of the United States’ policies to isolate Iran, sever Iran’s relations with the international community and also to harm Iran’s will to expand relations with other countries,” Rabiei said during a press conference.

He said that the 25-year plan is based on a win-win approach which “heralds long term cooperation”.

“Recognizing cultural commonalities, encouraging multilateralism, supporting equal rights of the nations and insisting on domestic development are parts of this plan,” the government spokesman explained.

In a meeting on June 21, the cabinet of ministers approved the final draft of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan between Iran and China.

Rouhani said the strategic partnership between the two countries is based on a win-win approach.

“This cooperation is a ground for Iran and China’s participation in basic projects and development of infrastructure, including the large ‘Belt and Road’ initiative, and an opportunity to attract investment in various economic fields, including industry, tourism, information technology and communication,” the presidential website quoted Rouhani as saying.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said, “This document is in line with the interests of the two countries and it is an honorable.”

■ **‘Return to obligations only way to save nuclear deal’**

In his regular news briefing, Mousavi also said the only way to save the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA, is that all sides abide by their commitments.

“We advise the European countries to know that all sides’ return to the JCPOA is the only way to save it. Sending signals to others is not right and constructive. They know the



United States better than us,” Mousavi said during a press conference.

He said, “The United States has been using them [the Europeans] as tool and has threatened them to make them back down. However, it is best for signatories to the JCPOA to implement what have been achieved.”

The spokesman also slammed the Europeans for taking actions which are against the “spirit” of the JCPOA.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman was apparently referring to a European-drafted resolution against Iran at the IAEA Board of Governors on June 19 which was approved with 25 votes in favor, seven abstentions and two against.

■ **‘Westerners’ approach towards Iran’s defense capabilities unacceptable’**

Mousavi also said that Iran is very serious about its defense capabilities and the Westerners’ approach towards Iran’s defense power is “not acceptable”.

“Extension of arms embargo is contrary to terms of the 2231 resolution and will bring consequences for which the United States and Europeans are responsible. Interaction between Europe and the United States is their own business, but we will not relinquish our rights,” he stated.

He noted that Iran plans to take two or three actions if the arms embargo is extended.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom said in a joint statement published on June 19 that the European Union’s embargoes on conventional arms exports and missile technology to Iran will remain in force until 2023.

“The E3 remain committed to fully implementing Resolution 2231 by which the JCPOA has been endorsed in 2015. However, we believe that the planned lifting of the UN conventional arms embargo established by Resolution 2231 next October would have major implications for regional security and stability. We recall that the EU embargoes on conventional arms exports and missile technology will remain in force until 2023,” said the statement published by the UK Foreign Ministry website.

The statement added, “We wish to address the issue in close coordination with Russia and China as remaining participants to the JCPOA, as well as with all other Security Council Members, as well as other key stakeholders. We will be guided by these objectives: upholding the authority and integrity of the UN Security Council and working toward regional security and stability.”

It is stated in the statement that they do not support any unilateral attempt to trigger a snapback of United Nations sanctions against Iran.

The United States has stepped up calls for the extension of a UN arms embargo on Iran since April.

Under the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, the arms embargo expires in October.

The Trump administration has threatened that it may seek to trigger a snapback of all sanctions on Iran if its attempts to extend the arms embargo fail.

The U.S. administration has made such a threat despite the fact that Donald Trump

## IRGC says to provide technology to automotive industry

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, said on Monday that the IRGC is ready to provide technology to the automotive industry.

“As our dear ones in the area of industry helped the armed forces during eight years of imposed war [1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war], we are duty bound to help them in current economic war,” Hajizadeh told Tasnim.

There are shortcomings in automotive industry in technological area and manufacture of certain parts and the IRGC knows knowledge-based corporations in this sphere, he said during a visit to Iran University of Science and Technology.

He noted that the IRGC will just provide advisory help and will not enter the automotive industry.

Hajizadeh said on June 9 that the IRGC will transfer its research experiences to automotive industry.

“We are capable in the area of electronics and can transfer our experiences,” he said during a meeting with top officials of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and managing directors of the automotive industry.

During a visit to Iran Khodro projects in May, Hajizadeh said that the IRGC is prepared to transfer defense technology to auto industry.

“We have a technological industry and we are prepared to transfer it to the country’s automotive industry with no limitation,” said the aerospace chief of the IRGC.

He also attached great importance to make the most use of domestic capacities to make the United States’ sanctions ineffective.



## Zarif discusses expansion of ties with Qatari FM

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has discussed expansion of ties with Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

The top diplomats also discussed the latest international developments and attached great importance to expansion of cooperation.

President Hassan Rouhani said in January that Iran has stood and will stand beside Qatar in the future.

“At a juncture of time, certain regional countries imposed restrictions on Qatar, but Iran stood beside Qatar and will stand based on its duties as a neighbor,” Rouhani said during a joint press conference with Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Tehran.

Rouhani said that the two countries have very good relationship in various areas of economy, science and culture.

“A joint commission will be formed in future months and we hope that the two

countries would reach agreements in economic cooperation, investment, technology and other areas,” the president stated.

He also said that Iran and Qatar will expand political ties.

For his part, the Qatari emir said that Doha will never forget Tehran’s help in difficult days.

“We praise the Islamic Republic of Iran’s stance in recent years, especially when Qatar was under blockade,” the emir said.

Sheikh Tamim also called for expansion

of relations.

In June of 2017, Saudi Arabia along with Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) abruptly cut off diplomatic relations with Qatar and closed land, sea and air routes to the country. The severing of relations also included withdrawing ambassadors and imposing trade and travel bans on Doha.

The Islamic Republic opened its airspace to about 100 more Qatari flights a day during the blockade.

## Brutal Western sanctions hampering Iran’s fight against drug trafficking: police commander

The brutal sanctions imposed by Western countries on the Islamic Republic have stymied Iran’s capacity to fight drug trafficking by depriving it of the necessary equipment, says a senior Iranian police official.

In an exclusive interview with Press TV on Sunday, Colonel Majid Karimi, who heads the Iran Drug Control Headquarters, said, “Brutal sanctions against Iran have made fighting drug trafficking difficult.”

“We need advanced equipment to fight drugs smuggling, but the sanctions have caused us problems for acquiring those equipment.”

Addressing countries that have imposed sanctions on Iran, Karimi said those states must come to the understanding that “our fight is not just for our country, but it also benefits other countries, especially West-

ern countries, especially the countries in Europe.”

“We discover an average 2.5 tons of drugs per day in our country and stop them from reaching other markets,” the top-ranking police official said, warning of the consequences if Iran stopped fighting drug transit through its soil even for a month.

“We have tried to turn the threat of sanctions into an opportunity. Therefore, we have turned to our own domestic science-based companies and we are now using the capacity of our scientists in Iran to produce necessary equipment inside the country.”

Karimi said, “I tell the developed countries that they must play a role in this fight and help us as no country in the world can fight drug trafficking on its own.”

The police official went on to say that

Iran’s eastern neighbors are hubs for production and distribution of narcotics to the entire world, and as the United Nations has announced, “more than 80% of the world’s opium is produced in Afghanistan.”

Stressing that Iran has a 900-kilometer border with Afghanistan, Karimi said Iran is located on the transit route to Europe and the bulk of narcotics produced in Afghanistan are destined for European states.

Citing a UN announcement last year, Karimi said the seizure of more than 48 percent of morphine, 26 percent of heroin and over 90 percent of opium in the world has been conducted by the Iranian police.

Underlining that the Islamic Republic will continue to fight drug trafficking without any political considerations, Karimi said, “We are doing our job of fighting drugs

inside our country and to this end, more than 3,820 of Iranian police personnel have embraced martyrdom in the anti-drug fight and about 12,000 others sustained injuries.”

“We believe narcotics are the common enemy of the human society, but based on the principle of shared responsibility, other countries must also pitch in and do their part in this fight,” the top-ranking police official concluded.

On Friday, Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, hailed the country’s battle against drug trafficking, saying the Islamic Republic had managed to confiscate the world’s largest amount of narcotics over the past years despite the illegal U.S. sanctions.

(Source: Press TV)



# Washington reiterates call for extension of arms embargo on Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Brian d e s k Hook, the U.S. special representative for Iran, has reiterated Washington's call for extending an expiring United Nations arms embargo on the Islamic Republic, saying the world should ignore Iran's threats to retaliate if the embargo is extended.

Hook told The Associated Press on Sunday that the UN arms embargo, set to expire in October, has stopped Iran from purchasing fighter jets, tanks, warships and other weaponry.

"If we let it expire, you can be certain that what Iran has been doing in the dark, it will do in broad daylight and then some," he said.

Hook made the comments while on a visit to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the U.S.-allied United Arab Emirates, as part of a Mideast tour.

The United States has stepped up calls for the extension of a UN arms embargo on Iran since April.

Under the UN Security Council's 2231 resolution, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, the arms embargo on Iran expires in October.

Despite leaving the nuclear deal and imposing crippling sanctions on Iran, the Trump administration has threatened that it may seek to trigger a snapback of all sanctions on Iran if its attempts to extend the arms embargo fail.

Hook said Tehran's lowered revenues represented "a good thing for the region".



"We have put this regime through our strategy on the horns of a dilemma," he said. "They have to choose between guns in Damascus or butter in Tehran."

"If we play by Iran's rules, Iran wins," Hook claimed. "It is a mafia tactic where people are intimidated into accepting a certain kind of behavior for fear of something far worse."

"I don't think anyone believes that Iran's behavior merits loosening restrictions on

their ability to move weapons," Hook added. U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally quit the nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran as part of his administration's "maximum pressure" strategy against Iran.

On May 8, 2019, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Tehran began to gradually reduce its commitments under the pact to both retaliate for

Washington's departure and Europeans' failure to honor their commitments.

On January 5 of this year, Iran took a fifth and last step in reducing its commitments and said it would no longer observe any operational limitations on its nuclear industry, whether concerning the capacity and level of uranium enrichment, the volume of stockpiled uranium or research and development. However, Iran has insisted if the Europeans honor their obligations it will immediately reverse its decisions.

Last week, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif ridiculed a claim by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about Iran's plan to purchase fighter aircraft.

"@SecPompeo is so desperate to mislead the world that he claims come October, Iran will purchase fighter aircraft," Zarif tweeted on June 23.

He added, "And then send them off to the limits of their ONE-WAY ranges. Perhaps he could also say how they would fly back to Iran having exhausted their fuel."

Zarif attached a photo of an earlier tweet by Pompeo, which claimed that Europe and Asia could be in Iran's crosshairs if it purchases new fighter aircraft.

"If the @UN Arms Embargo on Iran expires in October, Iran will be able to buy new fighter aircraft like Russia's SU-30 and China's J-10," Pompeo wrote.

"With these highly lethal aircraft, Europe and Asia could be in Iran's crosshairs. The U.S. will never let this happen," he added.

## Trump will be prosecuted

36 individuals identified in connection to Gen. Soleimani assassination



**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Prosecutor General d e s k Ali Alqasi-Mehr has said that 36 individuals including U.S. President Donald Trump have been identified in connection with the U.S. assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

"36 individuals who cooperated, collaborated, and participated in the assassination of Hajji Qassem, including political and military authorities of the U.S. and other countries, have been identified," Alqasi-Mehr said on Monday, according to ISNA.

Their arrest warrant has been issued and announced to Interpol, he added.

The prosecutor general explained that U.S. President Donald Trump is at the top of the list, and he'll be facing prosecution even after his term as president.

On January 3, Trump ordered airstrikes that mar-

tyred General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), in Baghdad's international airport.

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC fired dozens of ballistic missiles at a military airbase hosting U.S. forces in Iraq as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terrorist attack.

Soleimani was recognized internationally as a legendary commander in the war against terrorist groups, especially Daesh (ISIS).

**Iran has asked Interpol to arrest Trump at the top of the list for the assassination.**

## Parliament to give appropriate response to E3: MP

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — An Iranian lawmaker said the parliament is monitoring the behavior of the European countries and give an appropriate response to them.

"The path is clear and the history shows that negotiation will not secure our national interests and no talks should be held," Abbas Moghtadaei, representative of Esfahan and deputy chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, told Mehr News Agency on Monday.

"Whenever national interest is served, negotiation will become meaningful," he added.

The lawmaker went on to say that "Despite all the privileges that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has offered to Westerners, we see today that America and the three European signatories of the JCPOA are clearly acting against the



interests of the country."

"Given that the anti-Iranian resolution of the IAEA's Board of Governors has been adopted with the proposal of European governments and with the guidance of the United States, do we still have to enter a vicious circle of negotiations that results in more pressure on Iran? Which common sense accepts this?"

"So, we, at the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, are closely monitoring the behavior of Western countries, especially that of E3, and we intend to give appropriate response to them in various economic, trade, and diplomatic dimensions."

"The Iranian Parliament is persistently seeking to secure the interests of the country and we will not let resolutions that do not have executive guarantees affect our decisions and strategies," he stressed.

## Iran calls on Romania to send DNA profile of dead ex-judge

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iran's Interpol Chief Brigadier General Hadi Shirzad said that his country has demanded Romania to send the DNA profile of the dead fugitive ex-judge Gholamreza Mansouri, adding that Bucharest has not yet provided Tehran with any solid document in the case.

Shirzad said on Monday that Romania has identified the dead person in the Bucharest hotel as Gholamreza Mansouri based on the documents carried by the deceased person, but "we certainly need other proofs and evidence, including his DNA, to firmly confirm the dead person's identity".

"We have demanded for the DNA profile and the Romanian Interpol has also announced that the DNA profile is being prepared and will be sent to Iran soon," he added.

General Shirzad complained that the Romanian police has not yet sent any proof, document or evidence to Iran on the cause or incentive behind the death of Mansouri, but pointed out that Bucharest has promised to provide the Interpol in Tehran with more information in the next few days.

Iran on Monday called again on the Romanian government for clarifications on different aspects of Mansouri's death.

"The issue has some ambiguities. Despite (our) demands, the Romanian government has not yet cleared the issue. The foreign ministry, Iran's mission, Judiciary and the Interpol are pursuing the issue and we demand Romania to inform Iran officially and in written on whatever has happened. We have not received anything new yet except the media reports," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi told reporters in a press conference.

"We still want clarification of all aspects of the issue. I demand the Romanian government and relevant officials

of the country to provide us with the latest information as soon as possible," he added.

Earlier this month, Iranian Judiciary Spokesman Gholam Hossein Esmayeeli had also criticized Romania's lack of cooperation with the country on the death of Mansouri, saying that Tehran's information is limited to Romanian media reports and a short quotation from Bucharest's Prosecutor.

Tehran has urged Bucharest to prepare a full report on the death of its fugitive ex-judge Gholamreza Mansouri in Romania, Esmayeeli said.

He added that Iran is pursuing the case via its foreign ministry and Interpol and has also sent several letters to Romanian Judiciary chief.

Iran will not leave the case as it had announced Mansouri as 'wanted' and he was under the surveillance of the (Romanian) police, the spokesman noted.

Unfortunately, Western countries and the U.S., which boisterously claim to fight money-laundering and financial corruption, provide shelter for Iranian financial criminals, he underlined.

In relevant remarks this month, Iran's Deputy Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei said Romania should account for the death of ex-judge, Gholamreza Mansouri, in the European country.

"The Romanian government should certainly be accountable. He [Mansouri] had stated his intention to return to Iran and he was under police control and the Romanian government should account for his death," Mohseni Ejei said.

"There are ambiguities and effort should be made to clarify them," he added.



Also last Monday, Iranian Prosecutor General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri in a letter to his Romanian counterpart Augustin Lazar called for rapid and serious investigations into Mansouri's death.

"I demand you to order serious and comprehensive investigations into the cause of Mansouri's death given the importance of this issue and finding the reality and the responsibility that relevant judiciary officials and Interpol of Romania have had to protect and monitor the suspect," Montazeri said in his letter.

He also called for identification and prosecution of individuals possibly involved in Mansouri's death.

Montazeri asked Lazar to send him a complete report about the prosecution and judicial case and the incident which led to Mansouri's death via Iran's mission in Bucharest.

Earlier this month, Iran confirmed that Mansouri who was accused of receiving bribe before fleeing the country, had been arrested by the Interpol in Romania.

## MEK terror group funded by American taxpayers' money: Tehran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry d e s k says American taxpayers' money funds the (Mojahedin-e Khalgh) MEK terrorist group.

"MEK is by all means a terror cult," the Foreign Ministry wrote in a tweet on Sunday. "Europe is home to this rogue entity & Americans taxpayers' money has funded the atrocities of this corrupt grouplet."

"Both have hands in the massacre of innocent Iranians by MEK," the ministry added.

Earlier, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi marked the 39th anniversary of an act of terror that killed over 70 senior figures by the MEK, saying the terror group has since remained under the auspices of the U.S. and Europe.



"39yrs ago, today, Iran Chief Justice Ayatollah Beheshti & 72senior figures were assassinated by US-, Saddam-backed MEK terrorist cult. Since then, MEK has remained under US/Euro auspices, letting it horribly kill&maim 10000+Iranians," Mousavi tweeted on Saturday.

"Their blood on terrorist MEK supporters' hands!" he added.

The MEK was established in the 1960s to express a mixture of Marxism and Islamism. It launched bombing campaigns against the Shah, continuing after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, against the Islamic Republic. Iran accuses the group of being responsible for 17,000 deaths.

Based in Iraq at the time, MEK members were armed by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to fight against Iran during a war that lasted for 8 years in the 1980s.

In 2012, the U.S. State Department removed the MEK from its list of designated terrorist organizations under intense lobbying by groups associated with Saudi Arabia and other regimes opposed to Iran.

A few years ago, the MEK operatives were relocated from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala Province to Camp Hurriyat (Camp Liberty), a former U.S. military base in Baghdad, and were later relocated to Albania.

On Thursday, Mousavi termed the Islamic Republic of Iran as the biggest victim of terrorist actions, "which have been taken mainly with the U.S. government's direct and indirect supports, and with more than 17,000 people martyred in this path, is always at the forefront of the fight against terrorism at the global and regional levels."

He also said the United States, as the world's most infamous terrorist regime, is in no position to judge other countries.

The remarks came in response to the annual Country Reports on Terrorism released by the U.S.

## Trump exited JCPOA out of hatred toward Obama's achievements: professor

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A political science professor d e s k says Donald Trump's narrow reason for the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal was prompted by his hatred of any achievement by his predecessor Barack Obama.

In an interview with ILNA published on Monday, William Lucas said the wider motive for Trump's high-level advisors, such as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, is to step up sanctions and break the Iranian economy.

"They could be seeking a renegotiation of the nuclear deal, with Iran surrendering on key points over its nuclear program, or even pursuing regime change," Lucas said.

Asked if the U.S. government would eventually be able to renew a UN arms embargo on Iran, he said, "The effort to extend the UN arms embargo, which is linked to the JCPOA if not part of it, is to maintain diplomatic pressure on Iran."

The professor confirmed that "it is also part of a contest between Washington and Tehran in the region," adding that it is unlikely that the U.S. can push through the arms embargo.

He said the Europeans will look for a compromise, and Russia and China could block any Security Council action.

Washington has stepped up calls for the extension of a UN arms embargo on Iran, which will expire in October under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened that it may seek to trigger a "snapback" of all sanctions on Iran if its attempts to extend the arms embargo fall through.

In May 2018, President Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the JCPOA, unleashing the "toughest ever" sanctions against Iran.

While the U.S. is no longer a party to the 2015 deal, it has launched a campaign to renew the arms ban through a resolution at the UN Security Council.

The Security Council is scheduled to discuss the measure on June 30, but Russia and China are most likely to veto it.





## ISIPO revives over 200 idle production units in 3 months

**1 →** According to the official, the mentioned units returning to operation created direct jobs for 21,618 persons.

One of the approaches through which ISIPO is planning to help inactive units get back in the production cycle is to see their knowledge and technology needs, Mosaheb said.

“The country’s technology units and scientific and research centers have come to believe that they can help the industry and that the industry can use their potentials and capacities,” he added.



The official had previously said that following a program for boosting domestic production, ISIPO had managed to revive 529 idle production units in the first half of the past Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 21, 2019).

## Iran’s annual olive oil production hits 11,600 tons

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Olive oil production in Iran reached 11,600 tons in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the manager of the Agriculture Ministry’s “Olive Project” initiative said.

“Olive oil production in our country is in a good place and the production of this product has increased from 3,300 tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1391 (ended in March 2013) to 11,600 tons in 1398,” ILNA quoted Rahmatolah Parichehr as saying.

Speaking in a meeting with the company owners and businessmen active in the industry, the official stated that in the year of “surge in production”, the quantitative and qualitative increase of olive oil production and also the increase of its per capita consumption is on Agriculture Ministry’s agenda.

“The per capita consumption of this product in the world is 500 grams and we have planned to reach the global average,” Parichehr said.

The official had previously said that demand for olive oil in Iran exceeds 12,000 tons per year and the shortage is mainly imported from Turkey, Italy, Spain and Greece.

The Agriculture Ministry’s olive project scheme titled the “National Plan for Development of Olive Cultivation and Processing” seeks to increase olive oil production in Iran to a level where the country would have no further needs for import.

## TEDPIX falls 10,000 points on Monday

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 10,000 points to 1.481 on Monday, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, 12.27 billion securities worth 15,718 trillion rials (about \$374.2 million) were traded through 1.876 million deals on Monday.

TEDPIX went up 190,000 points during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index stood at 1.419 million points, showing a 15-percent weekly increase.

TEDPIX has also climbed 28.77 percent in the past Iranian calendar month (April 21-June 20) from its preceding month.

The index gained 283,868 points to 1,270,627 during the past month.

Although, the value of trades at the TSE, which is Iran’s major stock exchange, fell 31 percent in the past month.

Some 166,408 billion securities were traded through 22,416 million deals at this market, which shows a 22 percent drop in the number of securities and a 26 percent fall in the number of deals.

In a press conference on Monday, the head of Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) announced that the amount of liquidity absorbed by Iran’s capital market has reached 500 trillion rials (about \$12 billion) during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

Hasan Qalibaf-Asl also said, “It is while the total amount of liquidity entered into this market stood at 300 trillion rials (about \$7.14 billion) during the past year.”

The official further noted that the high amount of liquidity that is entering the capital market has provided some good opportunity for this market, as it’s being developed and flourished, for the enterprises, as they’re securing their required funds, and also for the government.

Mentioning the prosperous status of the capital market in the present year, Qalibaf-Asl underlined that the current status of this market is not at all comparable with that of the past three years and even the previous year.

He put the amount of financing through the capital market at 2.6 quadrillion rials (about \$61.9 billion) in the past Iranian calendar year 1398 and said the figure was one quadrillion rials (about \$23.8 billion) just in the first quarter of the present year. Financing through this market stood at 1.2 quadrillion rials (about \$28.5 billion) in the calendar year 1397.

The SEO head also put the value of trades at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) and Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), at 8.3 quadrillion rials (about \$197.61 billion) in the previous year, while the figure was 7.8 quadrillion rials (about \$185.71 billion) in the first quarter of this year.

TSE is Iran’s major stock exchange, three other exchanges are IFB, Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Qalibaf-Asl further said that the number of trading accounts opened in the stock market in the past year was 820,000, adding that 1.6 million accounts have been opened in the first three months of the current year.

# Promotion of production a must for developing exports: TPO head

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum said promoting domestic production is the prerequisite of exports development, IRIB reported.

“Exports improve when there is production, and we have to move in the direction of export-based production,” Zadboum said in a press conference on Monday.

According to the official, part of the country’s export problems is structural and because of the lack of export-intended production.

“Based on the estimates, Iran has the capacity to export \$100 billion to the neighboring countries, and this capacity will be exploited only when production is promoted,” the TPO head stressed.

Import management is important along with the development of exports, which means that the value of the industrial imports must decrease and the exports from this sector must increase, Zadboum emphasized.

Mentioning the government’s recent decision on limiting the ceiling of exports for new exporting companies to \$500,000, the official said the government’s intension



is not to ban exports but to regulate it.

“The priority is to supply the domestic market and the needs of the people, but exports are also an important part of the economy that must be encouraged with various incentives,” he said.

Referring to the latest situation of the borders with the neighboring countries, Zadboum said: “Turkey’s railway and road borders are open for trade. The Iraqi borders are also open, except for two cases. The border crossings with Azerbaijan, Armenia and Pakistan are also open”

As for Turkmenistan, currently there are only a rail and a road border open for trade, he added.

## ‘Iranian manufacturers can meet domestic need for home appliances’



**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian production units can meet the domestic need for home appliances, the secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran told IRNA on Monday.

Abbas Hashemi said that foreign home appliances are being replaced with the Iran-made products and the developed production capacity is now meeting the need for many items inside the country.

Iranian deputy industry, mining, and trade minister for industry affairs says Iranian producers have indigenized the knowledge for manufacturing 60 percent of the country’s home appliance needs.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of a home appliance production unit two weeks ago, Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki said the development of domestic production in the home appliance industry has been very significant so that nearly 70 percent of the small home appliances are currently made by domestic producers.

Underlining the increase in the production of home appliances during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20), the official said the production of washing machines has increased by 152 percent from 48,000 units in the previous year to 121,000 units this year.

He further mentioned the upward trend of the production home appliances in the previous calendar year 1398 and noted that despite the restrictions created by the U.S. this industry’s production capacity increased 10 percent in 1398 compared to its preceding year.

Based on Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data, in the previous year, 1,168,700 refrigerators and freezers were produced in the country, an increase of 7.8 percent compared to the preceding year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), while domestic companies produced 732,200 washing machines, to register a 32-percent increase year on year.

Also, the production of coolers increased by 6.3 percent to 904,900 units during the said period.

According to the official, the increase in the production of home appliances was achieved in a situation where two international companies (LG and Samsung) which held nearly 80 percent of Iran’s market reduced their production in the country and left Iran under U.S. pressures.

South Korea’s LG Electronics and Samsung have ended their presence in the Iranian market since the beginning of 2020, abiding by the U.S. pressures for cutting ties with one of their biggest markets.

The departure of the Asian companies from the Iranian market created a new opportunity for domestic companies to, once again, come to the spotlight for showcasing their capabilities and benefit from a market that belongs to them.

## Basic goods transited to Afghanistan via Chabahar



**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Some 14 cargo ships have carried basic commodities for Afghanistan via Shahid Beheshti Port in Iranian southeastern port city of Chabahar over the past two years, according to a local official.

Behrouz Aqaei, the director-general of Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province (where the port is located) told IRNA on Monday that after the cargoes are unloaded in Shahid Beheshti Port, they are transited to Afghanistan by trucks.

He said that India’s all 75,000 tons donated wheat for Afghanistan is due to be sent to the country through Shahid Beheshti Port, only five consignments of which have been sent so far.

Chabahar is believed to be the best and economical transit route into Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

In mid-April, a 75,000-metric-ton consignment of Indian wheat heading for Afghanistan arrived at Chabahar to be delivered to the destination country through land borders.

According to Aqaei, the Indian government sent the mentioned cargo aiming to support its trade partner during the coronavirus pandemic.

The consignment was comprised of 203 20-metric-feet containers that had been shipped from Kandla Port in eastern India.

In 2016, Iran, India, and Afghanistan decided to jointly establish a trade route for land-locked Central Asian countries.

India sent its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through Iran’s Chabahar Port back in 2017.

Later on, in February 2019, the Afghanistan-Iran-India trade corridor for the trade between the two countries through Chabahar Port was officially inaugurated.

In February this year, the Secretary General of Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce Mozafar Alikhani announced that Iran has approved two Afghan banks to open branches in its southeastern strategic port of Chabahar.

“Due to the strategic nature of the Chabahar port and being exempted from the U.S. sanctions, Iran has allowed two Afghan banks to establish branches in the port so that the two countries’ businessmen could be able to use their facilities and services,” Alikhani said.

There are strong economic ties between the two countries in terms of cultural, linguistic and historical commonalities, and many of Afghan traders are familiar with the patterns of trade and consumption in Iran, he said.

“Iran currently supplies about 35 percent of Afghanistan’s total imports, apart from the technical-engineering, and educational services,” Alikhani added.

The neighbor Afghanistan is a major export destination of Iranian products, and as Iran is seriously pursuing the objective of boosting non-oil exports to its neighbors, making the exporters acquainted with this country’s markets is an agenda.

## Quarterly loading of basic goods in Imam Khomeini Port up 24%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Loading of basic goods in Imam Khomeini Port in southwestern Khuzestan Province has risen 24 percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), according to a provincial official.

Head of Khuzestan Province’s Ports and Maritime Department Adel Daris announced that over four million tons of basic commodities have loaded in this port and transported to different parts of the country in the three-month period, IRIB reported.

The official mentioned wheat, barley, soybean cake, sugar, rice, and edible oil as the major products loaded in Imam Khomeini Port during the first quarter.

As previously announced by Daris, unloading of non-oil commodities in Imam Khomeini Port Special Economic Zone in the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 20-April 19) increased by 15 percent to more than 1.791 million tons.

Imam Khomeini Port is a seaport at the northwestern end of the Persian Gulf near the provincial capital of Ahvaz, Khuzestan.

It is Iran’s second-largest operating port after Shahid Rajaei Port in southern Hormozgan Province.

The port was opened in 1960 with two



berths, today it offers 40 berths for ships.

Over 15.7 million tons of basic commodities were loaded and unloaded at Imam Khomeini Port in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) earlier this month, 25 million tons of basic goods have been cleared from Iran’s

customs during the previous year.

According to Mehdi Mirashrafi, 35 million tons of commodities were imported into the country in the mentioned year, of which 25 million tons were basic goods.

Noting that the coronavirus outbreak has decreased the level of trade in the current Iranian calendar year, the official said: “This year, the trend has slowed down,

and we hope that with the measures taken by the Central Bank [of Iran (CBI)], the Industry Ministry, and IRICA, we will be able to minimize the deposition of goods in the customs before and after clearance. In this regard, we are going to make a new proposal to the government through the Economy Ministry.”

“There are currently about four million tons of goods stored in the country’s ports, including both basic goods and regular commodities like raw materials, and machinery, so we need to take more specific inter-sectorial measures to facilitate the clearance process,” Mirashrafi added.

According to the official, the main reason for the prolonging of clearance processes has been related to money transfer issues and obtaining ownership documents.

Regarding the reduction of global trade due to the coronavirus outbreak, the IRICA head said: “It is predicted that the volume of trade in the world will decrease by 20 percent due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and Iran and West Asia are not exceptions.”

The official further noted that in the current year which has been called the year of “surge in production” by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, IRICA has prioritized export-facilitating policies and strategies.



# Energy Ministry considering use of condensate as power plant fuel

**ENERGY DESK** TEHRAN — Iran's Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri said on Sunday that the ministry is considering the use of gas condensate as a replacement for natural gas to be used in the country's power plants.

A knowledge-based company is studying a plan for modifying the design of the power plants' turbines so that gas condensate could be used as a replacement fuel for natural gas, Haeri told Mehr News Agency.

The Energy Ministry is ready to cooperate with the Oil Ministry in this regard, he said, adding: "for conducting the necessary research, we have introduced Asaluyeh power plant as the pilot to the mentioned company so that its turbines can be reviewed and redesigned."

According to the official, the cost of generating electricity from gas condensate is not much different from the cost of generating electricity from natural gas and the point for this project is to diversify the power plants' fuel basket and make efficient use of the country's resources.



The use of gas condensate in the fuel basket of the country's power plants was

among the major plans that the Energy Ministry announced for the current Iranian

calendar year (started on March 19).

As reported, given the increase in gas production from South Pars field (Iran's biggest gas field shared with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) and the consequent increase in the gas condensate production, it is necessary to consider innovative programs for using it.

Natural-gas condensate, also called natural gas liquids, is a low-density mixture of hydrocarbon liquids that are present as gaseous components in the raw natural gas produced from many natural gas fields.

South Pars gas field is estimated to contain about 18 billion barrels of condensate.

In late May, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh announced that his ministry plans to prevent direct gas condensate exports to make use of it inside the country.

In early February, the minister had said that about 130,000 barrels per day (bpd) of the country's gas condensate are used as feedstock for the country's petrochemical plants and 80,000 bpd go to domestic refineries, apart from Persian Gulf Star.

## Iran's annual gas exports up 26%

**ENERGY DESK** TEHRAN — Iranian natural gas exports to the neighboring countries increased by 3.6 billion cubic meters in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) registering a 26-percent rise year on year, said managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

Referring to the gas industry's new records in production, transmission, distribution and exports during the previous Iranian calendar year, Hassan Montazer Torbati pointed to the unprecedented increase of natural gas exports last year and said that the surge in exports was realized despite the significant increase in the domestic consumption.

"Last year, the cumulative consumption by domestic, commercial and small industrial sectors increased by about 10 billion cubic meters, but despite new consumption records, the gas supply to urban and rural households was not interrupted and the exports increased," he said.

Noting that the total gas production

in the previous year reached about 270 billion cubic meters, Torbati emphasized that considering the increase in both production and consumption of natural gas, the national network handled the transmission of the added output smoothly.

The NIGC head further noted that the outbreak of coronavirus hasn't have any negative impact on the company's development projects and programs.

"With careful planning and with the implementation of all health protocols, the outbreak of corona did not disrupt the gas industry's development process," he said.

Iran is currently exporting gas to its western neighbors including Turkey and Iraq.

Back in May, Torbati had said that the conditions governing Iran's long-term gas contracts probably undergo essential changes after the coronavirus pandemic.

The official told ILNA that Iran would introduce new pricing mechanisms in gas export deals in future, without elaborating on how they would work.

In late April, NIGC Dispatching Director



Mehdi Jamshidi-Dana said the country is exporting 32 million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas to Iraq on a daily basis.

Natural gas export to Turkey has been halted following an explosion on a pipeline near their joint border in early March.

## NISOC output capacity up

**TEHRAN (Shana)** — Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, recently said that despite the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, oil and gas production in Iran had not faced any disruption. Among Iranian oil production companies, National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) enjoys a special status because of its large contribution to Iran's production.

Ahmad Mohammadi, CEO of NISOC, tells "Iran Petroleum" that production from the oil fields run by this company had seen their output exceed the target by 10,000 bpd despite the impact of sanctions and the current restrictions. He has also said that as soon as sanctions have been lifted, NISOC would be able to bring production back to the pre-sanctions levels quickly.

The following is the full text of the interview Mohammadi gave to "Iran Petroleum":

■ How did the Covid-19 outbreak affect NISOC's development projects?

The Covid-19 outbreak slowed down, to some extent, the development projects as soon as it struck. It is noteworthy that our conditions differed with that of the others in dealing with the coronavirus, as we were also under sanctions. Therefore, we had to multiply our efforts in a bid to minimize the impacts of both the coronavirus and the sanctions. We were faced with a tough task in not halting activity in NISOC-run fields. However, we proceeded with our activities through well-thought planning.

■ Many oil companies in the world have halted their development activities due to the sharp decline in oil prices. Does NISOC plan to follow suit?

The petroleum industry is an international one and we cannot separate ourselves from others. NISOC accounts for supplying more than 80 percent of Iran's oil, which is earmarked for domestic consumption and



exports. In order to maintain the production capacity and enhance output, development activities within EPC/EPD project should continue. Furthermore, we always think of providing development infrastructure for the day the sanctions have been lifted on Iran's petroleum industry. In the meantime, NISOC's production is largely spent on feeding refineries. Therefore, we cannot say that the petroleum industry is experiencing unprecedented conditions because oil prices have plummeted to very low prices and therefore we have to halt our development projects. Despite so many problems we are faced with, we will proceed with these projects to keep the business environment and employment alive and create development infrastructure. Of course, it has to be noted that the methodology of sanctions has changed this time and has become more complicated. We are in the midst of an economic war. Oil production

and export is really complicated and difficult, add to this the Covid-19 outbreak.

■ Given the reduction in oil production emanated from the Covid-19 outbreak, how long will it take the oil output to rebound to the pre-sanctions levels?

According to arrangements, in case sanctions have been lifted, we will restore about 70 percent of oil production in less than a month and 100 percent in three months to the pre-sanctions levels.

■ Which project has been affected most by the Covid-19 outbreak?

It is really tough, particularly for our colleagues working in operation zones to work with the Covid-19 spread. In all crises and emergency situations, we focus on two points: One is our main and natural task of safe and sustainable production, supporting production and sparing staff any damage and the other one is to help people and communities living around facilities to

respect their social responsibility. With the Covid-19 outbreak, we have concentrated on respecting all health protocols and our colleagues, particularly those living far from their families, are trying their best to guarantee safe and sustainable production in oil-rich zones in southern Iran. Furthermore, we have provided help to people living near facilities and installations. The Covid-19 outbreak has sure slowed down EPC/EPD projects as many specialists and service workers who used to come from neighboring cities and provinces were faced with restrictions. Despite all this, NISOC's oil output was 10,000 ahead of plan because no workover project has been halted over this period of time.

■ What would happen to NISOC's 28 packages with the Covid-19 outbreak and petroleum industry sanctions?

In six packages, two wells have so far been completed and five others are to be completed soon. Therefore, a total of seven wells would be completed soon and the rigs installed on these wells will be moved to the location of new wells.

The successful bidders for 9 other packages are known. Preparations are under way for six packages and the fate of remaining packages will be known soon. I hope that construction starts in some of them in the summer.

■ What stage is the Parsi and Paranj agreement in now?

We are receiving necessary permits for Parsi and Paranj fields' development. At the same time, we have held talks with MAPNA so that we would sign an agreement for logistics before the agreement takes effect. Given MAPNA's potential, I hope that we will soon see production logistics work start in parallel with the required arrangements for the implementation of the agreement.

## Arbitration court's ruling on NIGC-Turkmengaz dispute announced

**TEHRAN (Shana)** — The General Directorate of Public Relations of the Iranian Oil Ministry issued an announcement explaining the outcome of the International Court of Arbitration's ruling regarding the dispute between the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and Turkmengaz.

The text of the announcement of the General Directorate of Public Relations of the Ministry of Petroleum is as follows:

"Following the cessation of gas exports to Iran by Turkmengaz in early winter 2016, despite efforts by the National Iranian Gas Company to resolve financial disputes between the two sides through negotiations, Turkmengaz decided to refer the dispute to international arbitration.



"In accordance with the provisions of the agreements between the two countries, the matter was referred to the International Court of Arbitration in Switzerland. The arbitrator announced his decision to both parties on June 24, 2020.

"According to the rules of arbitration, this decision cannot be disseminated by any of the parties to the dispute, except with the agreement of the parties.

"It is important to note that the current dispute between Turkmengaz and the National Iranian Gas Company is only one dispute over the exact amount of debt owed to Turkmengaz and the National Iranian Gas Company's claims related to the quantity and quality of Turkmenistan's exported gas to Iran. Therefore, this commercial lawsuit has no winner or loser.

"What can be said about the outcome is that the issued judgement has different dimensions, in some cases the views of Turkmengaz Company and in some cases the views of the National Iranian Gas Company have been sustained.

"It is emphasized that, contrary to some rumor mills, the National Iranian Gas Company has not been subject to payment of any fines, as Turkmengaz's request did not concern imposition of a fine on NIGC. As mentioned above, the only issue discussed in the arbitration was investigation of the debt of the National Iranian Gas Company to Turkmengaz for the gas received from Turkmengaz until the date of gas cut-off and the determination of the exact amount of fines on Turkmengaz concerning the quantity and quality of the delivered gas.

"However, we have always believed in resolving issues and disputes through negotiation, but referring a commercial case to arbitration is a common practice in international trade to resolve disputes.

"We hope that this ruling will pave the way for further development of relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries."

## Why oil tanker market may take Trump's sanctions in stride this time

The Trump administration's plan to add as many as 50 oil tankers to an already long list of sanctioned vessels would be enough to send global shipping costs surging under normal circumstances.

But the demand fallout from the pandemic may have freed up enough vessels to keep prices from skyrocketing as they did last year when the U.S. announced penalties against units of China's biggest shipping company for violating restrictions on carrying Iranian petroleum.

"Adding 50 more ships to the list may not be enough to bring another spike," said Peter Sand, chief shipping analyst at industry group BIMCO, citing a mismatch in supply and demand caused by the hit to global oil demand from the coronavirus.

According to Bloomberg, the Treasury Department is preparing to ramp up maritime sanctions to choke off trade between Iran and Venezuela, a person familiar with the matter said this month. Bad actors are constantly seeking new ways to exploit global supply chains and Treasury will continue to target those engaged in sanctions evasion and illicit activities related to shipping, said a spokesperson.

About 130 oil and fuel tankers are currently under U.S. sanctions, according to the website of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, up from about 80 a year ago. They include vessels that can handle crude, refined products and ship fuel, and Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), which are capable of carrying about 2 million barrels of oil.

The Treasury recently released an advisory on what the shipping sector should be looking for in terms of evasion techniques and potential red flags, while it also updated its guidance related to Iran, North Korea and Syria.

### ■ Beyond election

An increased focus on shipping when it comes to official sanctions policy since around 2018 is likely to persist beyond this year's election, said John Hughes, former deputy director of sanctions policy at the State Department and now a senior vice president at Albright Stonebridge Group.

More than two-thirds of world trade flows take place by sea and VLCCs account for about 40 percent of crude transportation, said Georgi Slavov, Marex Spectron's Head of Basic Resources Research.

"In a scenario where a total of 28 VLCCs were to be newly sanctioned, it could potentially raise VLCC hires to nearly \$8.5 million for shipments from the U.S. to China," said Stefanos Kazantzis, McQuillan Services LLC's senior adviser for shipping and finance in New York, from around \$6.5 million at present.

When the units of China COSCO Shipping Corp. were sanctioned last September, the cost of shipping oil from the U.S. to Asia soared to around \$20 million, hurting the export market.

To be sure, the impact on freight rates won't be the only factor the industry has to look at if sanctions are escalated. A dwindling supply of available ships for hire would put more pressure on the fleet. Shipowners will face hefty penalties for being late to load or unload cargoes, according to Georgi Slavov, Marex Spectron's Head of Basic Resources Research.

Still, a recent decline in floating storage could weigh against any dramatic increase in shipping rates.

Oil benchmarks are trading in a market structure that doesn't incentivize the use of floating storage -- where traders store crude at sea in the hope of getting a higher price further out -- said Kazantzis. The volume of North Sea crude stored at sea in Europe, for instance, has shrunk by more than half over the past two weeks.

## ADNOC cuts August term volumes by 5 percent for all crude oil grades

Crude oil volumes from Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. for its term customers over August will be reduced by five percent for all four grades, a source familiar with the situation told S&P Global Platts on June 28.

ADNOC informed customers who lift contracted monthly volumes -- known as term lifters -- that it would cut the quantity of volumes available for export over August by five percent for its more popular Murban and Upper Zakum grades and for Umm Lulu and Das Blend, the source said.

It follows the same 5 percent cut that ADNOC made for July. June term volumes of Murban and Upper Zakum had

been slashed 20 percent, with Das Blend and Umm Lulu cut 5 percent, as the UAE joined Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman in enacting voluntary additional cuts below their OPEC+ quotas for that month only.

The news comes as OPEC and its allies have yet to decide whether to extend a historical production cut accord of nearly 10 million bpd beyond July. The deal is scheduled to ease to collective cuts of 7.7 million bpd starting in August, though the OPEC+ coalition has said it may amend the deal as needed on a monthly basis to manage the oil market's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The coalition will next meet Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in Vienna, but a key OPEC+ monitoring committee co-chaired by the coalition's largest members, Saudi Arabia and Russia, is scheduled to hold an online meeting July 15. The committee is empowered to make recommendations to the wider coalition, which would have to call an extraordinary session to approve any changes.

A Persian Gulf OPEC delegate, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said some preliminary discussions had been held on extending the cuts through August but that no conclusions had been made.



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# Despite economic fallout Tehran real estate market flourishes

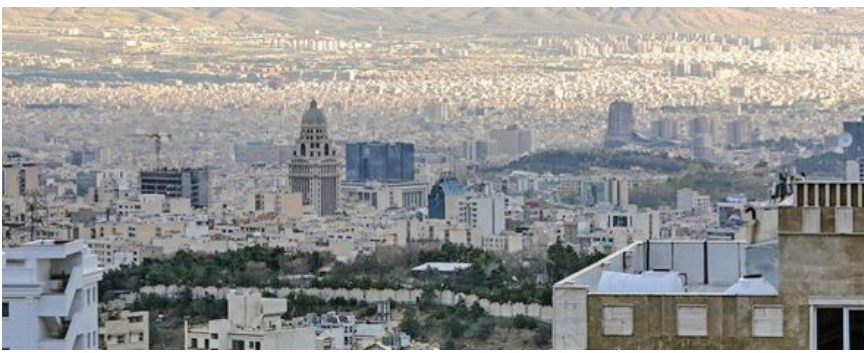
Statistical Center of Iran reports soaring prices

➔ The minimum price of each square meter of a downtown rundown property in the capital stood at 26.48m rials (\$150) per square meter while the maximum was at 750m rials (\$4,249), bringing the average to 208.15m rials (\$1,179), reports the Financial Tribune.

According to announcement made by the Planning and Housing Economy Office of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, the number of home sales in Tehran stood at 11,046 during the third month of the current Iranian year (May 21-June 20), indicating an increase of 80.3 percent compared with the same period last year, but a decline of 4.5 percent compared with the preceding month.

The average price of each square meter of a residential unit in the capital stood at 190.71 million rials (\$968) during the month under review, registering a year-on-year increase of 42.1 percent and a month-on-month rise of 12.1 percent.

Tehran's real estate market has also been a favorite with the Iranian diaspora, whose purchases have helped in soaring housing prices in the past. Owning a house has several advantages for the foreign residents. First advantage is whenever they wish to return home for a short trip or retirement they can count on a residence. Second, they don't have



The number of home sales in Tehran stood at 11,046 during the third month of the current Iranian year (May 21-June 20), indicating an increase of 80.3% compared with the same month of last year, but a decline of 4.5% compared with the preceding month. (Photo: EghtesadOnline)

to pay the high taxes which most Western countries charge.

As Iran's oil revenues continued to decline due to unilateral U.S. sanctions, its spending did not change, resulting in widening budget deficit. Reduction of petroleum subsidies in November 2019 brought protests in all the major provinces with people arguing that if petroleum becomes more expensive then everything else follows suite. According to the Central Bank of Iran the country has an inflation rate of 41.3 percent with a target

of 22 percent for the future.

All this happened before the novel coronavirus pandemic which has deepened Iran's economic recession, with global economic repercussions that will be felt in the coming months. In order to deal with the pandemic, the government requested permission to withdraw one billion euros from the National Development Trust Fund (Iran's sovereign wealth fund).

To deal with plummeting revenues, the government and parliament are planning to

impose new taxes and sell public holdings. In a report published in early June, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) informed of the 10th parliament, where the new legislators were discussing introducing a capital gains tax plan on real estate market. The purpose of which is to collect taxes on vacant housing, transfer the main resources of real production and prevent hoarding. However, the proposal has been delayed by other parliamentarians arguing the bill could have negative impact on the housing market.

According to the latest data published by the Central Bank of Iran on rent increases Tehran during May 21 – June 20, the price of rented residential properties in Tehran and across urban areas increased by 27.6 percent and 30.7 percent respectively compared with the similar month last year.

Tenancy agreements signed as of June 29 may not increase rents by more than 25 percent in Tehran and 20 percent rise in other large cities, President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday.

In early May, two-month extensions on rental agreements terminating between February 20 and May 20, to control the spread of coronavirus and help tenants battling job and income losses during the pandemic.

## Why Arab rulers remain silent on George Floyd's death

➔ "Arab silence over what happened in America is conceivable and comes in the natural context because many Arab regimes have accepted America's hegemony and are not allowed to oppose American policies," Triq Aboud, a Lebanese researcher in international policies, tells the Tehran Times.

■ **Unlike Arab countries, Turkey condemns U.S. police violence**

Amid the silence of the Arab leaders, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the American police's violence against black Americans.

"We saw this terrible silence on regular racist crimes in the U.S., and what makes it more interesting is that the silence was not limited to the Arab regimes. We also witness many regimes that claim to defend democracy in Europe and elsewhere, are sitting on the fence," Aboud says.

Although Ankara went to use American demonstrations as a pretext to criticize and attack Trump's policies, Turkish statements were less severe than the Iranian ones, which reflect the Ankara's policy of "walking a fine line" without hurting relations with the United States."

In fact, Turkish policies in limiting freedoms at home in recent years don't allow Erdogan to make harsh criticism against others.

■ **The absence of Arab reactions**

Silence at official level coincided with the absence of demonstrations on the streets of Arab countries, except for a protest organized by Tunisians.

Tunisian youth denounced racism and violence against people of color in the United States, after a wave of similar protests in many countries all around the world. Nevertheless, the reasons for Arab leaders' silence may be different from that of the people.

"Actually, the Arabs decided to stay spectator, and some even supported the Trump administration's behavior in suppressing the protests," Khalil Nasrallah, a Lebanese political researcher, tells the Tehran Times.

"Most Arab regimes have exercised this oppression (against their own people) since their inception, as they have had the American support," he points out.



Nasrallah says it seems that the Arabs are busy with very crucial issues.

All Arab countries, from Iraq to Egypt, Libya and Yemen, have concerns that are perhaps more important than what is going on in the United States, he adds.

It seems that Arabs are busy with their poor economic conditions or crucial political issues after the failure of the so-called "Arab Spring", the Lebanese researcher remarks.

"Most Arab countries... have concerns that are perhaps more important than what happened to George Floyd," Aboud opines.

He adds, "Without the slightest doubt, everyone is annoyed by the death of George Floyd and they are critical of racist practices by American police. Still, the space for freedom and expression of opinion is perhaps more available in cities like Madrid or London and Paris compared to Arab countries."

Aboud goes on to say, "Moreover, existential challenges face an Arab citizen; challenges even threaten his health and take the most important part of his life... For an Arab citizen, the priority now is to earn a loaf of bread, though millions of Arab people sympathize with the black community in the United States against racism."

Nasrallah says, "Americans don't care what Arabs think; nevertheless, American sanctions may include them," Nasrallah notes.

■ **Social media and political reforms**

The social media is the most dynamic medium for the Arab world to react to George Floyd's death and the only outlet available for many to express their views.

There were many comments denouncing racism and showing solidarity with the protesters across the globe.

Saudi scholar Abdullah Al-Awdah, son of the arrested cleric Salman Al-Awdah,

compared the reactions to the killing of George Floyd to the assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, stressing the similarity of their last words, "I cannot breathe."

Drawing an analogy between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, Al-Awdah says there is a "great difference between a nation that is rising up ... and a nation being suffocated and cannot breathe."

Former Egyptian Vice President Mohamed ElBaradei on 5 June 2020, argues in a tweet, that "in democratic systems, peaceful demonstrations, despite any abuses, usually result in structural reforms in response to popular demands. In authoritarian regimes, protests usually result in a clash that ends with the collapse of the entire system. The difference is between a Flexible and durable system that allows change and a fragile and weak regime that does not allow repair."

■ **Eyad Al Hallaq, a Palestinian "George Floyd"**

Another wave of controversy erupted after the Israeli police killed an unarmed, autistic Palestinian. The incident was compared to George Floyd's death by many.

Arab media described Eyad Al Hallaq, as "Palestinian George Floyd."

In this context, Mohamed ElBaradei asks: "Why do we not see sympathy for the Palestinians as we see for the blacks in the U.S., even though the discrimination against them is more severe? Did we fail as Arabs in serving our goals outside the slogans? Or are we linked to terrorism based on a false vision? Or due to poor global media attention? And perhaps the influence of the Israeli lobby?"



## UN rights chief urges Israel to halt 'illegal' annexation plan

The UN human rights chief has denounced the Israeli regime's "illegal" plan to annex large parts of the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank, warning about the "disastrous" consequences of the move.

Annexation is illegal. Period. Any annexation. Whether it is 30 percent of the West Bank, or five percent," United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said in a statement on Monday, adding that Israel needed to "listen to its own former senior officials and generals, as well as to the multitude of voices around the world, warning it not to proceed along this dangerous path."

She called on the Tel Aviv regime to shift course, warning that "the shockwaves of annexation will last for decades, and will be extremely damaging to Israel, as well as to the Palestinians."

The UN rights chief also warned that "any attempt to annex any part of the occupied Palestinian territory will not only seriously damage efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region, it is likely to entrench, perpetuate and further heighten serious human rights violations that have characterized the conflict for decades."

Bachelet then cautioned that annexation would almost certainly lead to increased restrictions on Palestinians' right to freedom of movement, as their population centers would

become enclaves.

In addition, significant tracts of private land would likely be illegally expropriated, and even in cases where this does not occur, many Palestinians could lose access to cultivate their own land, while Palestinians who found themselves living inside the annexed areas would likely experience greater difficulty accessing essential services like healthcare and education, she further said, warning humanitarian access could also be blocked.

The UN human rights chief warned that Palestinians inside the annexed area would come under heavy pressure to move out, pointing out that entire communities currently not recognized under Israeli planning would be at high risk of "forcible transfer," and settlements would almost certainly expand.

"This is a highly combustible mix. I am deeply concerned that even the most minimalist form of annexation would lead to increased violence and loss of life, as walls are erected, security forces deployed and the two populations brought into closer proximity," Bachelet said.

Bachelet said illegal annexation would not change Israel's obligations under international law as an occupying power towards the occupied population. Bachelet said illegal annexation would not change Israel's obligations under in-

ternational law as an occupying power towards the occupied population.

■ **Massive protests across France against Israel's annexation plan**

Separately, massive demonstrations were held in a number of French cities against Israel's plan to annex more Palestinian land.

Hundreds of people took to the streets in the capital, Paris, as well as the cities of Lyon, Strasbourg, Saint-Etienne, Montpellier and Marseille on Saturday, and voiced their strong opposition to the Israeli decision.

The protesters waved Palestine flags and raised banners that read "Free Palestine", "Boycott Israel", and "No to Annexation."

They also called on the international community to impose sanctions on Israel to force it to reverse its decision.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was sworn into office for another term on May 17, has set July 1 for the start of cabinet discussions on extending "sovereignty" over settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley.

In response to Israel's decision, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared the end of all agreements signed with Israel and the United States on May 19.

(Source: Press TV)

## Too few know much of anything to predict...

By Martin Love

Trump versus Bolton. Biden versus Trump. Really, everyone versus someone somewhere in the disintegrating USA, which some claim is even facing a "civil war" now. The political and general domestic chaos is, well, so chaotic that it's virtually impossible to get a grip on who is saying anything worth hearing. But the elites appear to be losing control. This latter is key.

Take Trump, for example, recently saying he allegedly has grown cold to Juan Guaido, the anointed alleged successor to Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela if by chance Maduro loses his grip. Trump has skirted wanting talks with Maduro while Guaido remains an unpopular, ineffective dweeb, and everyone at bottom knows it, but just because Trump MAY reject Guaido, Biden is claiming Trump has lost his marbles, reiterating support for the dweeb. Which just underscores the fact that Biden, as a so-called "Deep State" supporter, MAY not be any better, and perhaps worse, as a U.S. President.

The one possibly good outcome of any Biden win in November is that, in the U.S., there are millions of people on the left side of the political spectrum so fed up with the status quo that they may be successful pushing Biden to the left to support some of their hopes for change on issues like universal healthcare with the expansion of Medicare, or less support for insidious foreign policies that are helping bankrupt the country morally and financially.

The Trump Administration also seems to be angling towards talks with Iran, apparently over prisoner exchanges? But one can suspect there might be more to this latter: maybe it's all just sheer frustration In Washington over what amounts to a complete stalemated standoff between the U.S. and Iran, and especially now when Trump and gang failed to frighten Iran off from sending fuel and oil field gear to Venezuela on a raft of ships that were not challenged on the seas by the U.S. navy. Not a single foreign policy initiative against those countries targeted as "enemies" (of U.S. imperialism really) by Trump has been successful.

So many cross currents, or rather just the chaos, while Trump flopped at a half empty stadium of racist Trump zealots a couple weeks ago in Tulsa in Oklahoma where he spent an entire nine minutes trying to explain why he appeared feeble (like some multiple sclerosis victim off his meds) walking down an inclined ramp after his earlier address, itself a staged event solely for Trump, at a West Point graduation ceremony. Trump is showing what he cares about more than anything else, and it ain't good governance: it's getting reelected because this at least shields him for four more years from potential legal action with exposures of law breaking and corruption now and in his past.

But does Trump also want to get reelected to follow through on some vague concepts he has about freeing the U.S. from his "Deep State" enemies who are mostly all about just getting Trump out of office? Trump did after all campaign in 2016 for what most Americans want: especially a reduction of foreign military actions and entanglements, even though he has done almost nothing about it and often made things just worse, especially with his efforts to destroy the JCPOA and his failures to throttle Israeli ambitions by supporting them.

For many what's most discouraging is that no one can fathom what direction the U.S. may take, or then plan accordingly, since the chaos extends to those who create policy in Washington. For example, look at the so-called "Caesar Act" sanctions which in particular now are horribly harmful to both Syria and Lebanon, and can be seen as spawned from spiteful envy because Assad's Syria, where Assad is quite popular, has almost "won" the wars against Western and Saudi backed terrorists and brought some purely relative calm to his country. These recent sanctions are based on revulsion over the claimed deaths of many Syrians civilians by Assad's army and the Russians in these battles, and yet the carnage has primarily been meted out by the terrorists, including ISIS, who have used Syrian civilians as human shields in the areas they held in besieged Syria.

The only thing that could possibly justify the "Caesar Act" sanctions is if Assad were despised by Syrians, and he's just not, given the most reliable reports anywhere and these by Western journalists in Syria namely Vanessa Beeley and Eva Karene Bartlett, one a Brit and the other a Canadian. Who does the U.S. think is going to "rule" Syria in the absence of Assad? Are they not aware that terrorists would? Maybe the U.S. in its slavish support of the Zionists imagines Israel might control Syria through proxies? This must be the plan. Israeli control. The U.S. has not revealed ANYONE who looks remotely responsible and decent to manage Syria as an alternative to Assad, and meanwhile Trump is making it virtually impossible for Syria to rebuild. It's time for Russia and China to help Syria bigtime, even help feed Syrians whose wheat and barley fields beyond the Euphrates have been set afire by Trump or Kurds or ISIS remnants in further acts of stark cruelty.

"Empires" come and go, often with violence, but also with the thought that it may not have to be so -- that "Empires" of a kind can prevail indefinitely if they would just, given their vast relative wealth, somehow transform themselves and their orientations to the rest of the world, the "other".. The transformation is one essentially of becoming generous and benevolent and somewhat laissez faire with regard to potential challengers. Let these upstarts, if they exist, make the same mistakes the US has and ultimately fall apart, as the US now may be. But what if leaders were so far sighted and enlightened to realize that if they adopted "benevolence" or something like it across the board that they might possibly assure their continued relevance and even power...except that the "power" would be expressed and maintained and derived from good and generous deeds and not the desire for control and military and economic advantage.

Setting a good example can be recognized and appreciated and often adopted by others who understand its long-term impacts. The positive result is natural rather than forced, where the use of force and threat only seed future destruction. Back immediately after WW2 the U.S. was seen, even it was not exactly true because the control factor remained paramount, as a benevolent hegemony. The Marshall Plan comes to mind, for example. The resurrection of European prosperity after the war. But all such notions began to fall apart big time with the senseless war on Vietnam, and then other stupid US moves like Iraq, now Syria, Ukraine, and hostility to Iran, etc. Such that now especially in places like the Mideast the US has the worst of major allies like Saudi and Israel, neither of which set any kind of decent example for tolerance, democracy and serious good will. Perhaps human nature so often inclined to ignorance and greed is the core problem worldwide. Anyway, believe it or not, a majority of Americans are saddened by the country being on the downslope and continuing to elect the wrong people with counter-productive outlooks and policies.



## Gifts to presidents to go on show: tourism ministry

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The exquisite gifts dedicated to President Hassan Rouhani and his predecessors will be put on show in public places such as museums in the near future, deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian has said.



President Rouhani has agreed to a proposal made by Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan on handing over the exquisite and valuable gifts to the tourism ministry, Talebian added, CHTN reported on Monday.

## Semnan province to increase eco-lodge units

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department General of Semnan plans to increase the number of eco-lodge units across the province in the near future, CHTN reported.

Increasing the number of eco-lodge units will strengthen and promote the region's tourism potential, provincial tourism chief Mehdi Jamal said on Sunday.

The department also plans to restore the historical structure of the cities of Mayamey and Shahrud, the official added.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad).

While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat) and ruined mud citadels (Padeh in Lumpy but fascinating).



The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

The tourism ministry has set a target to help build 2,000 eco-lodges by 2021, believing such guest houses could cater to sustainable development and job creation in the countryside and rural areas.

The culturally-diverse country never disappoints visitors when it comes to eco-tourism, sightseeing and even tribal tourism as it is home to many regional people including ones with Turk and Arab elements in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews, and others.

## Ancient relics of Iran: Proto-Elamite tablet with seal mark

(Part: 2/2)

**(Louvre museum)** – Writing emerged in Iran nearly three centuries after being invented in southern Mesopotamia. This writing system, developed in the Fars region and called Proto-Elamite for this reason, is totally independent from the writing in use at Uruk. As no bilingual text exists that would enable us to establish an equivalence between the two systems, Proto-Elamite writing remains undecipherable. However, the reading direction (right to left) and its horizontality have been detected.

■ An accounting document sealed with images of animals in human poses



These Proto-Elamite tablets are accounting documents. Three different numerical systems are used on the tablet: a decimal system, a sexagesimal system and a mixed system known as SE. The various operations are listed on the front side of the tablet, recapitulated, with totals, on the back at the top. New figures appear: crescent-shaped notches and dots circled with a constellation of tiny points, some of which represent fractions. A pictographical sign resembling a fringed triangle, known as the "hairy triangle," often appears, but its meaning

remains unclear. A single seal was used on the document, a cylinder-seal that was rolled twice across the width of the tablet, covering most of the back of the tablet. The scene shows a bull symmetrically restraining two seated felines, alternating with a lion dominating two rearing bulls, each topped with a "hairy triangle." The animals stand on their hindlegs as if they were bipeds, a technique characteristic of the Proto-Elamite period in which animals were often depicted in a human pose. The choice of bulls and lions was deliberate, for these animals appear to personify cosmic forces, decisive in the balance of power in the world. In the scene, there is no durable winner or loser, but alternating, opposing forces that appear equal.

# 49 tourism projects worth \$273m to come on stream

→ 1 Some experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

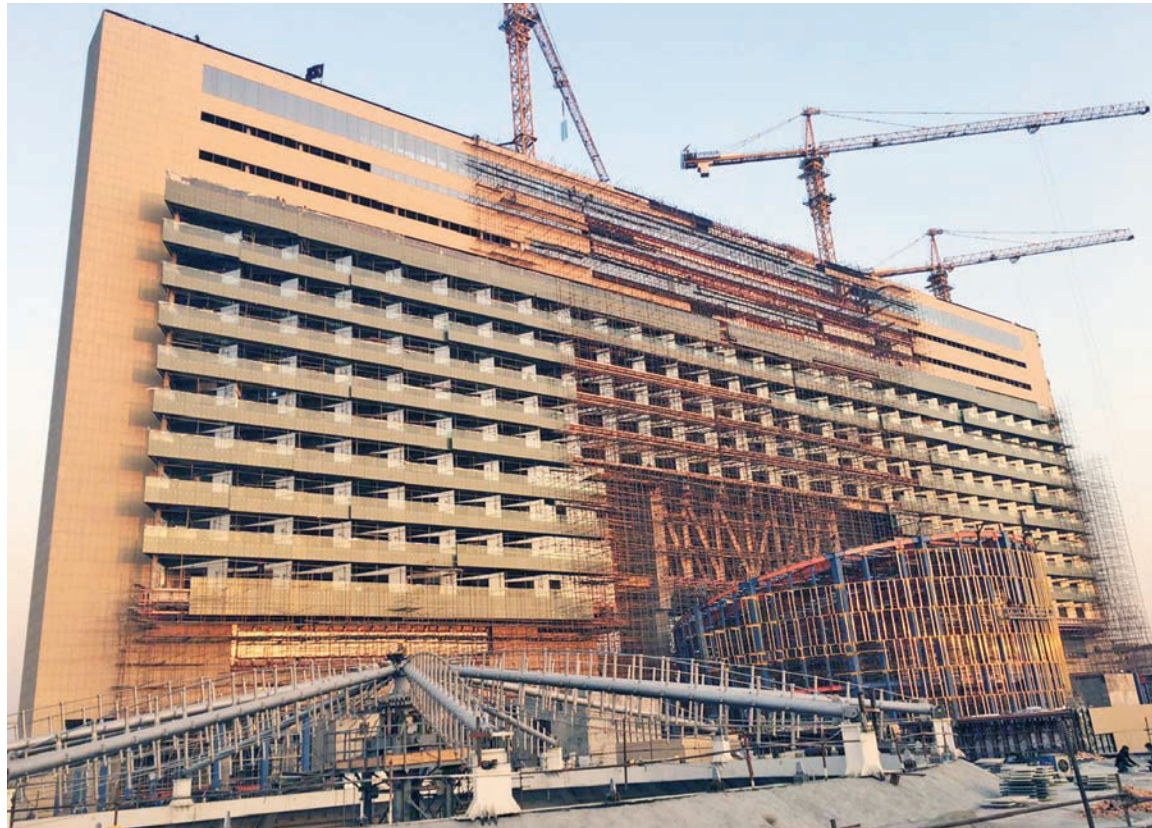
Back in January, before the pandemic starts, Mounesan issued a statement, inviting all travelers and holidaymakers to visit the ancient land, saying that the country-size guesthouse is wholeheartedly ready to receive tourists from around the world. He emphasized that the Iranian government is trying its best to host incoming tourists by improving tourism infrastructure, offering attractive and pocket-friendly packages, as well as incentives such as visa waivers or 90-day visas on arrival.

Pointing to unique and unparalleled beauties of Iran, Mounesan said, "The rich history and civilization of this land, the numerous and spectacular tourist attractions, four-season weather, and high cultural and ethnic diversity have made an invaluable treasure of Iran and put this country in the top 10 tourist destinations in terms of tourism, cultural and natural attractions.

Astonishing mountains, breathtaking glaciers, beautiful volcanos, pristine forests, green foothills, delightful lakes, springs and waterfalls, picturesque beaches and wonderful islands, historical sites and distinct architecture, globally registered cities and villages, diverse and colorful handicrafts, delicious traditional cuisine and organic, healing drinks, etc. are only a small part of the beauties you can visit while staying in Iran."

"With such advantages, each day the beautiful and safe cities of Iran are hosting thousands of tourists from different countries, having enjoyed the unique experience, most of whom decide to return and bring new fellow travelers with them."

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from



File photo depicts an elegant hotel under construction in Tehran.

4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the

Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

## Iran, Oman to launch joint tours for European travelers

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Iran's southwestern Sistan-Baluchestan province and Oman are scheduled to operate joint travel tours for European nationals in a bid to boost cooperation between the two neighbors.

"Sistan-Baluchestan province and Oman will soon be operating integrated [package] tours for European target countries," CHTN quoted provincial deputy tourism chief Mojtaba Mirhosseini as saying on Sunday.

"During recent negotiations with Omani tour operators, which are engaged with European tourist destinations, necessary agreements have been reached that could pave the way for increased international tourist arrivals in the province," the official said.

"Since a majority of inbound tours are arranged for several specific and traditional destinations like Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz,



and due to the distance, few tours are organized to Sistan-Baluchestan from these routes (traditional destinations in Iran), so Oman can be regarded as a strategic and effective route for the development of tourism in the province," the official explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mirhosseini said some agreements have been reached

with Omani private investors in that regard.

"Upon follow-up consultations with the private sector in Oman, we are expected to have a boom in foreign arrivals in the province in the near future through this new route."

Over the past couple of months ago, separate groups of European sightseers have made excursions across the vast enigmatic

province, which is amongst lesser-known destinations of the country. The groups of French, Italian and British tourists visited attractions in Zabol, Nimruz, and Hamun. They also set up an overnight camp in the [UNESCO-registered] Lut desert.

The vast province was long shunned by potential foreign and domestic travelers though it is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert, parts of latter is situated in Kerman province.

For mainstream Iranians, the name of Sistan-Baluchestan conjures up stories of drought, desiccated wetlands, and dust storms. On the international scale foreigners may consider it a reminiscent of the big red blot on the Iran safety map.

## Golestan Palace, Foreign Ministry to cooperate in cultural heritage sphere

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – The UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace and Foreign Ministry's documents center will form a working group to conduct joint studies and exchange experience in the arena of cultural heritage.

"In a meeting which we held with the head of the Foreign Ministry's documents center, and the advisor to the head of the ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies, we discussed ways to interact with the center in the field of cultural heritage," CHTN quoted Afarin Emami, the director of the World Heritage site, as saying on Sunday.

"During the meeting, it was decided to form a joint working group and hold several meetings to provide improved services to researchers, she said, adding, "We

have also arranged to organize joint exhibits."

A decades-old copy of the Baysonghor Shahnameh, an illustrated manuscript of the Shahnameh, the national epic of Greater Iran, was also presented to the UNESCO World Heritage site by the Foreign Ministry's documents center in the meeting, the report said. The original work on the manuscript was started in 1426 at the order of Baysonghor Mirza, the Timurid prince, and was completed in 1430, four years later.

Golestan Palace became a center of arts and architecture during the Qajar era (1789 to 1925) which is an outstanding example and has remained a source of inspiration for Iranian artists and architects to this day. It embodies a successful integration of earlier Persian crafts and architecture with Western influences.



## IRIR plans to resume Tehran-Hamedan train tours



**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (IRIR) plans to resume Tehran-Hamedan train tours, which had been stopped

due to coronavirus outbreak in the country over the past few months.

The first exclusive tourist train connecting Tehran to Hamedan was inaugurated in July 2019, letting passengers have a one-day tour of Hamedan's historical and natural attractions.

The tour is planned to be operated on Thursday, for the first time in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20), CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Ali Khaksar as saying on Monday.

The train observe health protocols by operating one-third of its capacity and will tour Ali Sadr cave, world pottery city of Lalejin, and the city of Hamedan, without an overnight stay, the official added.

A top destination for domestic and foreign sightseers, researches, history buffs, and day-trippers, Ali Sadr Cave is a gigantic water-filled cavern widely believed to date

## 12 tourism projects to come on stream in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A total of 12 tourism-related projects are scheduled to be completed across the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20), provincial tourism chief has said.

The projects are being implemented in collaboration with the private sector, Majid Safai said, CHTN reported on Monday. A water park, a gondola lift, and a museum are amongst the projects, which are expected to bring a huge change to the tourism industry of the province, he added.

He also noted that the projects will generate 300 job op-



portunities.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

The province attracted over four million people, mostly domestic travelers, during the Iranian year 1397 (ended March 2019), according to data announced by the provincial tourism department.



# Rise of coronavirus deaths in Iran worrisome

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — The **d e s k** COVID-19 new cases

and mortality in the country show an alarming increase in comparison to previous days, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari has said.

“Undoubtedly, the increasing trend reflects our [weak] performance in re-opening and non-compliance with health protocols, she lamented, ISNA reported on Monday.

Over the past 24 hours, 2,536 new cases of COVID-19 were identified in the country, of which 1,461 were hospitalized, she stated, adding, the total number of patients in the country reached 225,205.

Unfortunately, during the last 24 hours, 162 patients lost their lives, which hit the coronavirus daily deaths record since the onset of the outbreak.

The total number of COVID-19 deaths in the country reached 10,670, she said.

She went on to note that fortunately, 186,180 patients have recovered or been discharged from hospitals.

From June 26 to 28, some 109, 125, 144 patients died of coronavirus, respectively, which shows a rising trend.

Emphasizing the need to observe health protocols and social distancing



rules, especially in gatherings and public places, she said that Khuzestan, Kord-estan, West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Khorasan Raza-

vi, and Kermanshah provinces have the highest number of patients.

The situation of coronavirus disease in provinces of Ilam, Lorestan, and Go-

lestan is alarming, she warned.

In an attempt to slow down the spread of the coronavirus, the national headquarters for coronavirus fight has approved that wearing face masks in public and crowded places is compulsory.

People must wear face masks indoors or in gatherings, from July 5 to 21. And if necessary, the plan will be extended until August.

Using a face mask prevents coronavirus transmission up to 80 percent, Sadat Lari said.

Alireza Delavari, Tehran University of Medical Sciences vice-chancellor, said that “People’s cooperation in preventing the transmission of coronavirus has decreased, and this will increase the incidence of disease and the number of hospitalizations and will cause problems for the treatment system.”

Referring to the increase in the prevalence of the virus, he noted that “Using a mask and observing social distancing are the most important factors in preventing corona, which is unfortunately not observed in large shopping centers, private companies, and even government offices, subways and buses.

## Keramat Garden, a place for helping injured, orphaned wildlife



**ENVIRONMENT** **d e s k** TEHRAN — Every year, many animals are injured by predators or are orphaned at their natural habitats. They are handed over to Keramatollah Riahi who owns a rehabilitation center in the southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, IRNA reported on Monday.

These animals are kept 30 km away from Shahr-e Kord

city, next to the Zayandehrud River. The center has been working since 2011 under the supervision of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari department of environment and was set up by the personal capital and property of Mr. Riahi.

Part of a valley stretching to one-hectare is surrounded by a fence and made a natural habitat for animals such as wild goats and mountain sheep.

Keramat Garden has started its activities with three wild goats while currently 27 wild goats and mountain sheep are recovered and inhibiting in the area.

Iran’s animal species include 37 species of mammals, 78 bird species, 22 species of reptiles, 6 species of bivalves, and 25 species of fish of inland waters.

Shahaboddin Montazemi, director of the wildlife’s conservation office at the DOE told the Tehran Times that today, all governments have come to the conclusion that all aspects of human life, as well as growth and development, depend on biodiversity.

“All three pillars of biodiversity namely, variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem levels are important and must be considered to ensure biodiversity preserve; any damage to any of these three pillars will damage the entire biodiversity and pose a serious threat to human life.

Because the most important part of wildlife conservation is habitat preservation, the Department of Environment (DOE) has developed several national programs, 10 of which are underway, and 10 others will soon be finalized to implement,” he explained.

“The initial framework of a protection program is based on promoting public awareness, along with reducing conflicts among wildlife species and locals.

We should develop an environment regarding various factors, in which the bears can not only survive but have a desirable life in nature,” he highlighted.



“This highly requires training, management, and supervision, local communities are supposed to help us to protect the wildlife because humans are more responsible for conflicts with animals.

Livestock and herding dogs are other causes of animal deaths, which need proper management to be addressed,” he emphasized.

## Benefactors donate \$700m to construct schools nationwide

**1 →** Mehroллаh Rakhshanimehr, director of the organization for renovation, development, and equipment of schools a week earlier said.

A total budget of 48 trillion rials (nearly \$1.1 billion) has been earmarked to renovate schools nationwide in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), an increase of 65 percent

year on year, Rakhshanimehr said in April.

Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated to the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam also known as Setad-e

Ejraiy-e Farman-e Hazrat-e Emam, will build 120 schools in deprived areas across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (began March 21).

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

### Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters. The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program’s office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake’s level is now 58 cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake’s water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

Although the ecological level of the lake is defined as 1,274 meters, the lake will also have favorable conditions at 1,272 meters and more than 90 percent of sand and dust storm hotspots will be eliminated.

### افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یک هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۸ سانتی-متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر است.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۵۸ سانتی-متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.

هرچند تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر به عنوان ارتفاع اکولوژیک دریاچه ارومیه اعلام شده ولی این دریاچه در تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۲ متر هم شرایط مطلوب خواهد داشت و بیش از ۹۵ درصد کانون-های ریزگرد آن رفع خواهد شد.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “ortho-”

■ **Meaning:** straight, correct

■ **For example:** it is essential that you wear your rubber bands as prescribed by your **orthodontist**.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Point something out

■ **Meaning:** to tell someone something that they did not already know or had not thought about

■ **For example:** He was always very keen to point out my mistakes.

### IDIOM

#### Down at heel

■ **Explanation:** A person who is down-at-heel is someone whose appearance is untidy or neglected because of lack of money

■ **For example:** The down-at-heel student I first met became a successful writer.

## International team of scientists warns of increasing threats posed by invasive species

In a new study, scientists from around the world -- including a professor at the University of Rhode Island -- warn that the threats posed by invasive alien species are increasing. They say that urgent action is required to prevent, detect and control invaders at both local and global levels.

Alien species are plants, animals and microbes that are introduced by people, accidentally or intentionally, into areas where they do not naturally occur. Many of them thrive, spreading widely with harmful effects on the environment, economy, or human health, according to the Science Daily website.

The study, published in the journal Biological Reviews, was carried out by a team of researchers from 13 countries across Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, and North and South America. It states that the number of invasive alien species is increasing rapidly, with more than 18,000 currently listed around the world.

According to Laura Meyerson, URI associate professor of natural resources science, the escalation in biological invasions is due to the increase in the number and variety of pathways along which species spread, and to the increasing volume of traffic associated with those pathways. For example, she notes the role played by emerging pathways such as the online trade in unusual pets and the transport of species across oceans on rafts of plastic.

The researchers note that the scale of the problem is enormous. A 2017 analysis of global extinctions revealed that alien species contributed to 25 percent of plant extinctions and 33 percent of terrestrial and freshwater animal extinctions. Meanwhile, annual environmental losses caused by introduced species in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, India and Brazil have been calculated at more than \$100 billion.

The study also shows how drivers of global change, such as climate change, land-use change, and international trade, are exacerbating the impacts of biological invasions. Species transported through shipping can now thrive in new regions, for instance, owing to climate warming. And the permanent opening of the Arctic Ocean due to global warming is allowing marine species to move between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The research paper is part of an initiative called World Scientists’ Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice, which calls for urgent change in stewardship of the Earth and the life on it. The first notice, in 1992, was supported by 1,700 eminent scientists from around the globe who warned that humanity was on a collision course with the rest of the natural world. Twenty-five years later, a follow-up evaluation supported by 15,000 scientists declared that humanity had failed to make sufficient progress in dealing with the environmental challenges. Indeed, they found that most of these problems had worsened.

The authors of the new paper stress that biological invasions can be managed and mitigated. They point to approaches that are working around the world and make specific recommendations for improved management. For example, the introduction of more stringent border controls, including X-ray machines and detector dogs, has led to a progressive decline in the rate of fungal plant pathogens entering New Zealand.

Professor Petr Pyšek of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Charles University in Prague, lead author of the study, said: “As our knowledge about invasive alien species increases, the problems associated with biological invasions are becoming clearer. The threats posed by invasive alien species to our environment, our economies and our health are very serious, and getting worse. Policy makers and the public need to prioritize actions to stem invasions and their impacts.”

Professor David Richardson of the Centre for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, the other lead author, added: “Nations such as Australia and New Zealand have made biosecurity a national priority. South Africa has invested heavily in a massive national programme focussed on reducing the negative impacts of widespread invaders on ecosystem services, especially the delivery of water from catchments invaded by alien trees. But action is needed more widely at both national and international levels in order to tackle the challenges effectively.”

Meyerson, who contributed to the paper and is leading the chapter on trends in invasions for a report on invasive alien species for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, said, “It has been so exciting to see developments in our knowledge and understanding of biological invasions in recent decades, achieved through truly inspiring global collaborations. It is so important that we continue to share our knowledge and engage with relevant stakeholders across sectors and borders.”

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Transporting Sea Creatures

(February 09, 2004)

New rules to prevent the transport of sea creatures around the world in the hulls of ships are being drawn up at a special conference starting in London. The International Maritime Organisation is negotiating a new convention aimed at reducing major environmental damage caused by the introduction of alien species. This report from Tim Hirsch:

It is estimated that three thousand different **species** are **dumped** every day into ports thousands of miles from their habitats carried in **ballast tanks** filled with seawater to provide stability to **unladen** ships.

Many creatures transported this way **have devastated local wildlife**. Anchovy fishing in the Black Sea has collapsed due partly to the arrival of an American jellyfish and the Chinese mitten crab is multiplying rapidly in the River Thames and other English rivers causing serious **erosion** with the burrows they dig in the banks.

The International Maritime Organisation will attempt to agree new **binding rules** this week forcing shipping companies to reduce this **contamination** which can cause far more lasting **damage** to wildlife than pollution from oil spills.

■ **Words**

**species:** a class of plants or animals with the same characteristics  
**dumped:** if you dump waste you put it somewhere carelessly  
**ballast:** something which is used to make ships heavier and so more stable

**unladen:** if a ship is unladen it is not carrying cargo  
**have devastated local wildlife:** have badly damaged birds and animals that live in the area

**collapsed:** suddenly failed  
**erosion:** erosion happens when earth is removed from the banks

**binding rules:** instructions telling you what to do or not do which must be carried out

**contamination:** pollution

**damage:** harm caused to something

(Source: BBC)



## Exit polls show 76 percent have so far voted for reforms that could extend Putin’s rule

Russian state opinion pollster VTsIOM said Monday that its exit polls showed that 76 percent of Russians had so far voted to support reforms that could allow President Vladimir Putin to extend his rule until 2036.

The nationwide vote on constitutional reforms began on June 25 and is being held over seven days as a precaution against the coronavirus pandemic, Daily Star reported.

If approved, the changes would allow Putin to run twice for president again after his current term in office expires in 2024.

The pollster said 76 percent of those who had so far voted had backed the reforms and that 23.6 percent of people who agreed to be polled after voting said they had voted against.

It said it had polled 163,124 voters at 800 polling stations in 25 Russian regions.

The results are roughly in line with projections ahead of the vote based on previous polls by VTsIOM.

The Kremlin’s critics say the vote is a sham and that they fear the vote will be rigged.

## Europeans’ trust in U.S. falls during coronavirus pandemic

➔ 1 The health crisis has also increased the Europeans’ negativity towards China. In every country polled, bar Bulgaria, higher proportions reported increasing negativity rather than positivity.

“In eight of nine surveyed countries, the share of respondents who have adopted a more negative view of China in the past year has increased by a factor of two and a factor of 10,” the report states.

This has led respondents to believe that the health crisis should push the bloc into taking a more unified response to global threats.

“Europeans have accepted the fact that Trump’s America is not necessarily a friend to Europe in a time of need,” the report states “Thus, if handled carefully, Europeans’ current trauma could develop in support for a greater international role for the EU.”

“It would be beneficial for European voters if the EU emerged from the crisis as a stronger global actor — one that provided not only a useful framework for practical cooperation between states, but also shaped the international order in line with European values and interests,” it adds.

## Amid Anti-racist protests Trump retweets video where man shouts ‘White Power’

➔ 1 Mr. Trump deleted it less than an hour after Mr. Scott’s comments, but he did not condemn the “white power” statement or specifically disavow the sentiment expressed by his supporter.

Judd Deere, a White House spokesman, said Mr. Trump “is a big fan of The Villages.”

“He did not hear the one statement made on the video,” Mr. Deere said. “What he did see was tremendous enthusiasm from his many supporters.”

According to Ny Times, John R. Bolton, the former national security adviser who just released a scathing book about Mr. Trump, said on Sunday that the president’s inattention to detail made it possible that he did not notice the racist comments.

“He doesn’t pay attention to a lot of things,” Mr. Bolton said on “State of the Union.” “It’s entirely possible that he tweeted this video because he saw the sign, I think it was in the first go-kart that said the Trump 2020 or something like that. That’s all he needed to see. Not paying attention. Not considering all the implications of information he gets.”

But Mr. Bolton added, “It may be that you can draw a conclusion that he heard it, and it was racist, and he tweeted it to promote the message. It’s a legitimate conclusion to draw.”

## ‘Everybody denying it’: Trump says no Russian bounty on U.S. troops

U.S. President Donald Trump has angrily denied that he was briefed about reported Russian efforts to pay bounties to Taliban-linked fighters to kill American troops in Afghanistan, dismissing a New York Times report on the bounties.

“Nobody briefed or told me, @VP Pence, or Chief of Staff @MarkMeadows about the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians,” Trump wrote on social media on Sunday, calling on the newspaper to name its anonymous source.

“Everybody is denying it there have not been many attacks on us,” he wrote, despite a Washington Post follow up report on Sunday saying that the bounties resulted in the deaths of American troops.

In a separate tweet late on Sunday, Trump added: “Intel just reported to me that they did not find this info credible, and therefore did not report it to me or @VP.”

## Resistance News

## Qabha calls for unified strategy to confront Israel’s annexation plan

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN— Senior Hamas official Wasfi Qabha d e s k has described the popular day of anger which the Palestinian factions intend to stage on Wednesday against the Israeli annexation plan as “a step in the right direction.”

In press remarks, Qabha called for a unified Palestinian strategy agreed upon all Palestinian factions, groups and institutions to confront Israel’s intents to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

He said that the dangers being posed by the annexation plan entails putting all inter-Palestinian differences aside, folding the page of division and working together within a unified front to restore the confidence of the Palestinian masses and face the challenges.

Following a national meeting held on Sunday in Gaza, the Palestinian factions called on the Palestinian masses to participate in the day of anger on Wednesday across Palestine against the Israeli annexation plan and the US deal of the century.

# ‘Day of Rage’ protests against Israeli annexation to hit U.S., Europe

Protests condemning the Israeli plan to annex parts of the occupied West Bank are set to take place in the United States and Europe on the same day prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to begin the process.

The demonstrations will be held on Wednesday in Chicago, San Diego, Brooklyn, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Other Western cities will also witness similar protests, including Toronto, Madrid and Valencia.

Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, and American Muslims for Palestine are among the pro-Palestinian groups organizing the protests.

The Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, one of the organizers, urged “direct actions and popular mobilizations in [Palestinian] refugee camps, cities and villages,” and professed “loyalty to the martyrs” on its call for the events.

Another group, Al-Awda or the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, decried “72 years of genocide, ethnic cleansing and dispossession” of Palestinians.



It also tied their demonstrations to the

protests against anti-black racism in the U.S. and beyond.

## Jordan warned Israel of harsh response to even limited annexation

Jordan has reportedly notified Israel that it would serve a harsh response to even “limited” annexation of the Tel Aviv-occupied West Bank as the Israeli regime plans to annex 30 percent of the Palestinian territory under a U.S.-backed scheme.

Amman that had already stiffly objected to the plan, has recently ramped up its opposition by informing the regime on several occasions that it would react even if the plan were to be implemented partially, Israel’s Channel 13 reported on Sunday, citing Israeli officials.

One occasion came while Jordan’s King Abdullah II was meeting the visiting chief of Israel’s Mossad spy agency Yossi Cohen last week. The monarch assured Cohen of his country’s opposition after the latter asked him how Amman would react if Israel just went ahead with annexing several settlements or settlement blocs, the channel said.

According to the report, Jordan has also notified the United States and several European countries about its stance on the matter.

Channel 13 said Amman has told Tel Aviv that it would treat even minimal annexation of the West Bank in the same way that it would treat Israel’s annexation of the whole 30 percent of the occupied territory envisaged in the Israeli plan.

The country is reported to have threatened to either rescind its 1994 so-called peace treaty with Israel or downgrade it if the annexation went ahead.

Israel’s prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the plan to annex the 30 percent of the territory -- namely the areas upon which the regime has built its illegal settlements as well as the Jordan Valley -- after U.S. President Donald Trump backed the annexation in January.

According to Press TV, Trump pledged the support while unveiling some details of the “deal of the century,” a highly

controversial Washington-devised scheme that allegedly seeks to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Palestinians have roundly rejected the scheme, with Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, threatening the Israeli regime against annexing even “an inch” of the West Bank.

The Israeli regime has said it would begin implementing the plan as of July 1.

The idea of the “limited” annexation was floated after the Israeli plan faced far-and-wide international condemnation, including by some European and Arab states.

Since the backlash, Washington has reportedly begun considering backing the annexation of only a handful of settlements.

Trump’s adviser Kellyanne Conway said on Wednesday that the U.S. president would soon have a “big announcement” about Israel’s plan.

## Daily coronavirus cases in India near 20,000 as Mumbai extends lockdown



India reported close to 20,000 fresh novel coronavirus cases for the second day running Monday, as the financial hub of Mumbai extended its lockdown by a month.

There were 19,459 new cases reported in the previous 24 hours, according to data from India’s federal Health Ministry released on Monday. That is down slightly from Sunday’s record of 19,906, but still sign cases in the country are yet to subside.

According to Reuters, India lags only the United States, Brazil and Russia in total cases. More than 16,000 have now died from the disease caused by the virus since the first case in India in January -- low when compared to countries with similar numbers of cases.

But experts fear its hospitals will be

unable to cope with a steep rise in cases.

The western state of Maharashtra, which has reported the highest number of coronavirus cases in the country, extended its lockdown by another month until end of July, as new cases rose in key cities such as Mumbai, Pune and Aurangabad.

Mumbai witnessed massive traffic jams on key roads connecting suburbs to the southern business district Monday as authorities erected roadblocks to police new travel restrictions.

Under the new rule, residents can visit markets, salons, and parks within a 2 kilometer radius of their homes, but asked not step out of the house unnecessarily. Office-goers are exempt from the rule.

## Turkey, Austria summon envoys after Kurdish-Turkish clashes in Vienna



Austria pledged Monday to find out who was behind clashes between Kurdish and Turkish protesters in the Austrian capital last week that have further strained already tense relations between Vienna and Ankara.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry strongly criticised Austria’s handling of the protests, which it said were by groups linked to militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

“Austria’s ambassador to Ankara will be invited to our ministry and informed of our concern,” it said, accusing Austrian security forces of meting out “harsh” treatment to the Turkish protesters.

Austria’s Foreign Ministry said over the weekend it would also summon Turkey’s

ambassador Monday.

According to Routes, the trouble erupted last Wednesday when Turks heckled a Kurdish gathering in Vienna, police said. Kurdish protests Thursday and Friday with around 300 people led to clashes with Turkish counter-protesters in which stones and fireworks were thrown, said the police, who were also attacked with metal bars.

“It is completely unacceptable for Turkish conflicts to be carried out on Austrian territory,” Interior Minister Karl Nehammer told a news conference, adding that both sides had attacked the police.

“We will look very precisely at who was behind this escalation during these recent demonstrations.”

## Protests target Bolsonaro after Brazil’s worst coronavirus week

Protesters in Brazil and around the world gathered to denounce President Jair Bolsonaro’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, as the Latin American country recorded its worst week in terms of new cases.

The “Stop Bolsonaro” protests were staged online and on the streets in Brazil’s main cities and in more than 20 other countries on Sunday, demanding the right-wing leader’s resignation and calling him a threat to democracy.

Brazil registered its highest number of infections at 259,105 in seven days through Sunday, according to health ministry figures.

The country also reported its second-highest weekly death toll, with 7,005 people killed, just below the record of 7,285 set the previous week.

With more than one million registered cases of the coronavirus and 57,622 deaths, Brazil has risen in the charts as



a global hot spot for the pandemic - second only to the US in the number of cases and fatalities.

Bolsonaro, who called the coronavirus a “little flu”, has come under heavy fire over his handling of the crisis and his continued denial of the growing evidence of the disease’s deadly impact on Latin America’s most populous country.

## Blast kills at least 23 at cattle market in southern Afghanistan

At least 23 civilians were killed in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand province and dozens were wounded when rockets hit a cattle market Monday, Afghan government and Taliban officials said.

The warring sides blamed each other for the attack on the open-air weekly cattle market in Sangin district, where hundreds of villagers from neighboring districts had gathered to trade sheep and goats, Daily Star reported.

A spokesman for Helmand’s governor said several rockets fired by Taliban insurgents landed close to the cattle market, killing 23 civilians, including children.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman said the Afghan army fired several rounds of mortar bombs on civilian houses and the cattle market, killing dozens of villagers.

Khushakyar, who goes by a single name, said he was trying to sell a calf when the rockets hit the market. He said his two nephews were

killed and his son was wounded.

“I saw around 20 bodies on the ground,” he said, adding that dozens were wounded and “livestock lay dead next to men.”

Some residents of Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold, said the shelling occurred during fierce clashes between Taliban militants and government security forces in residential areas surrounding the market.

There has been an uptick in violence by the Taliban against the Afghan government,

even though the insurgents, fighting to re-introduce strict law after being ousted from power in 2001, signed a troop withdrawal agreement with the United States in February designed to lead to peace negotiations with the Afghan government.

More than 500 civilians were killed and 760 others wounded because of fighting in Afghanistan in the first three months of 2020, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in late April.



# Iran volleyball need a great coach: Ahmad Masajedi

**1 ->** “The Iran federation must accept the truth of what exactly happens in the future without our golden generation. The new generation needs to be considered but I am sure the federation has done nothing so far.

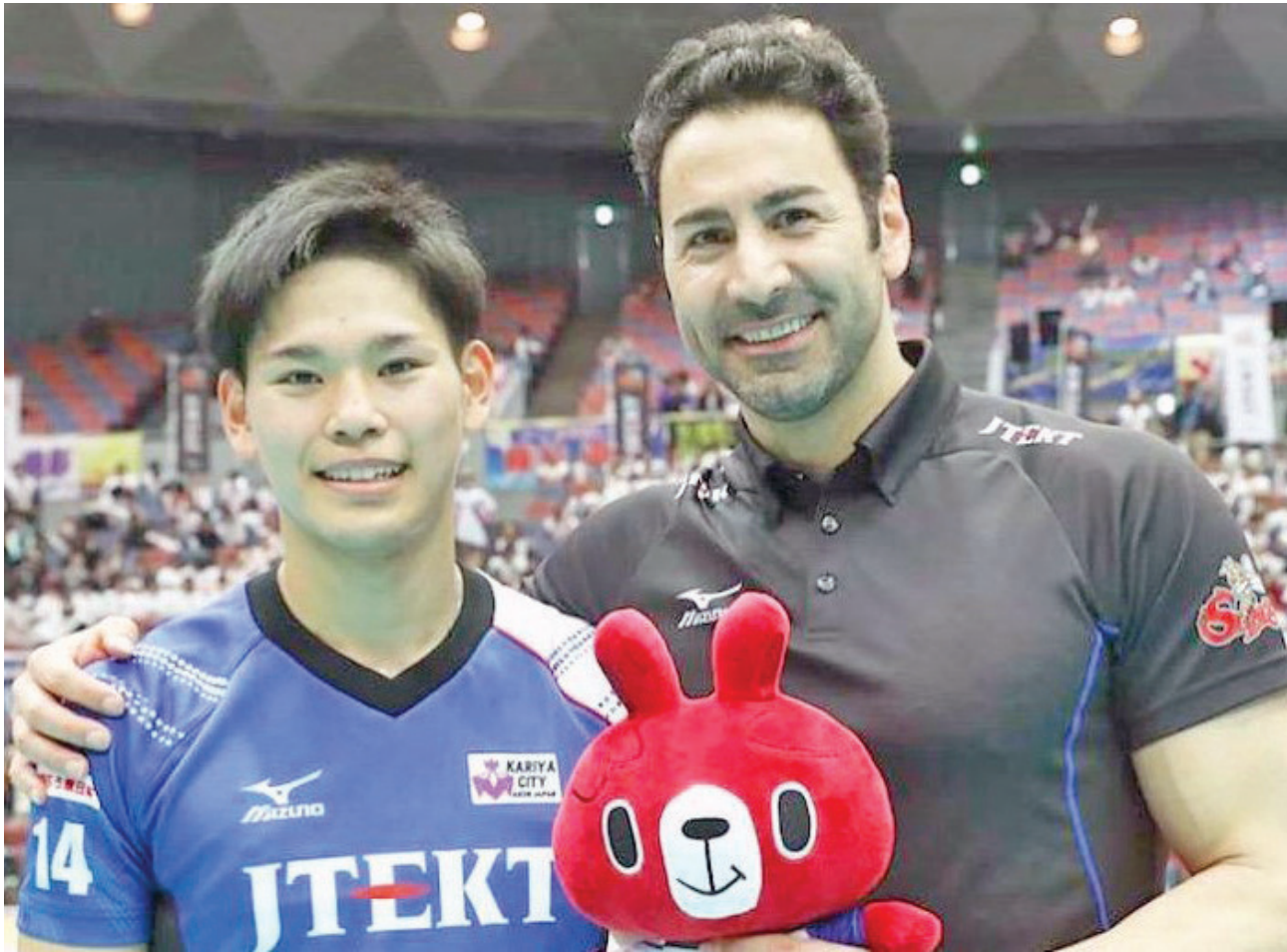
Velasco inspired Iran national volleyball team to win two titles at the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship and Masajedi believes that he led Iran volleyball into a new era.

“Velasco changed our volleyball with his knowledge and experience. Iran evolved into one of the most powerful teams in the world under leadership of Velasco. Iran volleyball need a coach on the same level on him. When he left Iran, nobody asked me to continue my job and I found it very difficult to accept. I think Iran volleyball is in danger of making no progress on development of programs at the moment,” he stated.

Japanese Yuji Nishida has stolen the show in the recent years and Masajedi says that he has played a significant role in his success.

“I am happy as a coach who has helped Nishida to progress. The Japanese media have reported that Nishida has been discovered by Ahmad Masajedi. I also helped Masahiro Yanagida to join German club Volleyball Bisons Buhl and he is now the captain of Japan national volleyball team. I also like to help our young players to steal the show since they have the potential to keep moving forward. Why not,” he went on to say.

Asked him if he likes to coach Iran, Masajedi said, “Honestly, I like to work in Iran national team as coach or assistant. I want to help my country since the Olympic Games will be held in Japan and I am familiar with the country's



culture and it can be very helpful for our team. I am ready to come to Iran and don't care about money since to help the younger players is my priority.”

Iran have been drawn with Japan

in Pool A of the Olympic Games and Masajedi believes Iran are a better team and can defeat the hosts.

“We still are a better team than Japan and can beat them because Iran are phys-

ically stronger. We have won so many matches based on our players' ability and it has nothing to do with system or strategy. In my opinion, Iran still are the best team in Asia,” Masajedi concluded.

## Iran wants more time to meet FIFA's requirements



**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)

has asked for a two-week opportunity to meet FIFA's requirements regarding the football federation's statutes.

The Iranian football federation sent the amended draft status to FIFA in early June, after FIFA threatened the federation to the possible global suspension over the problematic provisions of the current statutes.

FIFA accepted some proposed changes by the FFIRI such as removing the Minister of Sports and Youth and his deputy from the FFIRI General Assembly. Then, FFIRI was given a deadline of June 28 to amend and revise the statutes.

The major disagreement between the Iranian football federation and FIFA is about the legal nature of the federation. According to Article 1 of the amended statutes, the FFIRI is a “non-governmental public organization”

while FIFA emphasizes that the football federation must be a private and independent organization.

But the title of “private organization” for the football federation runs counter to Iran's national law.

Mahmoud Eslamian, a member of the FFIRI's board of directors, believes that it is impossible for FIFA to accept FFIRI as a “non-governmental public organization”. Further, he called on President Hassan Rouhani to address the issue of amending the FFIRI's statutes.

According to some reports, the Iranian Football Federation, in a letter sent to FIFA on Sunday, has called for more time to consider the legal aspects of this issue in order to meet FIFA's requirements and resolve the misunderstandings between the parties.

## Iran female Para-athletes shining more in recent decade

**IRNA** — Less than a month after a the first ever Olympic medal of Iranian women was gained by Kimia Alizadeh in Rio 2016 Olympic taekwondo, Iran's female Para-athletes won three gold medals at the Rio Paralympics in the same year to show the power of Iranian women in the international sports events.

After the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, women took more participation in sports events, while their glorious victories hit the peak in the past decade.

In recent seven years, the Iranian women have clinched several championship titles and gained many colorful medals at world sports competitions.



Female Para-athletes also shined at the London 2012 Paralympic Games where they won a gold and a bronze medal.

In London, Iranian para-archer Zah-

ra Nemati won the gold medal and Sareh Javanmardi stood at the third place after winning bronze medal in P2 (women's 10 air pistol SH1).

Nemati by winning gold medal became the first ever female Para-athlete in both Iran and Asia and also the thirteenth in history who could be qualified for Olympic or Paralympic games.

She was also the first Muslim woman who attended Rio 2016 Paralympic Games as Iran's flag bearer.

Iran's female victories did not end by Nemati's medal, another Iranian Para-athlete- Javanmardi- shined more and more

which made the audience worldwide to call her “The Pistol Queen”.

Furthermore, Javanmardi has big chance to win medal at the Tokyo 2021 Paralympic Games.

Iran's female Para-athletes have also had remarkable participation in 2014 Asian Para Games in Incheon, South Korea and 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

They won eight, 14 silver and 19 bronze medals at those Asian competitions.

Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled and National Paralympic Committee have planned to more support the female athletes in order to draw up a bright prospect for them.



### ■ Olympic Games

However, arguably more significantly, he qualified for the men's singles event at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Moreover, he acquitted himself most admirably; he beat Australia's Justin Han prior to causing a most noteworthy upset by ousting Hong Kong's Tang Peng, the no.19 seed.

One round later, progress was abruptly ended by Germany's Timo Boll in straight games.

A most promising Olympic debut; four years later in Rio de Janeiro, Noshad was again on duty; this time alongside Nima, the outcome for both a first round men's singles exit. Noshad was beaten by Slovenia's Bojan Tokic, Nima by Romania's Ovidiu Ionescu, after recording a preliminary round access when facing Kanak Jha of the United States.

### ■ Asian Games

Worthy performances at the Olympic Games; at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Noshad very much revived Iranian fortunes.

He secured men's singles bronze, only the third medal ever for Iran in the table tennis events at the Games.

In 1958 in Tokyo, when table tennis first appeared, bronze was the color in the men's team event; later in 1966 in Bangkok, a member of that team, Houshang Bozorgzadeh, who subsequently moved to the United States, claimed the same colour men's singles medal.

### ■ Together and apart

Following in the footsteps of elder brother in the Olympic Games; to some extent it is the same on the ITTF World Tour. Just as Noshad has one such men's singles title to his credit, it is the same for Nima; he won in 2015 in Belgium.

Success apart and success together; earlier this year they emerged the men's doubles winners at the 2020 ITTF Challenge Spanish Open in Granada, having one year earlier reached the semi-final round at the 2019 ITTF World Tour Bulgaria Open in Panagyurishte.

Together a major force, the same when apart; notably in 2017 at the fourth Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, Noshad emerged the men's singles winner, the player he beat in the final, Nima!

### ■ Immediate goal

Undoubtedly, they are the main reason why Iran is increasingly able to compete against the elite of Asia; impressively at the 2019 ITTF-ATTU Asian Championships, Iran secured seventh place in the men's team event.

Now seasoned internationals, Noshad, having made 12 World Championship appearances, Nima present on nine occasions; that experience could prove most valuable for their most immediate goal; to date neither has qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

(Source: ITTF)

## Dragan Skocic worries about Iran football's future

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic says that his team a lot of work to do.

Iran have four must-win game in Group C of the 2022 World Cup qualification.

“Let's get to work! We have a lot of work to do today ... it's going to be a long day,” Skocic shared on his Instagram account.

The Croatian coach attended the match between Paykan and Iran in Iran Professional League Sunday night, where the Reds defeated the struggling team 3-1.

## Iran's women unchanged in FIVB World Ranking

**Volleyball.ir** — Iran's women's volleyball team remained unchanged in FIVB World Ranking.

The Iranian team remained 63rd in the ranking released on Sunday.



China remained top of the table, followed by USA, Brazil, Italy and Turkey.

Asian teams Japan and Korea sit seventh and 10th respectively in the world.

## PSV set sights on Alireza Jahanbakhsh

PSV Eindhoven have set their sights on signing Alireza Jahanbakhsh this summer.

According to Voetbal International, the Dutch giants have shown interest in signing the ex-AZ Alkmaar winger, who is out of favor at Brighton & Hove Albion.

Since the Premier League resumed, Jahanbakhsh hasn't been included in Brighton's squad and a summer transfer for the winger seems inevitable.

Ajax were linked with the Iranian last week by De Telegraaf, but VI adds that PSV are also seriously interested in the forward.

PSV tried to sign Jahanbakhsh last summer, but he remained in England to fight for his place.

(Source: Voetbal International)

## Younes Delfi tests positive for COVID-19

**Tasnim** — Charleroi football club forward Younes Delfi has tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus.

His countryman Ali Gholizadeh has not been infected with the virus.

Charleroi are holding a training camp in Kamen, Germany at the moment but Delfi trains individually at home.

The Iranian player is in self-quarantine to fully recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Senegalese player of Charleroi Mamadou Fall has been also diagnosed with COVID-19.

## Persepolis victorious over Paykan: IPL

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Persepolis football team earned a 3-1 victory over rock-bottom Paykan Sunday night in Iran Professional League (IPL) behind closed doors.



Ali Alipour opened the scoring for the Reds in the 21st minute at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium with a header.

Mehdi Abdi scored a brace in the 76th and 84th but Shahriar Moghanloo pulled a goal back in the 88th minute from the penalty spot.

In Mashhad, Shahr Khodro defeated Zob Ahan 2-1, Tractor lost to Nassaji 1-0 in Tabriz, Sanat Naft beat Pars Jonoubi 2-0 and Shahin Bushehr drew 2-2 with Naft Masjed Soleyman.



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

God must be thanked for every blessing, and he who is thankful, receives more blessings, and he who neglects it, endangers that blessing and may soon lose it.

Imam Ali (AS)

## 2019 Prix Goncourt winner published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of French author Jean-Paul Dubois's "Tous Les Hommes N'habitent Pas Le Monde De La Meme Facon" ("All Men Do Not Live in the World in the Same Way") has been published by Tadaei Publications in Tehran.



Front cover of a Persian version of French author Jean-Paul Dubois's book "Tous Les Hommes N'habitent Pas Le Monde De La Meme Facon".

Dubois won France's highest literary honor, the Prix Goncourt, in 2019 for his book, which is a story narrated by a man languishing in a Canadian prison for an unknown crime. Paul Hansen has been serving his sentence in the Montreal provincial prison for two years. He shares a cell there with Horton, a Hells Angel incarcerated for murder. Back in time: Hansen is a superintendent at L'Excelsior, a residence where he deploys his talents as concierge, caretaker, factotum and - even more - repairer of souls and comforter of the afflicted.

When he is not busy helping the residents of L'Excelsior or maintaining the buildings, he joins Winona, his partner. At the controls of her airplane, she takes him to the sky, above the clouds. But soon everything changes. A new manager arrives at L'Excelsior, conflicts arise, and the inevitable happens.

A church silted up in the dunes of a beach, an open-air asbestos mine, the meanders of a silver-colored river, the sound waves of an organ make up the varied landscapes in which this novel takes place. Dubois is the author of several novels and travel pieces, and reports for Le Nouvel Observateur. His novel "Une Vie Française" ("A French Life"), published in French in 2004 and in English in 2007, is a saga of the French baby boom generation, from the idealism of the 1960s to the consumerism of the 1990s.

## Afghan director making new film "Once Upon a Time Iran" in Tehran

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Tehran-based Afghan director Gholamreza Jafari is making his new project titled "Once Upon a Time Iran" in Tehran.

The shooting of the co-production between Iran and Afghanistan started on Monday on location in Tehran.



"Pale White" by Afghan director Gholamreza Jafari.

The film is about an Afghan family that works as janitors in a villa in Iran.

Vahid Sheikhzadeh, Sogol Qalatian, Shohreh Sadat Musavi and Amir Zemestani are members of the cast.

Jafari and Zemestani are the co-producers of the film. Jafari has previously made "Pale White" in Iran. The film is about a girl who helps her brother to make a kite but the little boy doesn't let her play.

# "Walnut Tree" stills recall Sardasht chemical attack victims' pain, grief

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Stills taken by Majid Talebi on the set of the acclaimed movie "Walnut Tree" are on view in an exhibition in Tehran to recall the pain and grief the victims suffered from the Iraqi chemical attack on Iran's Sardasht in 1987.

Director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian made the drama "Walnut Tree" in 2019 based on the true story of the profound tragedy of the chemical attack. The movie tells the story of Qader Mullanpur, a man who was away when his family was affected by the chemical attack in a village near Sardasht. His effort to save his pregnant wife and their three children are in vain and they die one by one from the fatal wounds sustained as a result of the chemical attack.

On June 28, 1987, Iraq bombarded Sardasht and the surrounding region with chemical weapons, killing over 1000 and injuring over 8000 civilians, many of whom were permanently disabled.

The stills selected for the showcase that opened on Sunday at the Zemestan Gallery of the Iranian Artists Forum do not center on the stars of the film, but they are intended to depict the catastrophe itself.

"The main reason for organizing this exhibit is to express part of the pain and grief the people of the town have been suffering since the chemical attack," Talebi told the Persian service of Honaronline.

The catastrophe was quickly overshadowed by the Iraqi chemical attack on Halabja in March 1988, however, the movie and the exhibition are aimed at turning the spotlight on



A still from "Walnut Tree" by Majid Talebi.

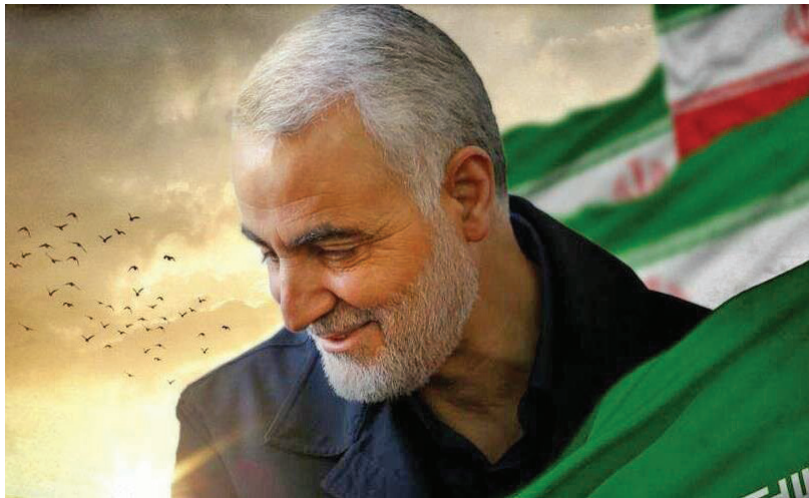
the tragedy, he added.

"Members of the cast are not on the center stage at the exhibition, but I have

tried to highlight the story of the film and the depth of the tragedy in the photos," he noted.

The exhibition, which has been organized to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy, will run until July 13.

## Resistance Theater Festival to honor plays with Qassem Soleimani award



Quds Force commander Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The 17th edition of the Resistance Theater Festival has established an award named after commander Qassem Soleimani to honor a play every year.

"Due to the importance of the resistance issue and the need to promote the teachings of the popular figure of Iran's resistance culture and the leader of the resistance front, Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani, we plan to honor a top play with an award named after Hajj Qassem Soleimani this year for the first time," Hamid Nili, the director of the festival announced on Monday.

"The award will be presented in the next editions of the festival to represent its organizers' committed devotion to the divine commander," he added.

The Association of the Revolution

and Sacred Defense Theater organizes the festival every year in collaboration with several other institutions.

This year's edition is scheduled to be held during November or December.

Soleimani was martyred during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3. Thereafter, several other cultural events in Iran have also established awards in memory of the commander of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

First of them was the Fajr Film Festival, which announced it would honor films on resistance and jihad with an award named after Soleimani.

The award went to "Abadan 11, 60" directed by Mehrdad Khoshbakht about the people's fight against Iraqi forces in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war.

## Russian festival Flahertiana to screen Iranian doc "Trucker and the Fox"



Main character of "Trucker and the Fox" by Iranian documentarian Arash Lahuti appears on the poster of the 2014 edition of the Flahertiana International Documentary Film Festival.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — "Trucker and the Fox" by Iranian documentarian Arash Lahuti will go on screen at the Flahertiana International Documentary Film Festival, which will take place in the Russian city of Perm from September 18 to 24.

The organizers have dedicated a section to the screenings of the best films of the festival in previous editions and "Trucker and the Fox" won the Golden Nanook for the best film at the event in 2013.

In 2014, the main character of the film appeared on a poster for the festival. "Trucker and the Fox" chronicles the life of Mahmud Kiani Falavarjani, a documentarian who does not have any academic education and is a trucker. The film won the Gold Hugo Award

for best documentary at the 49th Chicago International Film Festival in 2013, and the Students' Jury Award at the 11th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Kyiv, Ukraine in 2014.

Other Golden Nanook winners which will go on screen at the Flahertiana festival include "The Sisters" by Pawel Lozinski from Poland and the Russian films "The Motorway" by Sergey Dvortsevov, "The Flight of a Bumblebee" by Yuriy Shiliev and "Frescos" by Aleksandr Gutman.

Also included are "Survival Song" by Yu Guangyi from China, "Mugabe and White African" by Andy Thompson and Lucy Bailey from the UK, "Bad Weather" by Giovanni Giommi from Germany and UK and "The Queen of Silence" by Agnieszka Zwiefka from Poland.

## Iranian animations line up for Golden Kuker Sofia festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of 10 movies by Iranian filmmakers will be competing in the Golden Kuker Sofia International Animation Film Festival that will be running in the capital of Bulgaria from September 1 to 6.

"The Secret of the Pond" by Mani Vatanooost will be competing in the official section of the festival.

The animation narrates the story of a young frog named Sabzak, who lives in an imaginary city. Sabzak feels clever by eating a pumpkin's smart seeds and wants to unite everyone together by fixing the city's clock, in order to help the whole city.

In the Students' category, "A Mess" by Maliheh Gholamzadeh, and "Malaysia" co-directed by Leila Ahang, Sara Hanif, Maryam Alavi and Marzieh Kordlu will be screened. The other seven animations will be competing in the less than 10 minutes short films category.

They include "This Side, the Other Side" by Lida Fazli, "The Hero" by Kianush Abedi, "Rainy Reminder" by Masud Qodsieh, "Restless" by Mehdi Sedighi, "The Fisherman and the Spring" by Seyed Hassan Soltani, "Grape Season" by Farzaneh Qobadi and "Greyish" by Eqlab Shirzai-Sani.



A scene from "The Secret of the Pond" by Mani Vatanooost.

## Golbang Theater Group to perform "Woyzeck" at Russia Ginger fest



Thespians perform "Woyzeck" by directors Qasem Tangsirnejad and Mahsa Rahsepar. (Iran Theater)

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Golbang Theater Group from Iran will be performing "Woyzeck" at the Ginger Theater Festival, an international festival of youth running in the Russian city of Tula from April 9 to 13, 2021.

Qasem Tangsirnejad and Mahsa Rahsepar will co-direct the play that will be competing with 10 other productions from Egypt, Greece, India, Estonia, Russia and several other countries.

German dramatist Georg Buchner wrote "Woyzeck" between 1835 and 1837. It was

discovered and published posthumously as Woyzeck in 1879 and first performed in 1913.

The title character is a religious man preoccupied with sin and guilt. An army barber, he endures psychological humiliation by his captain and painful physical experimentation by his doctor to make extra money for Marie, his wife, and their child. Woyzeck is jealous of Marie's affair with a drum major. Filled with rage, he explodes into violence.

Best known as the libretto for Alban Berg's opera Woyzeck (performed in 1925),

the work was published in a revised version in 1922 under its original title, Woyzeck. Both naturalist and expressionist elements added to the work's continued interest for audiences in the late 20th century.

Buchner was the brother of physician and philosopher Ludwig Buchner.

Buchner's talent is generally held in great esteem in Germany. It is widely believed that, but for his early death, he might have attained the significance of such central German literary figures as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller.