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# No hidden issue in Iran-China agreement

**Foreign Minister Zarif says he met with General Qassem Soleimani every week**

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## Imports of 2,500 products banned in a quarter

**TEHRAN**— Iranian Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Hossein Modares Khiabani said that the imports of 2,500 commodities have been prohibited during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), Shata reported.

Speaking in an open session of the parliament on Sunday, the official released a report

on the quarterly performance of his ministry, and said the imports of 1,500 products had been banned during the past calendar year, while the figure was 2,500 items just for the first quarter of this year.

For the moment, 85 percent of the imported items are raw materials and the rest 15 percent are the consumer products, Modares Khiabani added. ➔ **4**

## Some 3,000 tourism workers in Kish lose job over coronavirus outbreak

**TEHRAN**— Some 3,000 tourism workers in Kish Island have lost their jobs temporarily as the coronavirus has nearly closed down all travel hotspots across the Persian Gulf island, ILNA reported.

Shutting down the tourist sites in the island as well as cancelling all cultural and entertainment festivals, which led to the unemployment of almost 3,000 people, could be more destructive and challenging than the risks posed by the virus, said Ali Khodadadi, the presi-

dent of Kish Tour Operators and Travel Agencies.

Instead of halting all tourism activities across the island, the authorities could monitor the implementation of health protocols strictly, he added.

Last week, Masihollah Safa, the head of the Association of Kish Hoteliers announced that the Kish Island's tourism industry has taken 15 trillion rials (over \$357 million) hit from the coronavirus outbreak over the previous months. ➔ **8**

## IRGC at full capacity in fight against coronavirus

**TEHRAN**— The deputy chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for health Brigadier General Ahmad Abdollahi said on Sunday that IRGC will use its full capacity to battle the pandemic in the country.

Stating that the IRGC defends the nation against any threat, he emphasized that "We still consider COVID-19 a great

threat to Iran, and that is why we will strongly stay at the frontline to fight the epidemic."

He said that the IRGC's medical centers are still offering services to the people, adding that in the provinces with high infected cases, according to the needs of the medical universities and the Ministry of Health, the IRGC's health forces are on duty. ➔ **9**

## No IAEA member states can accept endless inspections: Chinese expert

**TEHRAN**— Jin Liangxiang, an associate research fellow at the Center for West Asian and African Studies in Shanghai, tells the Tehran Times that Iran has been very cooperative with the IAEA and that "no member states can accept endless inspections" and "limitless access" to locations in their territories, specifically without "solid evidence."

Dr. Jin, a senior research fellow in the Institute for International Strategic Studies (SIIS) also says the EU cannot stand up to the U.S., as "the EU is vulnerable both because of its internal division, particularly as a result of U.S. intentional divide-and-rule policy toward the EU, and its dependence on the U.S. for security protection."

On the future of Sino-Iranian relations, he notes, "The future will see that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is growing stronger and stronger as political elites on both sides attach great importance to such relationship, and trust and friendship between the two peoples are growing stronger."

The text of the interview with Jin Liangxiang is as follows:

■ The International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors adopted a resolution drafted by the UK, France, and Germany, calling on Iran to cooperate immediately and fully by providing the Agency with prompt access. But Tehran says the Agency has not provided it with clear and legal reasoning. Besides, Iran has warned against attempts to engage it in an endless process with the Agency. What is your thought?

A: Member states are indeed obliged to cooperate with the IAEA in inspections regarding their nuclear activities. Iran is one of the countries that the IAEA has seen most sufficient cooperation with, as various IAEA reports have indicated. On the other hand, member states are also sovereign states with sovereignty. No member states can accept endless inspections or grant limitless access to locations in their territories, particularly if the request is not based on solid evidence.

■ European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal have never seriously stood up to the U.S. while they have already failed to meet their commitments under the agreement following Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the accord. In your view, has Iran any reason to trust Europe? ➔ **7**

## British government is major partner in killing civilians in Yemen

The British website "Declassified UK" published a report saying that hundreds of Saudi soldiers and other Persian Gulf Arab countries had received their military training in Britain at a time when the Yemen war continued.

The investigation revealed the British role and its relationship with Saudi Coalition against to train soldiers to lead fighter jets.

British soldiers have trained hundreds of Saudi-led coalition forces at other bases in Britain.

Declassified UK, a British organization that has been exploring Britain's role in the world for a year, said that hundreds of Saudi soldiers have received training in the Royal Air Force "RAF" bases, noting according to data obtained from the British Ministry of Defense, that 310 Saudis have been trained in Six British Air Force military sites in England and Wales.

The site confirmed that the training of Saudi pilots continues, as some military courses take

four years, while 90 Saudis receive training on "Typhoon" aircraft at Koningsy base in Lincolnshire, west of England in 2019.

While the British Ministry of Defense did not reveal the nature of the trainees, if they were pilots or crews operating on the ground, Saudi Arabia acquired "Typhoon" aircraft in a deal with "BE Systems", the arm of the British army, at a value of 20 billion pounds.

The investigation stated that Yemen was subjected to thousands of raids carried out by coalition warplanes, which killed 785 civilians last year, including 77 children.

The investigation stated that 189 Saudis received their training at the Defense College of Oxford for technical training in Shropshire, western England last year, indicating that the British Ministry of Defense refused to reveal the nature of the courses that the Saudis had restricted to the College of Oxford, ➔ **10**

## Protesters burn American flag outside White House

Far-left protesters burned an American flag near the White House on Saturday, chanting "America was never great," just moments after President Trump finished delivering a speech at the "Salute to America" Independence Day celebration.

Video shows the flag being burned in Black Lives Matter Plaza, just outside the White House. Activists can be heard chanting: "One, two, three, four, slavery, genocide and war. Five, six, seven, eight, America was never great."

The flag-burning was organized by the Revolutionary Communist Party. A speak out before the event was held by Refuse Fascism, which also held protests nationwide on July Fourth calling for the removal of Trump and Vice President Pence from office. Refuse Fascism posted on its website that it also created and then tore down a "statue" of Trump outside of Trump Tower in New York.

Both groups have frequently spoken out against the Trump administration and its policies.

The demonstration outside the White House comes as many citizens reflect on Independence Day in the context of nationwide protests against police brutality and racism. Some of those protests have featured calls to tear down Confederate statues or monuments that commemorate figures who supported slavery.

Trump has criticized such protesters, including in his speech at the "Salute to America" where he called out the "radical left."

"We are now in the process of defeating the radical left, the Marxists, the anarchists, the agitators, the looters, and people who in many instances have absolutely no clue what they are doing," he said in his address.

The president has also fiercely criticized flag burning, saying last month those who burn the American flag should go to jail. ➔ **10**

## Iran has underground missile cities along southern coasts, commander says

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)**— The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy said Iran has established onshore and offshore missile cities all along the coasts of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman that would be a "nightmare" for the enemy.

In an interview with Sobh-e Sadeq weekly, Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri said the IRGC Navy, like the IRGC Aerospace Force, has established underground and offshore missile cities containing coast-to-sea missiles.

The "missile-launching floating cities" would be put on display at the discretion of authorities, the commander noted, adding, "The enemy knows that the Army and the IRGC have underground (missile) cities all along the Persian Gulf and the Makran coasts, but its information is not accurate."

The IRGC Navy is present everywhere in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, in every place that the enemy would not even think

about, like a "nightmare", the admiral warned.

Tangsiri pointed to the IRGC Navy's initiative to form "naval Basij" on 2,200 km of Iran's southern coasts, excluding the islands, saying the force involves 428 flotillas and more than 23,000 servicemen.

"All of our coasts are armed and the underground cities of the Army and the IRGC with various defense utilities have scattered over the entire southern coasts. The coast is fully armed as well," he added. ➔ **2**



© Tehran Times / Samira Nazari

## Discover bizarre landscape most like horror, science fiction movies near Tehran!

Not too far from Tehran, the mountainous village of Verdij welcomes tourists who come to regain energy and have fun.

It's an exceptional location at the Alborz mountain range that evokes memories of horror or science fiction movies. Some of its rocks look like skulls.

According to legends, these were ghosts which turned into stones. However, regardless of the narratives, what is obvious is that its fresh clean air and spectacular nature surprises almost every visitor and makes them think about the story behind the formation of such beautiful but sometimes weird-shaped rocks.



## 130 MPs sign petition to question Rouhani

**TEHRAN** — 130 MPs in the new parliament have signed a petition seeking questions from President Hassan Rouhani over price rises, Tasnim reported.

The petition has been presented to the Majlis presiding board. Eghbal Shakeri, an MP who represents Tehran, said on Sunday, “The motion to ask questions from Mr. Rouhani and signed by 130 representatives is over reasons behind price rise in automobile market, foreign currency and basic commodities.”

## Iran has underground missile cities along southern coasts, commander says

**1 →** The commander also said the enemies should brace themselves to hear the news of new long-range Iranian missiles and vessels that they could not even imagine.



Tangsiri went on to say that the IRGC Navy keeps a close watch on every single ship that crosses the Strait of Hormuz, stressing that if the U.S. forces make any mistake, they will be followed as far as the Gulf of Mexico.

Iran has frequently criticized the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, stressing that it disrupts security in the region and that only regional states are responsible for safeguarding the security in the body of water.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has already underlined that the security of the Persian Gulf region comes within the purview of the regional countries alone.

“The Persian Gulf security relates to the countries of the region which have common interests, and not to the U.S. So, the security of the Persian Gulf region should be provided by the countries of this region itself,” the Leader said in 2016.

## Salehi says Iran is studying various scenarios over the Natanz incident

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Salehi, director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, has said that various scenarios over the Natanz incident are being studied and the final results will be announced.

Abolfazl Amouei, an MP, told ISNA on Sunday that Salehi said in a meeting of Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee that all security and intelligence aspects of the issue will be studied.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said on Thursday that the incident had caused no stoppage or slowdown of enrichment because the affected shed was actually under construction and not part of the enrichment process yet.

Iran's Civil Defense Organization chief Brigadier General Gholamreza Jalali said on Thursday that Iran will respond if the incident in Natanz is proven to be a cyberattack.

## Israeli foreign minister: Israel taking any action to stop ‘Iranian nuclear threat’

**(Press TV)** — The Israeli foreign minister says the regime considers Iran's nuclear abilities as an “existential threat” to itself, noting that Tel Aviv is taking any action to stop what he called “Iranian nuclear threat.”

Gabi Ashkenazi made the remarks on Sunday, a few days after a shed at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility was damaged in an incident, whose cause has not been officially declared yet.

Natanz is a uranium enrichment center located near a city of the same name in central Isfahan Province, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of the capital, Tehran.

The center is among the sites now being monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under a 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between Tehran and major powers.

On Thursday morning, one of the sheds under construction in the open area of ??the site suffered damage following an incident, which caused no casualties and did not affect the activities at the complex, according to the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) at the time.

Israeli top diplomat, whose remarks were quoted by Jerusalem Post, further said, “We have a long-term policy over the course of many administrations not to allow Iran to have nuclear abilities.”

Therefore, Ashkenazi added, “We take actions that are better left unsaid.”

He also claimed that Iran “with those abilities is an existential threat to Israel, and Israel cannot allow it to establish itself on our northern border.”

Although Iran has fully adhered to the terms of JCPOA, in May 2018, U.S. President Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the landmark nuclear deal and re-imposed the sanctions, which had been lifted against Tehran, and began unleashing the “toughest ever” fresh sanctions.

The U.S.'s intransigence flew in the face of the fact that the deal has been ratified by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in the form of its Resolution 2231.

The Safeguards Agreement between Iran and the IAEA ensures non-diversion of nuclear material declared by the Islamic Republic.

In another controversial move, Washington recently launched a campaign to renew the Iran arms ban—in place since 2006/2007 and is set to expire in October—through a resolution at the UNSC, despite the fact that the U.S. is no longer a party to the JCPOA. Russia and China are against the push, and most likely to veto it.

Elsewhere in his comments, Ashkenazi said that the Israeli regime supported Washington's efforts to ensure that the UN arms embargo against Tehran would not be extended past its original expiration date this October.

He noted that Tel Aviv could not accept a situation where Iran can purchase what he described as advanced weapons systems.

“The problem is not just attaining nuclear weapons, it's that they are arming groups across the Middle East. Look at Hezbollah in Lebanon. That is why we're making broad diplomatic efforts across the world,” he further claimed.

# No hidden issue in Iran-China agreement, Zarif says

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that there is no “hidden issue” in the long-term comprehensive agreement between Iran and China.

“The agreement was discussed in the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei]. We announced the issue to the people. In last year's visit, I took this agreement to China and it was announced. When China responded to our draft, we announced it and when China accepted negotiation with us, the issue was announced,” Zarif told an open session of the parliament.

The foreign minister said the details will be announced when the agreement is “finalized”.

He added, “There is transparency in our behavior, however, the truth is that power in the world is shifting (to the East) and we should know the realities of the international situation and take action in the post-West world.”

Zarif said the revival of the Silk Road is included in the agreement.

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.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on June 29 that the 25-year Iran-China 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.

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

**■ ‘U.S. actions are economic terrorism’**

Answering questions by MPs, Zarif also said that the United States' actions against Iran are economic terrorism.

“The United States is making efforts to impose a situation on Iran through economic war and economic terrorism and not sanctions. The United States' actions are economic bullying or the same economic terrorism,” he said.

Zarif said in March that the U.S. “economic terrorism” on Iran has been expanding to the new level of “medical terrorism” which is not even permissible on the battlefield.

**■ ‘It is essential to maintain internal integrity’**

Zarif also attached great importance to

## Expert calls Zarif’s letter to Borrell a test for Europe’s determination

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Rahman Ghahremanpour, an expert on international relations, has said that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's letter to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell was a test for Europe's “determination”.

“Zarif's letter to the EU foreign policy chief was a deterrent action to prevent intensification of tension on issues related to the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal],” Ghahremanpour told ISNA in an interview published on Sunday.

He said that Iran will take new decisions if Europe refuses to take a serious action against the United States.

Zarif has sent a letter to Borrell to denounce the E3's non-compliance with the JCPOA after the three European states drafted an anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Friday, “Following the irresponsible

and illegal measure by the three European states (Germany, the UK, and France) to initiate a draft resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors and also the continuation of non-compliance with the international commitments under the JCPOA and the resolutions passed by the (JCPOA) Joint Commission, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday sent a letter to Mr. Borrell, the European Union foreign policy chief and the JCPOA coordinator, and once again referred the cases of the European countries' non-compliance according to Article 36 of the JCPOA to the Joint Commission for settlement.”

Iran will take the necessary and proportional measures in response to any excessive demands and irresponsible behaviors, and firmly calls on the three European states to

prepare the ground to save and fully implement the JCPOA by honoring their commitments instead of following the United States' policy of maximum pressure, the spokesperson concluded.

Borrell said on Friday that he has responded to Zarif's letter.

“I have received today a letter from the Foreign Minister of Iran referring Iran's concerns regarding implementation issues by France, Germany and the United Kingdom under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to the Joint Commission for resolution through the Dispute Resolution Mechanism, as set out in paragraph 36 of the agreement,” the top European diplomat said.

“As I have said previously, the Dispute Resolution Mechanism requires intensive efforts in good faith by all,” he said, adding, “As Coordinator of the Joint Commission, I

necessity of maintaining internal integrity and avoiding domestic clashes over foreign policy.

“Foreign policy is not the area of factional clashes. That is why according to the constitution, foreign policy is within the authority of the Leader who sets general policies of the system in the sphere of foreign policy. It means avoiding internal clashes over the foreign policy,” the chief diplomat remarked.

Elsewhere, Zarif attached importance to expanding relations with neighboring countries.

**■ ‘Iran has made achievements in ditching dollar’**

Zarif also said that Iran has made achievements in ditching the U.S. dollar in its foreign transactions.

He cited use of barter system to ease up pressure caused by illegal U.S. sanctions as an example.

“One of the issues that reduces the pressure of sanctions is the elimination of the dollar from transactions, which we were pursuing through the use of the barter system and many countries have joined it,” Press TV quoted him as saying.

**■ Zarif says he had best relations with Gen. Soleimani**

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif said that he had best relations with Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

“I met with him every week,” he said.

General Soleimani was martyred near Baghdad's international airport in a U.S. terrorist attack on January 3.

In retaliation, on January 8 Iran fired ballistic missiles at a U.S. military base in western Iraq, shattering the U.S. image as the greatest power in the world.

Iran was the first country to target a U.S. military position in the world since the Second World War.

expect all JCPOA participants to approach this process in this spirit within the framework of the JCPOA.”

He further said, “The Joint Commission, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the agreement under the terms of the JCPOA, has met since 2016 to discuss the implementation of the JCPOA and address pertinent issues brought to the attention of the Coordinator by any participant.”

The EU foreign policy chief concluded, “As we approach the fifth anniversary of the JCPOA, I should like to take this opportunity to recall the importance of the agreement. The JCPOA is a historic achievement for global nuclear non-proliferation contributing to regional and global security. I remain determined to continue working with the participants of the JCPOA and the international community to preserve it.”

## Rouhani says Iran, Venezuela should deepen ties

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has said that Iran and Venezuela should deepen “strategic” and “friendly” ties.

He made the remarks in a message to Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro on the occasion of the anniversary of Venezuela's independence.

“Stressing the necessity of deepening friendly and strategic relations between the two countries, I am sure that we will witness the Venezuelan people's victory in overcoming the current problems in near future,” Rouhani predicted.

Michael Hollingsworth, a professor at the University of South Alabama, has said that trade between Iran and Venezuela poses no threat to the world.

In an interview with ILNA published on Saturday, Hollingsworth said that the United States is well aware that any action against the Iranian tankers will have consequences.

Reportedly, the U.S. seeks to seize four Iranian tankers sailing towards Venezuela.

The lawsuit, filed late on Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, was followed on Thursday

by a warrant issued by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg for the seizure of the more than 1.1 million barrels of gasoline in the four vessels, Reuters reported.

Legal sources said the gasoline could likely only be seized by U.S. authorities if the tankers enter U.S. territorial waters.

In the civil-forfeiture complaint, U.S. federal prosecutors aim to stop delivery of Iranian gasoline aboard the Liberia-flagged Bella, Bering, Pandi and Luna, according to the lawsuit, first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Boasberg issued the warrant for the seizure of the gasoline in the tankers based on probable cause that the fuel is forfeitable, the Justice Department said.

The lawsuit also aims to stop the flow of revenues from oil sales to Iran.

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

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

## MP urges govt. to halt implementation of Additional Protocol

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — An Iranian lawmaker strongly rebuked a new resolution passed by the IAEA Board of Governors against Tehran, urging the government to stop implementing the Additional Protocol in response.

“Iran has voluntarily accepted the Additional Protocol, however, under the current circumstances, our national interests entail the halt of the Protocol's implementation,” Lawmaker Alireza Zakani told Mehr News on Sunday.

“This step is necessary for the government to show a strong response [to the Europeans' misconduct] and reflect Iranians' unity against their lack of commitment,” he added.

On June 19, the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors adopted a resolution drafted by the UK, France and Germany calling on Iran to grant the IAEA access to two locations amid allegations of undeclared nuclear activities.

In response, Iranian parliamentarians, along with the Foreign Ministry, condemned the new resolution, calling on the government to take appropriate and immediate response to the move.

They released a statement, signed by 240 lawmakers, on June 21, saying, “The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a country that has had the highest level of cooperation and transparency with the IAEA in 50 years of NPT, considers IAEA Board of Governor's

resolution as an excessive demand.”

Appreciating the stance of those countries who have not backed this scandal, lawmakers noted that this non-binding resolution is a sign of a dominating culture that rules over the IAEA.

European countries' pressure for the ‘so-called preservation’ of the JCPOA shows that they have had an unconstructive view towards the rights of the Iranian people and have assumed the JCPOA as a tool to pursue their own aims, adds the statement.

“The Iranian Parliament calls on the government to stop voluntary implementation of Additional Protocol and change inspections into offline,” the lawmakers urged.



# Ghalibaf: We won't let IAEA complete espionage circle of hostile countries

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Republic and its parliament will not allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to pursue completing the circle of espionage of hostile countries, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has warned.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency and the Board of Governors should know that the Islamic Republic and the Majlis representatives will not allow the Agency to be free of any restriction so that it does whatever it wants and seeks to complete the circle of espionage of hostile countries," Ghalibaf said on Sunday, according to Mehr.

He said Iran expects the other sides to the nuclear agreement to fulfil their commitments under the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We will stand up to their excessive demands, and we hope that the Foreign Ministry will be able to perform their duties well," the parliament speaker added.

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.



**"We will stand up to their excessive demands, and we hope that the Foreign Ministry will be able to perform their duties well," the parliament speaker says.**

Nine countries out 35 members to the IAEA board did not vote for the resolution. China and Russia voted against the resolu-

tion and Thailand, Mongolia, Niger, South Africa, India, Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan abstained to vote.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has rebuked the UK, France, and Germany for introducing the resolution, saying such measures are rooted in "destructive" measures adopted by the United States against the Iran nuclear deal.

Zakharova said last week that the European trio's actions fueling tensions around Iran's nuclear activities at the UN atomic watchdog contradicted their claims of commitment to the JCPOA.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian has also voiced his country's opposition to the resolution, saying China does not approve of actions that escalate the situation.

"China supports the IAEA in playing its role in an objective, professional and neutral manner in verifying Iran's compliance with its safeguards obligations," he said during a press conference last week. "We are against politicizing its work."

"The IAEA explicitly states that the safeguards issue is neither urgent nor poses a proliferation risk," Lijian explained, adding, "The Iranian side also expressed its clear wish to resolve issues through dialogue with the agency. Under such circumstances, China does not approve of actions that artificially exacerbate tensions and escalate the situation."

## Washington giving out signals for talks: Jahangiri

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Having failed to overthrow the Islamic Republic or cause the Iranian economy to collapse, the Americans are now after holding talks with Iran, according to Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri.

In remarks on Sunday, Jahangiri said the unilateral U.S. sanctions were imposed in order to overthrow the Islamic Republic but failed to reach their goal.

"When they lost hope to reach their goal, they sought to cause economic collapse," he said. "Of course, our economy has been hurt by the sanctions, but now that they lost hope to reach both of their goals, they ask Iran to come to the negotiating table and they give a green light for that."

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have been high since U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal in May 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on all major industries in Iran, including oil and petrochemicals exports.

The Trump administration's sanctions were imposed under the banner of a "maximum pressure" policy against Iran. Tehran says the U.S. "maximum pressure" has produced "maximum resistance" from Iran.

The U.S. government has also made empty calls for talks, but Iran has made it clear that negotiation is always possible within existing framework of the nuclear deal and only if



**"Now that they lost hope to reach both of their goals, they ask Iran to come to the negotiating table and they give a green light for that," says Jahangiri.**

the U.S. returns to the deal and honors its commitments. Tehran has emphatically rejected any prospect of bilateral talks with the U.S.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ruled out the notion that "settlement of Iran's problems hinges on rapprochement with the United States."

Also, the new parliament in Iran has taken a tougher stance against talks with the U.S. compared to the previous one.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the parliament speaker, said in his first address to the parliament that talks and compromise with the United States are "harmful" to the country.

"The 11th Majlis considers anti-arrogance as both an ideological doctrine and as a strategic interest. Negotiations and compromise with the United States, as the axis of global arrogance, are considered fruitless and harmful," he said back in May.

On June 21, Ghalibaf said Iran has never been against negotiations with other countries, however "we believe talks with the U.S. are poisonous and harmful."

The parliament speaker also rebuked the European countries that sponsored the anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA board, saying any future talks with the Europeans will also be held with "maximum distrust".

## 'Do not believe the hype,' Zarif says regarding letter to Borrell



**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran has triggered the JCPOA dispute resolution mechanism on at least six occasions, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said regarding his Friday letter to the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, in which he criticized the E3's non-compliance with the nuclear agreement.

"Don't believe the hype: Iran triggered #JCPOA DRM on at least 6 occasions (in ref to U.S. AND E3 violations)," Zarif tweeted on Saturday evening.

"I will be publishing all my letters shortly," he added.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi announced on Friday that Zarif has sent a letter Borrell to denounce the E3's non-compliance with the deal, officially called the JCPOA, after the three European states drafted an anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors.

"Following the irresponsible and illegal measure by the three European states (Germany, the UK, and France) to initiate a draft resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors and also the continuation of non-compliance with the international commitments under the JCPOA and the resolutions passed by the (JCPOA) Joint Commission, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday sent a letter to Mr. Borrell, the European Union

foreign policy chief and the JCPOA coordinator, and once again referred the cases of the European countries' non-compliance according to Article 36 of the JCPOA to the Joint Commission for settlement," Mousavi said.

Iran will take the necessary and proportional measures in response to any excessive demands and irresponsible behaviors, and firmly calls on the three European states to prepare the ground to save and fully implement the JCPOA by honoring their commitments instead of following the United States' policy of maximum pressure, the spokesperson concluded.

Borrell also said on Friday that he has responded to Zarif's letter.

"I have received today a letter from the Foreign Minister of Iran referring Iran's concerns regarding implementation issues by France, Germany and the United Kingdom under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to the Joint Commission for resolution through the Dispute Resolution Mechanism, as set out in paragraph 36 of the agreement," the top European diplomat said.

He added, "The JCPOA is a historic achievement for global nuclear non-proliferation contributing to regional and global security. I remain determined to continue working with the participants of the JCPOA and the international community to preserve it."

## France reaffirms commitment to JCPOA



**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — French Foreign Ministry in a statement on Sunday reaffirmed commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

France's statement was in reaction to a letter forwarded by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's to EU High Representative Josep Borrell on invoking Dispute Resolution Mechanism envisaged by the context of the JCPOA.

By invoking DRM, Zarif expressed dismay of the Islamic Republic of Iran at lack of respect to the nuclear deal and failure of France, UK and German Governments to honor their commitments.

France together with Germany and the UK are committed to preserve Iran nuclear deal, French Foreign Ministry said adding that they respect their commitments to the JCPOA.

We have even taken step for supporting legitimate trade with Iran, it added.

Without referring to European parties' impracticality with regard to their commitments, the French Foreign Ministry urged Iran to return to its JCPOA commitments.

We negotiated with Iran and other JCPOA parties based on a basic and realistic approach, the statement reads.

Zarif in a letter to the High Representative of the European Union Josep Borrell once again referred the cases of European countries' non-compliance to the Joint Commission for settlement in accordance with Article 36 of the JCPOA.

Iranian Foreign Minister's letter warned that any interference in the ongoing cooperation between Iran and the IAEA would be

contrary to the provisions of the JCPOA and could have negative impacts on the existing cooperation under the Safeguards Agreement.

Meanwhile earlier, Borrell said in a statement that he believes the JCPOA is an historic achievement for global nuclear non-proliferation contributing to regional and global peace and security.

"I have received today a letter from the Foreign Minister of Iran referring Iran's concerns regarding implementation issues by France, Germany and the United Kingdom under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to the Joint Commission for resolution through the Dispute Resolution Mechanism, as set out in paragraph 36 of the agreement," Borrell's statement reads.

"As I have said previously, the Dispute Resolution Mechanism requires intensive efforts in good faith by all. As Coordinator of the Joint Commission, I expect all JCPOA participants to approach this process in this spirit within the framework of the JCPOA."

## Rouhani congratulates Algerian president on Independence Day

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday forwarded a congratulatory cable to his Algerian counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune as well as Algerian government and nation on the country's Independence Day.

Algeria gained independence from France on July 5, 1962. In the long struggle that saw profound and heavy sacrifices, some 1.5 million Algerians martyred with millions displaced.

In his message, Rouhani extended his warmest greetings to President Tebboune on the 58th anniversary of Algeria's Independence Day, praying to Allah Almighty to bestow health, felicity and success upon the Algerian president and steady prosperity and well-being on the brotherly and friendly Algerian government and nation.

Rouhani voiced hope that Tehran-Algiers relations would increase at bilateral, regional and international levels in view of the history of their ties and the potential capacities for cooperation.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sent a felicitating cable to his Algerian counterpart Sabri Boukadoum, the Iranian embassy in Algiers wrote on its official Twitter account.

Zarif expressed his sincere and warmest congratulations, wishing the government and people of Algeria steady progress and prosperity.

On different occasions, the two countries' leaders have expressed their determination for promotion of cooperation between Iran and Algeria in various fields with a view to enhancing the bonds into higher levels by capitalizing on the two countries' history and ample capacities, Hana Saada reported from Algiers.

Politically, both countries aspire that the abundant affinities shared by both countries and basic role of the holy religion of Islam in breaking the chain of colonialism and gaining freedom and independence would prepare the ground for expansion of cordial and brotherly relations at the highest possible level in all fields to materialize lofty aspirations of the two big revolutions and make joint efforts for restoration of peace, stability and security.

A few months ago, Zarif held phone talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Boukadoum, during which both officials deplored the so-called "deal of the century", dubbing it "cruel" and "disgraceful". They stressed the need for the Muslim world to take a decisive stance in support of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Besides, they exchanged views on a range of issues of common interests.

## Iran-China agreement should be based on mutual interest: ex-diplomat

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A former Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said the Tehran-Beijing agreement should be based on meeting mutual interests.

Ramin Mehmanparast, also a former ambassador to Poland, said in an interview with ILNA published on Sunday that Iran's foreign policy must have long-term, medium-term, and short-term plans.

Explaining about the Iran-China 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement, which was approved by Iran's government, Mehmanparast said the details of the issues on this agreement are not yet known "so I can't talk about it so much."

"Relations with China can also be regulated in such a way that both our interests and China's long-term interests will be met," he added.

Asked whether Iran's frustration with the European approach may have led Tehran to turn to China, the former diplomat said, "We need to have long-term plans to connect with different countries in different ways."

"We have plans with China, Russia, and some Asian countries based on our interests and we can also have long-term policies for European countries."

Mehmanparast said the Europeans have limited diplomatic relations with Iran because of the U.S. sanctions, and they have failed to maintain their independence.

The cabinet of ministers approved the final draft of the 25-year comprehensive plan in June.

President Hassan Rouhani has 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 on June 23.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei has also said the plan proves "failure of the United States' policies to isolate Iran, to sever Iran's relations with the international community and also to harm Iran's will to expand relations with other countries."

فراخوان عمومی اجاره ساختمان جهت استفاده اداری

سازمان ملل متحد در تهران

تعدادی از نمایندگی‌های سازمان ملل متحد در نظر دارند نسبت به اجاره بلند مدت (حدود ده سال) یک ساختمان به متر اژ تقریبی ۳ الی ۴ هزار متر فضای اداری اقدام نمایند. جهت کسب اطلاعات مورد نیاز به لینک ذیل مراجعه فرمایید.

<http://www.ir.undp.org/content/iran/en/home/operations/procurement/>



## Mining companies' sales through stock market up 55% in 2 months

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The total sales of large mining companies through the stock market has increased by 55 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20), year on year, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced.



The cumulative sales of 72 large companies in the mining and mineral industries sector in the first two months of this year amounted to 388.443 trillion rials (about \$9.25 billion), IMIDRO data showed.

As reported, the mentioned companies sold 181.935 trillion rials (about \$4.331 billion) worth of shares on the stock exchange in the second month of the current Iranian calendar year (April 20-May 20).

The companies in the mining and mineral industries sector accounted for 37 percent of the total sales in the market, during the mentioned two months.

The top 10 companies with the highest sales performance were Mobarakeh Steel Company, National Copper Industries, Khuzestan Steel Company, Golgozar Mining and Industrial Company, Isfahan Steel Company, Chadormalo Iron Ore, South Hormozgan Steel, Kaveh South Kish Steel Company, Khorasan Steel and Iran Aluminum, respectively.

## Commodities worth \$904m traded at IME in a week

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Over 639,000 tons of commodities valued at \$904 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), IME Public Relations Department reported.

Last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 98,226 tons of various products worth \$312 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 89,718 tons of steel, 4,780 tons of copper, 3,350 tons of aluminum, 170 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 18 tons of precious metal concentrates as well as 190 tons of zinc were traded by customers.



The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 540,645 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$611 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 255,000 tons of VB feed stock, 105,730 tons of bitumen, 77,708 tons of polymer products, 43,360 tons of chemical products, 1,615 tons of insulation, 53,000 tons of lube cut oil, 11,862 tons of base oil, 150 tons of argon as well as 2,220 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 330 tons of commodities were traded on the IME's side market.

As reported last week, over 3.088 million tons of commodities valued at \$4.75 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange in June.

Last month, the oil and petrochemical trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 1,928,480 tons of commodities worth more than \$2.228 billion.

On this trading floor, more than 454,287 tons of bitumen, 363,163 tons of polymer products and 129,840 tons of chemical products, 734,000 tons of VB feed stock, 118,000 tons of lube cut oil, 108,493 tons of sulfur, 4,920 tons of insulation, 7,600 tons of slaps waxes, 150 tons of argon as well as 8,027 tons of oil were traded by customers.

The metal and mineral trading floor witnessed trading over 1,156,368 tons of commodities worth more than \$2.5 billion.

On this trading floor 1,036,628 tons of steel, 18,475 tons of copper, 600 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 90 tons of precious metals concentrates, 71,970 tons of zinc, 200 tons of lead ingot, 28,405 tons of aluminum, as well as 17 kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

Furthermore, in the agricultural trading floor of the IME, more than eight tons of saffron was traded by the customers.

The side market of the IME experienced trading of 3,176 tons of tomato paste, 60 tons of used locomotive engine oil as well as 606 tons of metal scrap.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

On April 21, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market's new outlook plan, which depicts IME's development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production" is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

# Imports of 2,500 products banned in a quarter

**1 →** Mentioning the motto of the current Iranian calendar year, which is "Surge in Production", the official said, "We are following up the objective of surge in production through four specified ways."

Since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanction, Iran has been focusing on the promotion of domestic production and limiting the imports in order to move the economy toward self-sufficiency and resilience.

In early April, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry outlined its major programs for supporting the domestic production in the current Iranian year that is named the year of "Surge in Production" by the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Developing technology and promoting knowledge-based industries, development of domestic production in line with the Leader's stresses on surge in production, managing imports and development of non-oil exports, improving the business environment, development of financing and investment and finally development of logistics were reported to be the seven major axes of the Industry, Mining and



Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Hossein Modares Khiabani

Trade Ministry's works in the current year. As announced by the previous Industry,

Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani in mid-April, the country's production

units need 700 trillion rials (over \$16.6 billion) of investment to realize the "Surge in Production" intended by the Leader.

"Unlike other ministries, we don't need the government's direct investment to carry out industrial projects; the mentioned 700-trillion rials resources are not going to be given to the ministry, but will be injected directly into various production units across the country," Rahmani said.

"The needed funds will be provided through banks, stock exchange, the National Development Fund (NDF), and investment funds," he said, adding "we expect the growth in the country's industrial sector to become positive by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (ends on March 20, 2021)."

Referring to the great capacities of the country's industrial and mining production sectors, the official said: "Industry is one of the major sectors of Iran's economy, as the share of industry, mining and trade sectors in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is about 35 percent, and it also accounts for 30 percent of employment in the country."

## Over 72,000 industrial, mining units operating across Iran



**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Latest Data released by the Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry shows that 72,250 industrial and mining units are operating across the country in which nearly 2.43 million people are working, ISNA reported.

According to the data, with 15,822 active units, the field of non-metallic minerals accounts for the biggest share of the mentioned units, while food and beverage products and rubber and plastic products with 8,682 and 7,524 units are in the second and third places.

In terms of job creation, the group of non-metallic minerals has also the highest employment rate, with 382,837 people working in this sector. The group of food and beverage products and the group of manufacturing chemical products are also in the second and third place with the employment of 362,223 and 200,358 people.

Tehran, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces had 9785, 8585, 5294 active units, respectively, by the end of the last Iranian calendar year (March 19) accounting for the highest number

of units among the Iranian provinces.

The employment of the said provinces in the industrial and mineral units was 402,915, 262,498, and 193,290 people respectively.

Also, Kish Free Zone with two active units, Chabahar Free Zone with 73 units and Maku Free Zone with 84 units had the least number of active units among the provinces, with 70, 1416 and 2330 people working in them, respectively.

In the past few years, many of the production units across Iran have been wrestling with financial issues as well as the problem of supplying their raw materials, so that many have been forced to shut down or decrease their activities.

Iran's 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.

## Transit via Iran expected to decline 30%



**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Transit of commodities through Iran is expected to fall 30 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2021), Mehr News Agency reported, quoting an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

According to Mostafa Ayati, the director general of IRICA's Transit Bureau, the volume of transit had also decreased by 26 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year to 7.15 million tons.

Speaking in a meeting of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Transportation Committee on Saturday, the official expressed concerns over the condition of the transit sector in Iran and said necessary measures should be taken to revive this sector.

"The volume of transit in 1399 [the current Iranian calendar year] will decrease by 30 percent in the most optimistic scenario,

which indicates the existence of various problems in this sector which beg serious attention," he said.

One of the main reasons for the decline in the transit of goods via Iran has been the outbreak of coronavirus and the consequent closure of the country's borders with its neighboring countries.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due. To benefit from its location for transit, the country has many plans underway and on the agenda to boost its transit capacity.

Some of these plans include developing Iran's largest container port, Shahid Rajaei Port in southern province of Hormozgan, and also Chabahar Port in southeast of the country, connecting the ports to the railway network, development of transit via railway, and also some customs measures such as improving transit procedures in the customs offices.

## Iran, Russia to hold Joint Economic Committee meeting in Sept.



*Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali (R) and Russian Deputy Energy Minister Anatoly Tikhonov discuss energy and economic cooperation in a meeting in Moscow.*

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN**- In a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali and Russian Deputy Energy Minister Anatoly Tikhonov, the two sides agreed on holding the 16th Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee online or face to face in September, IRNA reported.

Jalali and Tikhonov also discussed the process of the latest energy cooperation between the two countries.

Holding a working group on energy cooperation between the two countries and the implementation of several new projects in the fields of agriculture, energy, and transportation were among the topics discussed during the meeting.

In mid-February, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov said that the trade turnover between Iran and Russia has followed an upward trend in the past two years despite the challenging external conditions, Tass reported.

"Despite the challenging external conditions, the Russian-Iranian trade turnover is rising. It increased to \$2 billion last year,"

he said.

Mentioning the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Morgulov expressed hope that the agreement would facilitate the trade between the two sides and give an extra impetus to the expansion of ties.

According to the official data, trade turnover between Russia and Iran amounted to \$1.74 billion in 2018 and \$1.589 billion in the period between January-September 2019.

Agriculture products are the backbone of trade turnover between the countries. Trade in the agriculture sector amounted to 1.283 billion in January-September 2019, an increase of 41.6 percent year-on-year.

In late December 2019, Moscow's commercial representative in Tehran, Rustam Zhiganshin had announced that more than 50 percent of Iran and Russia's total bilateral trade is being conducted through national currencies.

"If in 2018 payments in national currencies comprised 40 percent [of the two countries' trade], in 2019 this quota has already exceeded 50 percent," Zhiganshin told sputnik.

## GSI plans a two-fold rise in mining exploration operations by Mar. 2021



**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Head of Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran (GSI) said mining explorations are going to increase by 100 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2021), IRNA reported.

According to Alireza Shahidi, GSI had it on the agenda to explore 150,000 kilometers of land in the current year and following the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's remarks on realization of the "Surge in Production" it has increased its target to 300,000 kilometers.

Referring to his organization's plans for the current Iranian calendar year, Shahidi said GSI is going to improve its performance, especially in the area of exploration of new mineral reserves this year.

The head of the Geological and Mineral Exploration Organization said improving GSI's exploration performance requires defining a mechanism to provide new financial resources for conducting targeted and extensive exploration operations.

We are seriously looking to pave the way in this regard, and so far we have made significant progress compared to the previous years, Shahidi said.

The official also voiced GSI's readiness for effective cooperation with the private sector with the aim of completing the exploration cycle and supplying the minerals needed by the country's industries.

GSI has signed several agreements with the private sector for conducting exploration operations since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

In early June, Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmailli announced that the country's Mining Investment Insurance Corporation (MIIC) was going to allocate 30 trillion rials (over \$714.2 million) for supporting mining exploration projects.

He further noted that the ministry has it on the agenda to increase the country's discovered mineral reserves by 25 percent in the current Iranian calendar year.



# No water outage, rationing on agenda despite high consumption

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — Mohammad-Reza Bakhtiari, the managing director of Tehran Province Water and Wastewater Company, has said no water outage or rationing is on the agenda despite the 25-percent increase in the capital city's water consumption in the Q1 of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), IRIB reported.

"Despite the 25 percent increase in drinking water consumption in the first quarter of this year compared to the same period last year in Tehran Province, we assure people that there is no water outage or rationing on the agenda," Bakhtiari said.

The official pointed to the outbreak of coronavirus and the beginning of the hot season as the main reasons for the unexpected rise in the capital city's water consumption in the mentioned time span.

The mentioned increase equals 600 million liters of water, he noted.



"This increase in consumption is unprecedented; in previous years in [the Iranian

calendar month of] Khordad (ended on June 20), Tehran's water consumption would reach

about 2.8 to 9.2 million liters per day, this year the figure has reached 7.3 million liters," the official said.

He further noted that as the summer heat upward trend continues, water consumption in Tehran is expected to reach four million liters per day, which is the threshold for the capacity of the Tehran Province water facilities.

In early June, Deputy Energy Minister for Water and Wastewater Affairs Ghasem Taqizadeh Khamesi announced that water consumption in Iran increased by 35 percent following the coronavirus outbreak.

"The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the pattern of household water consumption, increasing drinking water consumption in the country by 35 percent," Khamesi said.

According to the official, in the first few weeks of the pandemic, due to the high sensitivity toward the issue and also the lockdowns water consumption by households increased significantly.

## 'Iran self-sufficient in repairing offshore drilling rigs'

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — The CEO of Sina Energy Development Company announced Iran as self-sufficient in repairing its offshore drilling rigs.

According to Majid Oji, there are 300-feet-drilling rigs in the oil and gas fields in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, run by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Offshore Oil Company (IOOC).

"The rigs were previously sent to foreign countries for being repaired but Mostazafan Foundation has made it possible to repair the rigs domestically," he said. "The issue saves five million to six million dollars for Iran."

"By the help of the Iranian knowledge-based companies, Mostazafan Foundation has now the offshore drilling rigs constructed and repaired," Oji added.

Despite the coronavirus outbreak, all operations in Iran's oil and gas rigs are ongoing in full compliance with safety and healthcare standards and complying with personal and public health and hygiene principles in the



workplace.

NIDC, a subsidiary of the NIOC, undertakes most drilling operations across the country and has drilled 4,489 onshore and offshore oil and gas wells in the past four decades after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Holding 70 onshore and offshore drilling rigs, as well as equipment and facilities for offering integrated technical and engineering services, the company plays a major part in drilling exploration as well as appraisal/development wells in the country.

In late February, NIDC's deputy head for drilling operation announced that the company had dug and completed the digging operation of 100 oil and gas wells during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2019-February 19, 2020).

Hamidreza Khoshayand said the drilled wells consisted of two exploration wells and 35 development/appraisal wells as well as 63 workover ones.

## Saudi Arabia is bullying OPEC members into compliance

By Irina Slav

First, they said it nicely: play along and cut to your quotas, or we'll all suffer low oil prices for longer. Then they put their foot down: start cutting deeper or else. And now it has emerged what the "or else" part was—a new price war.

The Wall Street Journal's Benoit Faucon and Summer Said reported earlier this week that Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Saud had threatened Nigeria, Angola, and Iraq with another oil price war if they didn't get in line with the production cuts, according to OPEC delegates. If they kept producing more than their quotas, Saudi Arabia would start selling its crude at a discount on these three countries' key markets, stealing market share. In a phrase reminiscent of some of the best crime dramas, bin Saud reportedly told Angolan and Nigerian delegates, "We know who your customers are."

OPEC's crude oil production last month fell to the lowest in thirty years, at 22.69 million bpd. However, Iraq, Angola, and Nigeria still fell short of their quotas: Iraq only managed to achieve 70 percent compliance, Nigeria did a little better at 77 percent, and Angola even better at 83 percent. But that was not good enough.

It is understandable why the OPEC leader has had enough. The Saudis were not only the driver behind the latest agreement. They also voluntarily deepened their own production quota, pledging to cut an additional one million bpd on top of the more than two million bpd they agreed to cut, shouldering the

largest part of the total 9.7-million-bpd OPEC+ cut.

And they have stuck to it, unlike the three laggards. Last month, the Kingdom pumped 7.53 million bpd, when it had originally been set a quota of 8.5 million bpd, the same as OPEC+ fellow Russia, which, however, has been slow to reach its own quota. The Saudis have literally done whatever it takes to prop up prices. And prices have remained weak. That would frustrate even the most patient of producers.

Brent crude traded at more than \$51 a barrel in early March, a few days before Saudi Arabia declared its first price war of the year against Russia for its refusal to sign up for an extension of the previous round of cuts, agreed on last December. On March 9, the benchmark plummeted below \$35 a barrel.

After a further plunge in April on the back of the coronavirus lockdowns, Brent has to date recovered to about \$40. So, if Saudi Arabia makes good on its threat, this time Brent—and WTI—will be falling from a lower starting point. This is the only thing we can be sure of.

Of course, the threat of a price war remains hypothetical. Perhaps it would prove to be enough to get Iraq, Nigeria, and Angola to mend their ways and start cutting production like they mean it. It would be the safer choice because Saudi Arabia has more oil, and it can afford to sell it more cheaply than the three laggards, at least for a while. But what if they don't?

Well, if they don't, we'll likely have a new price crash, and it could turn out to be worse than the first one as it would come amid a rising fear—and perhaps some evidence—of

a second wave of Covid-19 infections in the world's largest consumer. Meanwhile, demand has been slow to rebound.

There have been some good signs such as a pickup in gasoline production in the U.S. and a drawdown in floating oil storage. And yet, most analysts warn that people around the world would continue to be cautious in commuting and traveling, which will continue to affect oil demand.

If, in such an environment, Saudi Arabia decides to make good on its threat, oil will fall sharply. Just how low it would fall is anyone's guess, but it is safe to say such a development would hardly benefit anyone, including Saudi Arabia. Certainly, it could beef up exports to undermine the market shares of Iraq, Nigeria, and Angola in China and India by cutting prices, but it wouldn't be able to keep on doing it for a very long time. The Kingdom has a deficit to deal with.

It could do it for a short while, to make its point. And then Iraq, Nigeria, and Angola could continue under complying because there would be nothing else Saudi Arabia could do to stop them. And that's not all. Earlier this week, Russia's Energy Minister said there had been no discussions in OPEC+ to continue cutting deep after the end of July.

As per the agreement, the cuts would be relaxed from 9.7 million bpd to 7.7 million bpd after the July extension. But it's still early July, and there is a problem with compliance. That Saudi Arabia could propose another extension is not out of the question because oil continues to be way too cheap for it. And then we will have another OPEC+ drama brewing and, should the Saudis' patience expire, a second price war.

## China's June crude imports at independent refineries dip amid congestion

Chinese independent refineries' June crude imports edged down 0.5% to 4.4 million b/d, or 18 million mt, in June from the record high of 4.42 million b/d in May as Zhejiang Petroleum & Chemical could only manage to take in half of its feedstock tanker arrivals due to port congestion.

ZPC received about 2.85 million mt of crude arrivals in June, according to market information collected by S&P Global Platts on July 3.

However, the 20 million mt/year refinery only managed to take in 1.35 million mt of crude in the month due to congestion problems at Zhoushan port in eastern China's Zhejiang province, according to refinery and port sources. Its imports were at 2.17 million mt in May.

A number of Sinopec refineries in the region and crude barrels delivered to storage facilities in Zhoushan designed by Shanghai International Energy Exchange also use that port.

Many Chinese companies bought crude when prices were low, causing port congestion issues in the country for more than a month.

The volume of crude on tankers idled in Chinese waters for 15 or more days has been consistently setting fresh highs, hitting 42.98 million barrels in the week beginning



June 29, data from trade flow and inventory tracker Kpler showed.

Meanwhile, the other leading independent refiner Hengli Petrochemical (Dalian) received 2.28 million mt in June, slumping from 3.35 million mt in May, as the refinery cut its buying with the expectation of crude prices rising, a company source said.

**Imports to small-scale refiners up**

However, the reduction was capped as the volume of crude oil discharged for the rest of the small-scale independent refineries, including those under the non-major ChemChina, surged 9.1% to 14.39 million mt from the previous record high of 12.95 million mt in May, Platts data showed.

This was because the ports in Shandong, where most of the independent refineries are located, have maximized their capacity to discharge crude cargoes to ease congestion problems.

## UK calls for end of oil blockade in Libya

The UK has called for an end to the oil blockade in Libya and reaffirmed its support for state-owned oil producer National Oil Corp. as the only independent entity in charge of the North African country's energy industry.

As Platts reported, the self-styled Libyan National Army has taken over two major oil fields in Libya in their quest to wrest control of the energy industry from the UN-backed Government of National Accord, which is also supported by Turkey and Qatar. The LNA is supported by Russia, Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

"Reports of interference by foreign mercenaries in Sharara oil field are troubling," the UK embassy in Libya said in a statement on July 4. "Militarization of Libya's energy sector is unacceptable and risks further damage."

The conflict between GNA and LNA has escalated in recent months, with Libya's oil and gas facilities caught up in the dispute.

The GNA has recently gained ground against the LNA led by Khalifa Haftar, which has halted the latter's offensive into Tripoli. The GNA has been striving to move eastward toward the oil-rich Sirte Basin into the eastern stronghold of the LNA.

But the 300,000 bpd Sharara and 75,000 bpd El Feel fields remain in the hands of



Haftar, supported by Russian mercenaries.

**Bargaining chip**  
The embassy said Libya's energy industry should not be used as a "political bargaining chip."

"The UK affirms its support for the National Oil Corporation (NOC) as Libya's sole independent oil company charged with stewardship of Libya's oil," the embassy said. "The NOC should be allowed to resume production unimpeded for the benefit of all Libyans."

NOC is still preparing for a resumption of oil production and exports from its eastern terminals but it continues to wait for the Petroleum Facilities Guard in the eastern region to lift the oil blockade.

Force majeure on crude loadings out of the terminals of Marsa el-Hariga, Brega, Es Sider, Ras Lanuf and Zueitina remain in place, as the ports are still being blockaded by the guards, NOC said on July 1.

## Global energy body warns against rush to cut renewables and storage research funds

The International Energy Agency has warned against a rush to cut research and development funding for clean energy technologies, saying that continued innovation in renewable energy and energy storage technologies is essential if the world is to successfully tackle the long-term threat of global warming.

As reported by Renew Economy, based on a new report released by the International Energy Agency, continued support for clean technology research and innovation is critical to ensuring the world is in a position to reach its zero emissions carbon targets.

The report comes as the future of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency remains uncertain, with it due to run out of funds shortly, and after cuts to the CSIRO energy team, and the removal of funding for the Energy Transition Hub at the Melbourne University.

The IEA argues that the Covid-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to accelerate the transition away from carbon-heavy industries by directing stimulus support to allow industries to re-tool and improve the sustainability of their operations. However, the IEA warns that if governments pull back support for the clean energy transition, it could cripple clean tech innovation.

"The world's capacity to bring new technologies to market will be weaker as a result of the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Market and policy uncertainties threaten to reduce the funds available to entrepreneurs," the IEA's report says.

"It is important to maintain research and development funding at planned levels through 2025 and to consider raising it in strategic areas. Market-based policies and funding can help scale up value chains for small, modular technologies — as they did for solar panels — significantly advancing technology progress."

The report details how the energy sector will require new innovations becoming more mature and commercially viable over the next few decades to achieve sustained cuts to global emissions. This will include further advances to battery storage technologies, hydrogen production and use technologies, as well as ongoing cuts to the cost of wind and solar generation.

"This report examines how quickly energy innovation would have to move forward to bring all parts of the economy — including challenging sectors like long-distance transport and heavy industry — to net-zero emissions by 2050 without drastic changes to how we go about our lives," IEA executive director Dr Fatih Birol said.

"This analysis shows that getting there would hinge on technologies that have not yet even reached the market today. The message is very clear: in the absence of much faster clean energy innovation, achieving net-zero goals in 2050 will be all but impossible."

**IEA energy split**

"A recent IEA survey revealed that companies that are developing net-zero emissions technologies consider it likely that their research and development budgets will be reduced, a clear sign of the damage that the Covid-19 crisis could do to clean energy innovation," Dr Birol said.

"Now is not the time to weaken support for this essential work. If anything, it is time to strengthen it."

The threat of cuts to research and development funding is a present threat in Australia, a major source of researching funding, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, reaching the end of its budget for grant support.

Late last year, ARENA CEO Darren Miller told a senate estimates hearing that ARENA had approximately \$200 million in unallocated funding, but since that time, the agency established the \$70 million Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round, as well as continuing to fund new research and demonstration projects. No new funding will be allocated to ARENA beyond the next financial year.

With the help of ARENA funding, Australian research institutions, including the University of New South Wales, the Australian National University and the CSIRO have been able to establish themselves as leaders in clean tech research, particularly solar technologies, but this may come to a halt without additional funding.

It is understood that the Morrison cabinet is actively considering a proposal to extend the funding allocation for ARENA, but this may come paired with an expansion of ARENA's funding mandate to include support for carbon capture and storage projects, and other projects outside of the renewable energy sector.

The CSIRO was also forced to shed 40 within its energy research divisions following funding cuts, that saw staff stood down across three of the CSIRO's research labs. The moved was slammed by public service union the CPSU, which said it feared that further cuts could be made in a federal budget to be handed down in October.

In May, the Morrison government released a discussion paper for its technology investment roadmap, which will draw upon funding to be allocated to a new Grid Reliability Fund, but legislation necessary to establish the fund has not yet been introduced into parliament.

## Renewables bring 55.8% of Germany's H1 power production

Renewables were responsible for 55.8 percent of Germany's net electricity generation in the first half of 2020, reaching a record-high level fuelled by strong winds, a new report shows.

According to data released on Wednesday by Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE, a new monthly-high was achieved in February when renewables accounted for 61.8 percent of the overall power production, Renewables Now reported.

Wind was the largest contributor to the first-half result with 75 TWh of electricity generated, up from 67.2 TWh in the year-ago period, and brought 30.6 percent of the country's net electricity output. Solar came second, with around 27.9 TWh fed into the public grid that gave it a share of 11.4 percent. This was an 11.2 percent rise as compared to the first six months of 2019 thanks to the better weather conditions.

While solar and wind parks supplied a total of 102.9 TWh into the grid, generation from hard coal-fired plants slumped by 46 percent to just 14.4 TWh. The shares of lignite and hard coal fell to 13.7 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

With 23.7 TWh produced, biomass plants had a 9.7 percent share of the total net generation. Hydropower production came at 9.5 TWh, down 9 percent in annual terms.

Electricity consumption for January-June decreased to 234.2 TWh from 245.7 TWh a year back, while production marked an 8 percent drop to 243.8 TWh. The drop is a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.



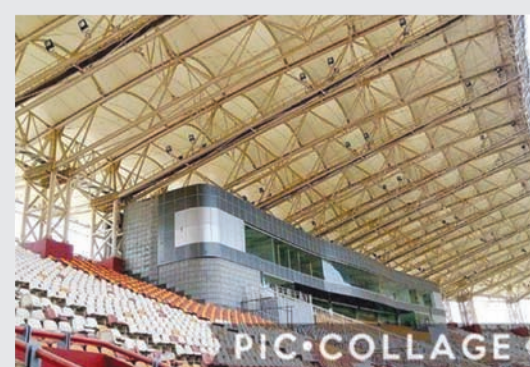


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# Saudi Arabia understands only one language, the language of force: Yemeni official

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** – “Deterrence policy became an urgent necessity in Yemen because Saudi Arabia and its coalition understand only one language, the language of force,” Director-General of Legal Affairs in the Yemeni Ministry of Education tells the Tehran Times.

The Ansarullah movement in Yemen on June 17 admitted attacks on two border airports in southwestern Saudi Arabia, using bomb-laden drones.

The first attack targeted the “operation room in Najran airport” in Najran region, while the other one hit “aircraft hangars in King Khaled Air Base in Khamis Mushait city” in Asir region Al-Masirah TV reported.

The attacks came in response to the airstrikes and blockade by the Saudi-led military coalition.

In this regard, the Tehran Times interviewed Abulwahhab Alkhalil, director-general of legal affairs in the Yemeni Ministry of Education, who says, “The importance of this operation against Saudi Arabia lies in its targeting of the Ministry of Defense from which the offensives against Yemen is managed.”

Following is the text of the interview:

■ What is your comment on the recent Yemeni military operation against Saudi Arabia?

A: The recent military operation carried out by the Yemeni missile forces against Saudi Arabia is the fourth deterrent balance operation targeting sensitive military and strategic sites in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, including the Ministry of Defense and Intelligence and Salman Air Base, as well as military sites in Jizan and Najran.

They used Samad 3 drones and launched a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles, including Qods and Zulfikar, in this operation, which was preceded by three deterrence operations.

The first operation targeted the Al Shaybah oil field in the southeast of the Saudi kingdom.

The field is located near the border with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia’s main partner in the Arab coalition against Yemen.

The second deterrent balance operation in which the Abqaiq and Khurais oil refineries were targeted in the Eastern Province, is considered the largest in the world; it disrupted the heart of oil and gas in Saudi Arabia.

The third deterrence balance operation targeted Aramco and other sensitive targets in Yanbu and hit its targets with high accuracy.

The last operation came in response to the continuation of the blockade on the Yemenis by Saudi Arabia and the Arab coalition in preventing oil-laden tankers from reaching the port of Hodeidah.

Meanwhile, Yemen is suffering from the pandemic of the COVID-19. This blockade will result in a humanitarian crisis and catastrophe at health and service levels.

The medical facilities depend directly on oil derivatives, especially the intensive care rooms and medical operations.

In the event of a power outage, a disaster occurs; the patients whose lives are dependent on these devices will die, and the service facilities will also stop due to the lack of oil derivatives.

Saudi Arabia prevented oil-laden tankers from arriving in Yemen, though they had permits from the United Nations.

However, the UN has turned its back on Yemen and openly supported Saudi Arabia, neglecting the Yemenis’ suffering under blockade and the COVID-19 outbreak.

Actually, they encouraged invading forces to continue with maritime crimes and piracy that fall within the acts that are criminalized according to the Convention on the High Seas, which signed in Geneva in 1958, and the General Maritime Treaty of 1820 which went into force in 1994.

The United Nations increased its support of Saudi Arabia and the Arab coalition by removing them from the “list of shame,” showing that it has lost the neutrality and competence to sponsor any endeavors or dialogue to resolve conflicts, especially in Yemen.

Therefore, the Yemeni people did not sit idly by, and deterrence policy became an urgent necessity because Saudi Arabia and its coalition understand “only one language, the language of force.”

Self-defense is a right approved by Article (51) of the UN



Charter, which states that “nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.”

Nevertheless, the importance of the fourth deterrence balance operation lies in its targeting of the Ministry of Defense from which the offensives against Yemen is managed, dealing a blow to its military intelligence facility as its inefficiency was revealed as it failed to track any information about the operations carried out by the Yemeni forces against Saudi Arabia.

These operations prove that the Yemeni forces will hit any targets in a way the enemy will not expect in the (possible) next operations.

Political and military equations have changed, as the deterrent operations carried out by the Yemeni forces against Saudi Arabia showed it.

Despite technical and intellectual superiority and their military capabilities and weapons, which are the most advanced at the level of modern military industrialization, Saudis failed to track our missiles, and their American-made defense systems could not even detect any missile.

The Yemeni Minister of Defense, Major General Muhammad Nasser Al-Atefi, sent strongly-worded messages to the invading forces that we are continuing to carry out wide-ranging strategic operations against the Saudi strategic depth. He further said the strategic operations would put an end to the arrogance of the invading regimes and their brutal crimes against the Yemeni people.

■ Who will benefit from a division of Yemen? What is the role of Israel in the war on Yemen?

A: Certainly, dividing Yemen is in the interest of the Israeli entity, because it was not able, through the war against Yemen, to undermine the project of awareness and the Yemeni revolution. At the same time, the Yemenis support it, especially in the areas that invading forces were unable to occupy during the past five years. After six years of war, the power of the Yemeni army and the popular committees is growing by developing their military capabilities and expertise, and making ballistic missiles, advanced drones that reach Israel, as far as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come out to announce his concern over them, accusing Iran of searching for ways to launch an accurate missile attack. Therefore, after a long period of invasion against Yemen without any achievement to secure Israel, the Zionist entity tended to support the so-called Southern Transitional Council in southern Yemen to separate it from northern Yemen, which would be with international support. By splitting southern Yemen from its north, Israel and its Arab allies aim to have effective control over the strategic and important location of Socotra, Aden and the rest of the Yemeni territories, as it has secured control over the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait which represents the most important seaports in the world. They also aim to create a base

**“Certainly, dividing Yemen is in the interest of the Israeli entity”**

for the normalization project with Israel in areas controlled by Southern Transitional Council.

■ Why is Israel trying to strengthen relations with the Transitional Council?

A: Israel is looking for a foothold in Yemen while it cannot do so through its mercenaries in the region, including the so-called Transitional Council in southern Yemen, which is under control of the Emirates.

They try to contain the danger of the growing awareness among Yemenis and their adherence to the Palestinian cause. Israeli anxiety has already started rising since the launch of the Islamic movement in Yemen, and the first call against America and Israel by the martyred leader Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi from the Maran Mountains.

He launched a practical project to confront Israel and the American arrogance in the region, so the sense of danger was significantly greater among Israelis about this awakening.

Therefore, they moved their mercenaries in the region and inside Yemen with American cooperation to undermine this project. After 6 unfair wars (against Yemen in modern history), they were unable to achieve their goal. Still, the discontent against America and Israel has increased in the region, and the Islamic project and Yemeni awareness have expanded.

At that time, Israel had no relation with the Arab regimes, especially Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. But after the revolution of September 21 that frustrated American hegemony and cut the hands of the Zionists who controlled the Yemeni decision in the past, Netanyahu, the prime minister of the Zionist enemy entity, appeared to express concern and fear about the revolution in Yemen in a speech before members of the American Congress saying that it threatens Israel.

In his speech, Netanyahu referred to Israeli mercenaries in the region and helping them in the war against Yemen, saying Israel’s interest lies in creating chaos in the country.

As we saw a sample of normalization in the Warsaw conference, where the seat of Khaled al-Yamani -who was foreign minister in the traitors’ government, was placed next to Netanyahu’s chair.

To make matters worse, al-Yamani published his picture on his Twitter account praising this step.

Israel has taken advantage of the slogans raised by the so-called Transitional Council, including the separation of the South from Yemen and the autonomy of the South, even though they are false slogans that have no base.

This project is supported and directed by the Emirates against the Saudi-backed government, which doesn’t accept the separation of south Yemen.

An article published by an Israeli newspaper revealed the relation with the Emirates describing it as the new “secret friends” in Yemen.

■ Is there coordination between Israel and Persian Gulf Arab countries to strike Yemen?

A: Coordination took place from an early date on Yemen, as we mentioned in the conversation since the wars of Sa’ dah, but Israel was not directly visible at the time. However, they participated in the offensives against Yemen from the first day. A number of reports revealed that it had carried out military operations in Yemen, including targeting Jabal Naqam with a neutron bomb. Some statements indicate Israel’s involvement after its allies failed to resolve the battle to its advantage.

■ How do you assess America’s role in supporting Saudi strikes on Yemen while it claims defense for democracy and human rights?

A: America is the Great Satan, and the invasion against Yemen has been announced from its lands. It is also seeking to re-impose its influence and control on Yemen, after thwarting its projects and the escape of its ambassador from Sana’a.

It is also exploiting the invasion against Yemen to milk the Saudi regime and plunder their money with billions of dollars in arms deals. It didn’t lose even a dollar in the war against Yemen. Yet, American military equipment’s pride was insulted in Yemen, just as the U.S. developed missile system failed to protect the Saudi regime.

America was never a democracy nor supportive of it. It practices repression and violations even on its citizens, and it controls the United Nations and the Security Council to serve its interests and breaks international and humanitarian laws when it conflicts with its interests.

## No IAEA member states can accept endless inspections: Chinese expert

**1 →** A: the EU has at least three reasons to stay committed to the JCPOA. Firstly, the EU regards the JCPOA as one of its major but rare diplomatic achievements and regards the deal as the success of its approach of normative diplomacy different from that of the U.S. Secondly; the EU also considers the JCPOA as the best way to realize its economic interests in Iran. Thirdly, the EU regards the JCPOA as necessary to maintain peace or at least prevent the security situation of its West Asian neighborhood from going worse.

But unfortunately, the EU is vulnerable because of its internal division, mainly as a result of U.S. intentional divide-and-rule policy toward the EU, and its dependence on the U.S. for security protection. The EU does not have the capability to confront the U.S. in issues relating to the JCPOA.

Despite frustrations and dissatisfactions with the EU, Iran will have to appreciate the EU’s open expression against the U.S. for withdrawing from the JCPOA and will have to work with the EU to maintain the JCPOA. In this regard, as a nation with ancient civilization, Iran will have to see its own wisdom and patience as well.

■ How do you see the future of the JCPOA? And what will be the consequences of the resolution?

A: E3 will stay committed with the JCPOA, but it is also true that they are also seriously concerned about the prospect of nuclear proliferation issues in West Asia and other places in the world.

International politics will define the consequences of the resolution. It will finally depend on how major players, including the U.S., China, Russia, France, Britain, and Germany, interact on this issue, and how Iran will conduct its diplomacy among major parties. Besides criticizing the EU countries, Iran will have to win trust from them. That will make things evolve in the directions in favor of Iran.

■ What is the main purpose of the United States and Europe in taking such actions?

A: The U.S. and Europe, though standing together in the resolution mentioned above, have different purposes. The U.S. led by the Trump administration has actually fallen to be a cats’ pawn for Israel and would find every chance to contain against and punish Iran while the EU might really have some concerns for potential proliferation in West Asia.

■ As a Chinese expert in West Asian studies, how do you analyze China’s statement to the IAEA, saying, “The root causes of this situation lie in the unilateral and bullying practices of the U.S.”?

A: China has been very clear that the U.S. should be responsible for the current problems in the implementation of the JCPOA. If the U.S. had not withdrawn from the JCPOA and had seriously implemented it, there would be no tensions about the nuclear issue, and Iran-U.S. relations could have improved.

■ What is the prospect of Sino-Iranian relations?

A: China’s support for Iran’s legitimate quests and rights in the JCPOA is one essential part of the mutual supports of the two and will serve to promote all-round relations between the two.

In January 2016, China and Iran announced that the two would construct a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during President Xi Jinping’s visit to Iran. The last four years have seen the two sides are moving forward steadily despite some frustrations on the Iranian side due to some over-expectations, and have seen the two sides have mutually supported each other firmly. China voiced very clearly its support for Iran’s legitimate standings in the nuclear issues.

The COVID-19 fight sees the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of the two is growing mature. Iran was the first country that had expressed political support and sympathy at the foreign minister’s level for China. It was among the countries that had delivered assistance to China earliest when China first found the disease. Iran’s help for China was reciprocated when Iran saw the disease’s outbreak in late February 2020. Iran was the first country that China had dispatched medical experts, and was among the countries that China had delivered the largest amount of assistance.

The joint COVID-19 fight also saw the strong people-to-people friendship between China and Iran.

China-Iran WeChat Group of Mutual Assistance in the COVID-19 fight was created shortly after the outbreak of the disease in Iran, and more than three hundred overseas students and professors of the universities learning and teaching Chinese and Farsi, and exchange students in medicine in the two countries joined the group. They translated articles, videos, and pamphlets on the prevention and treatment of the epidemic from Chinese to Farsi, and spread these materials to an Iranian audience via WeChat and other social media, which greatly served to educate the Iranian audience of the severity of the disease and the ways to fight it.

The future will see that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is growing stronger and stronger as political elites on both sides attach great importance to such a relationship, and trust and friendship between the two peoples are growing stronger.

According to information released by the Iranian side recently, the two are currently working on a 25-year vision of cooperation, which is both proofs that the bilateral relationship between the two is reaching a new high level and a new momentum further consolidating relations between the two.



**The EU is vulnerable because of its internal division, mainly as a result of U.S. intentional divide-and-rule policy toward the EU, and its dependence on the U.S. for security protection.**

## What was the deadly India-China border clash really about?

By Tariq Mir

India’s decision to cancel Kashmir’s special status is threatening to trigger a regional conflict.

On the evening of June 15, hundreds of Indian and Chinese troops laid aside their arms and took on each other in a brawl on the ridge of a mountain in Ladakh, a desolate high-altitude plateau in the northeast Kashmir. The clashes, in which clubs and stones were used, left a bloody trail of dead and wounded soldiers on a frontier that had not seen such violence in the last 45 years. And as India buried 20 slain soldiers from the fight, it began to contend with the high political cost of its ill-thought-out actions in the Himalayan region.

India’s unilateral action to revoke the special status of the disputed territory of Kashmir in August 2019 was intended, in the grand strategy of its Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to usher in “peace and development” in the restive state.

What has resulted from it instead is a never-before-seen military confrontation between three nuclear powers - China, India, and Pakistan - and the terrifying prospect of a whole region descending into the hellish vortex of war, mass suffering, and widespread economic chaos.

For nearly 70 years, a tacit understanding of sorts had kept the three countries, all of which hold portions of Kashmir’s land, from doing anything drastic to bring about a change to its fragile status quo.

But India upended the agreement by annulling the autonomy and cutting the state into two halves, and as a result, the region



described once by former US President Bill Clinton as “the most dangerous place in the world,” descended into a free-for-all.

In early May, a large contingent of Chinese troops crossed an ill-defined border that separates the two countries in Ladakh and hunkered down in trenches and camps, with a large range of artillery guns and heavy equipment flanking the troop encampment. The Chinese intrusion provided a peek into the contours of a new strategic competition unfolding on the world’s roof. In the last decade or so, India has been bolstering its defense facilities across a wide swath of the forbidding glacial landscape with the construction of roads, bridges, tunnels, and a large airbase.

After the annexation last year, the Indian political leadership made open threats to capture Gilgit-Baltistan, the northern area

of Kashmir, that went with Pakistan in 1947. What seemed to have forced China’s hand was the fear that its \$60bn investment in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative that wound through Gilgit-Baltistan, could become a victim of any major Indian military thrust into the region. The Chinese move was to forestall any such Indian assault.

The face-off between Chinese and Indian troops in Ladakh might eventually turn out to be only a sideshow to what could become a much bigger military confrontation this year between India and Pakistan along their long border in Kashmir. If Modi were to suffer a debacle in Ladakh, which, whatever way you look at it, is a possibility, for the Chinese do not seem to be in a mood to retreat, and the Indian army cannot push out a much superior

military force, he would then mobilize the public opinion against Pakistan to boost his own falling ratings.

In February 2019, during his re-election bid for the prime minister’s office, Modi ordered Indian warplanes to strike targets inside Pakistan. It was a high-risk retaliation for the suicide bombing of an Indian paramilitary force bus by a young Kashmiri rebel fighter that left at least 40 of the servicemen dead in Pulwama, Kashmir. Although the aerial attack did not achieve anything substantial, and India went on to suffer embarrassment shortly after, when Pakistan carried out a tit-for-tat attack in Kashmir and shot down an Indian fighter plane too, Modi still projected himself as the strongman who could forcefully deal with Pakistan.

Modi’s approach to Kashmir is no different, and his strong-arm tactics have fanned an air of desperation in Kashmir. The fear of loss of the homeland and how they could be turned into a minority pervades every Kashmiri home. The new domicile law brought in by the Indian government after removing its special status last year now qualifies thousands of Indians, who have lived in Kashmir for 15 years or studied there for seven, to buy the property and settle down in Kashmir.

The effect of the fear of dispossession, though, has galvanized Kashmiris at home and outside to rally together and mount a sustained campaign to bring the attention of the world to the unfolding calamity they are facing. Annexing a contested land might be a new mantra in international relations, but a strong native resistance could be the only means of defense against such onslaught.

(Source: Aljazeera)



## 23 properties in East Azarbaijan added to National Heritage List

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Twenty-three historical and natural sites as well as industrial properties in the northwestern East Azarbaijan province have been inscribed on the National Heritage List, CHTN reported on Sunday.



The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscriptions on Saturday in a letter to the governor general of the province, the report added.

Among the properties inscribed on the list are Haj Khalil Mosque, Enjili Church, and Kheljan Dovecote in Tabriz, Amir Tuman Bathhouse in Sarab, Mohammad Qassab Mansion in Shabestar and Maragheh and Marand train stations.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor, Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

## Miankaleh Peninsula: home to unique bird, reptile species

**TOURISM** One of the richest ecological havens in West Asia and perhaps in the whole world, Miankaleh Peninsula is home to many unique bird and reptile species.



Situated in the extreme southeastern part of the Caspian Sea in the north of Iran, it is also an internationally-recognized refuge for migratory birds and a top destination for birdwatchers.

## Classic Persian recipes you need in your repertoire: Tamarind-stuffed fish

**(SAVEUR)** — A luxurious whole fish preparation flavored with tangy tamarind and fragrant barberries, perfect for Nowruz, the Persian New Year. (Yield: serves 4; time: 1 hour)

- **Ingredients**
- 6 tbsp. olive oil, plus more for greasing
  - 1½ cup barberries
  - 1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
  - 1¼ cup tamarind paste
  - 4 garlic cloves, minced
  - 1½ cup minced cilantro
  - 1½ cup minced parsley
  - 1½ cup minced tarragon
  - Lime wedges, for serving
  - 4 trout, cleaned and butterflied
  - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



- **Instructions**
- Heat oven to 375°. Grease two baking sheets and set aside. Soak barberries in warm water for 30 minutes and drain.
- In a large skillet over medium-high, heat 3 tablespoons olive oil. Add the onions and cook until brown, about 10 minutes. Lower the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes more, until dark brown and caramelized. Add the barberries, almonds, tamarind, and garlic, and cook until fragrant, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cilantro, parsley, and tarragon.
- Season fish with salt and pepper. Stuff each fish with about 1½ cup stuffing and brush with remaining olive oil. Bake for 15 minutes. Change oven setting to broil and cook an additional 3 to 4 minutes, until the fish's skin is golden.

# Archaeological survey identifies 205 relics, ancient sites in Kerman

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A total of 205 relics and ancient sites have been identified during an archaeological survey in Kuhbanan, the southeastern Kerman province, suggesting that the region has long been a hub for Tutia (vitriol) production and the main corridor for human migration into the eastern parts of the Asian continent.

“In addition to 205 relics and historical sites so far been identified in Kuhbanan county, a survey co-directed by Iranian archaeologists Alireza Sardari and Morteza Khanipour, suggests that the region was once one of the human settlements in the Paleolithic era and it was a passageway for human beings who went towards eastern Iran and eastern parts of Asia,” ILNA quoted Sardari as saying on Sunday.

Sardari noted that the newly-identified artifacts include [archaeological] sites and hills, [ruined] buildings, mills, water reservoirs, remains of ancient villages and houses, towers, aqueducts, mines, stone graves, and shelters that date back to different periods of history.

Talking on the survey, Khanipour said some of the identified relics and sites date from Parthian, Sassanid, and [early] Islamic eras.

“Regarding historical sources, and [travelogues by ancient] travelers, the development of qanat [subterranean aqueduct] networks caused the creation of various villages in the in Kuhbanan region when growing population and urban development triggered the development of mosques, temples, towers, bazaars, residential houses, most of which being documented in the survey,” Khanipour explained.

In February 2020, teams archaeologists and cultural heritage experts co-led by Iranian archaeologist Nader Alidad-Soleymani and German Professor Peter Pfalzner started another survey in Kerman to record evidence about previously excavated sites in the counties of Jiroft, Kahnuj, Anbarabad, Faryab, Rudbar, Qalehganj, and Manujan.

In 2008, Piotr Steinkeller, professor of Assyriology in Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of Harvard University, announced that Jiroft is the lost ancient city of Marhashi. Steinkeller presented his theory



File photo depicts the remnants of a mud-brick village in Kuhbanan county of Iran's southeastern Kerman province.

during the first round of an international conference on Jiroft civilization, held in Tehran on May 5 and 6, 2008. Marhashi, (known in earlier sources as Warahshe) was a 3rd millennium BC polity, which was formed east of Elam on the Iranian plateau.

Big and sprawling Kerman Province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

## Some 3,000 tourism workers in Kish lose job over coronavirus outbreak

➔ **1** He also noted that due to the climatic conditions of the island and the time of the outbreak of the virus, which coincided with the island's tourist season, Kish Island's tourism industry took a severe hit from the pandemic.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

The worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 has brought the world to a standstill, and tourism has been the worst affected of all major economic sectors.

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.

Latest available data show eight million tourists visited the country during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).



## Lorestan province to hold fam tour despite pandemic



An aerial view of Falak-ol-Aflak fortress in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province, western Iran.

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Lorestan tourism department is scheduled to hold a familiarization tour in a bid to promote traveling to the western province.

Heads of associations of travel and tourism agencies from all over the country, some artists, correspondents, and prominent documentarians have been invited to the tour, which will be held on July 15 and 16. CHTN quoted provincial deputy tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qasemi as saying on Sunday.

The decision, however, comes in a time when the country is still struggling with the coronavirus pandemic and the government has taken measures to curb the virus such as mandatory requirement for wearing masks in public places and covered

spaces. Over the past couple of months, the fear of the virus has emptied thousands of exhibition halls across the globe.

Over 1.5 million visits were paid to tourist attractions and museums in Lorestan during the past Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended March 20).

Lorestan was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. The region was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

## Visits to Kermanshah tourist sites plummet as coronavirus forces travel curbs

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Some 32,000 travelers visited historical and tourist sites across Kermanshah province during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20), a sharp decline compared to around 232,000 visits in the same period last year as travel curbs were imposed to limit the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Provincial deputy tourism chief Ali Saber said that 31,838 visits to historical sites [and museums] across Kermanshah were registered during the first three months of the year. He added that the coronavirus disease has had a vast impact on the province's tourism, ISNA reported on Sunday.

“The infection started spreading when we were expecting to meet a high season in tourism of the province. We had already planned to well host a large number of travelers.”

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, of which Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The country closed cultural heritage museums and historical sites across the country in a preventive measure amid fears of coronavirus outbreak back in February, but as the coronavirus lockdown was eased, they were reopened in early May.

Saber also expressed his hope that the province would witness a tourism boom after coronavirus.



Photo depicts Taq-e Bostan, one of main tourist destinations in Kermanshah. The site boasts extraordinary samples of Sassanian bas-relief carvings inscribed into the base of a towering cliff.

However, provincial tourism chief Omid Qaderi announced on Saturday that all museums across the western province have gone on lockdown again for at least one week following the increase in the number of people infected with the coronavirus.

Amongst province's several popular historical sites, Taq-e Bostan, Bisotun, and the Temple of Anahita, which reopened their doors to the public in May, can continue

their activities as the strict sanitary and social distancing requirements can be observed carefully in these places, he said.

The accommodation centers including hotels, guest houses, and eco-lodge units are also allowed to resume their work with 50 percent of their capacities, the official added.

He also noted that travel restrictions haven't been imposed yet, but travelers

need to follow strict health protocols.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting the king Darius I and several other figures. UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

Temple of Anahita in the city of Kangavar is believed to have been built circa 200 BC. Several column bases and ruins of a wall remain from the magnificent Greek-style temple.

The temple was used during the Parthian era (248 BC-224) as well as the Sassanid era (224-651).

The monument was damaged as it was used for various purposes by the Seljuk, Ilkhanid, Safavid, and Qajar dynasties, which ruled in Iran over the past centuries.

The Temple of Anahita was seriously damaged by an earthquake in 1957. Afterward, people invaded the perimeter of the site, using stones from the temple to rebuild their homes at that location.



# Iran, South Korea to enhance co-op on fighting international crimes

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — Director General of Interpol in Iran Hadi Shirzad and South Korean Ambassador to Tehran Ryu Jeong-Hyun discussed expanding cooperation on fighting international crimes and expanding bilateral ties.

During a meeting held on Saturday, Shirzad said that “The Law Enforcement Forces of Iran (NAJA) have always insisted on speeding up police missions.”

He further referred to the achievements of the NAJA in the fight against international crime and expressed readiness to expand cooperation and education in this regard.

Explaining the goals and missions of the NAJA in the international arena, he emphasized on expansion of cooperation in different countries, expanding police relations, exchanging experiences, in order to accelerate the extradition and prosecution of criminals.

For his part, the South Korean official expressed readiness to cooperate as much as possible in various fields of police activities, highlighting that the development of joint police relations between the two countries is essential for the promotion of security mechanisms.



## Iranian, Russian chancellors of top universities to meet online

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — The fifth meeting of the chancellors of top universities of Iran and Russia will be held online on July 7 with the aim of expanding scientific and academic cooperation.

The event will be also attended by some political, cultural, and scientific officials of the two countries, ILNA news agency reported on Sunday.

Since 2015, four meetings have been held at the University of Tehran and State University of Moscow, through which a Memorandum of Understanding has

been signed to establish the Union of Iranian and Russian Universities and Permanent Secretariats of the Union of Iranian and Russian Universities.

The meetings also led to signing and publishing four joint statements focusing on the expansion of Iran-Russia academic relations. Moreover, several MOUs were signed between universities of the two countries in the fields of teaching Persian and Russian languages, mathematics, aerospace engineering, and medical sciences.



## IRGC at full capacity in fight against coronavirus

**1 →** The IRGC has informed the provincial commanders to be prepared to deal with the second wave of coronavirus outbreak, he highlighted, concluding, to battle the pandemic, we use all the IRGC's power and remove any obstacles.

Over the past 24 hours, 2,560 new cases of COVID-19 were identified in the country, of which 1,295 were hospi-

talized, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Sunday, adding that the total number of patients in the country reached 240,438.

Unfortunately, 163 patients lost their lives over the past 24 hours.

The total number of COVID-19 deaths in the country reached 11,571, she said.



## Thawing Arctic permafrost could release deadly waves of ancient diseases, scientists suggest

Disturbing things are happening in the Arctic.

In the last fortnight a devastating heatwave has seen temperatures in Siberia reach a record 38C (100.4F), meanwhile, vast fires are burning, releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and dramatically illustrating the vicious circle of climate breakdown.

As climate scientists ponder whether these extremes portend the dawn of a terrifying new era of supercharged heat in the Arctic, the planet also remains gripped by the coronavirus pandemic, the Independent reported.

It is at this pivotal moment a startling new risk could also be unleashed upon the world – one which binds together both the implications of an overheating planet and the tragedy of a highly contagious disease.

Scientists have said the rapidly warming climate in the far north risks exposing long-dormant viruses, which may be tens or even hundreds of thousands of years old, and have been frozen in the permafrost in the Arctic.

Due to the rapid heating – the Arctic is warming up at least twice as fast as the rest of the world – the permafrost is now

thawing for the first time since before the last ice age, potentially freeing pathogens the like of which modern humans have never before grappled with.

Jean Michel Claverie, a virologist at Aix-Marseille University, told Greenpeace's investigative journalism outfit Unearthed: “The idea that bacteria can survive for very long I think is definitely accepted. The remaining debate is for how long? Is it a million years? 500,000 years? Is it 50,000 years?”

He added: “There are extremely good papers that say yes, you can revive bacteria

from deep permafrost.”

Dr Chantal Abergel, also a virologist at the same institution, added: “We are able to revive viruses out of ancient permafrost samples. So far we have not been able to go up to 30,000 years, but it may come at some point.”

So far researchers have been able to successfully reactivate ancient DNA viruses, but not the more fragile RNA viruses.

RNA viruses include diseases such as Spanish flu and the coronavirus responsible for the current pandemic.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → E

## Iran capable of manufacturing any medicine in two years

Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of Food and Drug Administration, has said.

Some medicines are not currently manufactured domestically as their production is not economically justifiable because of low consumption, he added, IRNA reported.

In some cases, medicines are new pharmaceutical molecules that have recently been produced worldwide, he noted.

“The U.S. has sanctioned medicine as far as possible, but we have been able to provide patients with the required medicine, and currently there is no shortages,” he explained.

## ایران می تواند هر دارویی را ظرف دو سال تولید کند

رئیس سازمان غذا و دارو گفت هر دارویی را می‌توانیم طی ۲ سال در داخل کشور تولید کنیم.

به گزارش ایرنا، محمدرضا شانه ساز روز دوشنبه گفت این یک بلوف نیست و صنعت داروسازی و دانشمندان کشور توان تولید همه داروها را دارند.

به گفته شانه ساز، برخی اقلام دارویی که اکنون در داخل تولید نمی شود به علت کم مصرفی است زیرا توجیه اقتصادی ندارد یا مولکول های دارویی جدیدی هستند که به تازگی در دنیا تولید شده اند.

او ادامه داد: آمریکا هر دارویی را که توانسته تحریم کرده اما ما توانسته ایم از راههایی که می دانیم داروهای مورد نیاز بیماران را تامین کنیم و اکنون دارو به میزان کافی در سراسر کشور وجود دارد.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “hyp- or hyph- or hypo-”

■ **Meaning:** under, beneath, low

■ **For example:** The sequence shows *hypogeal* germination of peas.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Pop off

■ **Meaning:** to die suddenly; to say something quickly and without thinking

■ **For example:** You're all just waiting till I pop off so you can get your hands on my money.

### IDIOM

#### Bring someone to heel

■ **Explanation:** if you force someone to behave in a disciplined manner, you bring them to heel

■ **For example:** The boy had always behaved badly, but the new headmaster managed to bring him to heel.

## FAO shares international expertise and knowledge with Iran in Early Warning Early Action systems

**Tehran** – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close partnership with its national stakeholders in Iran and Mongolia organised a knowledge-sharing event for Iranian experts, providing a unique opportunity to transfer technical expertise and international experiences in Dzud Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) systems between the two nations.

According to a press release published by the FAO Representation in Iran, the event focused on discussing different aspects of successful implementation of Dzud Early Warning Early Action system in Mongolia, including developing risk maps using nationwide and comprehensive meteorological network data; crafting a functional procedure for on-time disseminations of analysed information; and developing and taking anticipatory measures by national authorities based on the latest update.

As presented in the webinar, the FAO-supported project in Mongolia not only allows national authorities to mitigate the negative impacts of disasters and reduce large-scale damages and losses caused to the agriculture sector but also, through delivering immediate assistance, it contributes to the improvement of food security in the affected rural communities and the empowerment of vulnerable population to maintain their livelihoods during the disaster and rebuild them in post-disaster periods.

In this regard, the achieved results demonstrated how such measures are cost-effective for the national government as every USD 1 spent on early actions taken by authorities to help the risk-prone households, returns more than USD 7 in benefits – reduced damages and losses – to each disaster-affected family.

At the outset of webinar, Mr Shukri Ahmed, FAO Deputy Strategic Programme Leader on Resilience highlighted the need to strengthen the global awareness and the shift from managing disasters to managing risks. He urged the realisation of such by employing preventive and anticipatory mechanisms and put in place necessary actions and interventions to reduce risks and prevent them from turning to disasters. Capacity building at all levels, from global to communities to households is necessary to be able to absorb shocks and mitigate their impacts. He added, “having good early warning information is only one side of the equation; if we are not proactive enough in translating such information to early action, it does not fully serve its purpose.”

“Early and expedited actions in the pre-disaster situation, not only can save lives and protect livelihoods from the immediate shocks caused by the natural hazard and climate induced disasters but also would protect long-term development gains by increasing the resilience of local communities over time,” said Mr Gerold Bödeker, FAO Representative to Iran in his statement during the event, delivered by FAO-Iran Programme Consultant.

Mr Gerold Bödeker also underscored the firm commitment by FAO to jointly work with Iran “to adopt and establish early warning platforms and develop indicators and evidence-based triggers to enable effective early actions against looming disasters.”

“The Organization looks forward to increasing collaboration with the Government of Iran and the other counterparts in promoting climate-smart and risk-reducing/prooofing agriculture practices and strengthening disaster risk management capacities,” emphasised FAO Representative to Iran in his concluding remarks.

Linking to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Resident Coordinator to Iran, Ms Ugochi Daniels emphasised that “access to reliable data/information and robust analysis, including early warning systems and early warning early action” is more urgent and important than ever. She added that the COVID-19 pandemic reinforces the call for multi-sectoral, multi-hazard and anticipatory approaches that consistently integrate disaster and climate risk management and strengthen the resilience of people, their livelihoods and the ecosystems they depend on in a sustainable manner.

Describing the benefits of establishing Early Warning Systems, Mr Vinod Ahuja, FAO Representative in Mongolia asserted that such systems “helps anticipate the impact of the disaster and allows all stakeholders to act early to overcome the disaster with minimal losses. This has been a great step forward to being prepared and building resilience.”

FAO, as the lead UN agency dedicated to increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods and food systems, will continue to work closely with partners to build inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies, thereby, supporting countries to deliver on their commitments on disaster risk reduction and climate change actions to ensure risk-informed development.

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Belgium: trial of Marc Dutroux

(March 01, 2004)

Amid heavy security, the trial of the alleged child murderer Marc Dutroux has begun in the Belgian town of Arlon. Three other defendants, including Dutroux's ex-wife, are facing lesser charges. The trial could last up to four months. This report from Chris Morris:

With a police helicopter **hovering** overhead and hundreds of officers on duty around the courthouse, Belgium is finally witnessing the trial of Marc Dutroux. It's eight years since he was arrested and charged with murder, **abduction** and imprisonment; eight years since four girls died and two others were rescued from a basement cell. In court today, the defendant sat behind bullet-proof glass as the court prepared to **swear in** a jury. Defence lawyers will argue that it's impossible for Marc Dutroux to get a fair trial in a country which has, in effect, already declared him guilty. He was he was just a **pawn** in the game, part of a much broader conspiracy. Many Belgians believe him. They point to police and **judicial blunders** as evidence that there's been a campaign to cover up the truth. But the prosecution says Dutroux and his **accomplices** worked on their own. They will argue that he is an evil man, responsible for the most horrific of crimes.

■ **Words**

**hovering:** waiting, in the air, in one place

**abduction:** if someone abducts another person, they take the person away, using force

**bullet-proof:** made of a strong material that bullets cannot pass through

**swear in:** to promise to fulfil the duties of a new job or appointment

**pawn:** someone being used by another person for his or her own advantage

**judicial:** relating to judgement in a court of law

**blunders:** stupid mistakes

**accomplices:** an accomplice is someone who helps another person commit a crime

(Source: BBC)



## Iraqis rally to decry Saudi paper's offensive cartoon of Ayatollah Sistani

Iraqi protesters have staged a demonstration in the capital Baghdad to condemn Saudi daily Asharq al-Awsat newspaper over an offensive cartoon depicting Iraq's most prominent Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

The demonstrators converged outside the gates of the heavily-fortified Green Zone, which is home to several embassies and government offices including the parliament and the prime minister's office, on Sunday, seeking to break into the Saudi embassy, Arabic-language al-Ahad television network reported.

The participants demanded that the Iraqi government adopt a clear stance on the insult to the prominent religious figure.

Ahad said security forces used tear gas to disperse the protesters who were trying to enter the area.

The report said there were injuries among the demonstrators after the Green Zone Protection Forces assaulted them.

■ **Hezbollah slams Asharq al-Awsat's affront to senior Iraqi cleric**

Meanwhile, Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has strongly condemned the offensive cartoon, emphasizing that the cleric enjoys a sublime position in the hearts and minds of Muslims.

"Ayatollah Sistani has always preserved Iraq's safety, political stability and national unity," the Lebanese resistance movement said in a statement released on Saturday evening, pointing to a June 2014 fatwa (religious decree) issued by the cleric, which called on all Iraqi citizens to defend their country shortly after Daesh unleashed its terror campaign in Iraq.

## Kanye West announces 2020 presidential run

Kanye West, the entertainment mogul who urges listeners in one song to "reach for the stars, so if you fall, you land on a cloud," claimed Saturday he is challenging Donald Trump for the US presidency in 2020.

"We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for president of the United States! #2020VISION," the born-again billionaire rapper tweeted as Americans marked Independence Day, AFP reported.

West offered no further details on his supposed campaign, four months before the November election, and it is unclear if he has officially registered to run for office.

Hundreds of thousands of Twitter users reacted to the star's announcement and "Kanye" shot to become the top trending term on the platform, although many questioned whether the volatile rapper would go through with his plan and others claimed it was a publicity stunt.

## Massive protests staged across Australia in support of Black Lives Matter

Mass protest rallies have been staged in cities across Australia in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. Anti-racism rallies were held in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Perth, and other cities over the weekend.

The rallies were staged amid health warnings about the spread of the coronavirus disease. Rally organizers urged the protesters to maintain social distancing during the demos.

The protest rallies began a month ago to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, which has gained momentum after the U.S. police killing of African-American George Floyd.

In Australia, there has also been an increased focus on the mistreatment of the indigenous people of the continent.

Australia's indigenous people now make up only about three percent of the total population of the country of approximately 25 million.

The protesters have also demanded the removal of the statues of figures with legacies related to colonialism and racism.

One such figure was 18th-century British explorer Captain James Cook, whose statue in Sydney was recently defaced.

## Resistance News

### IOA starts to expand Neve Daniel settlement on annexed land

**INTERNATIONAL d e s k** **TEHRAN**— The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) has started to build 164 housing units in the illegal settlement of Neve Daniel, south of Bethlehem.

According to the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission, the new housing units will be built on dozens of dunums of Palestinian land, which were annexed from the towns of al-Khader and Nahalin.

The Commission accused the IOA of making use of the global coronavirus crisis to illegally seize more land and expand its illegal settlements and outposts in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

## Ghanim calls for Arab and int'l action against Israel's arrogance

**INTERNATIONAL d e s k** **TEHRAN**— Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Marzouq al-Ghanim has condemned the Israeli intents to annex Palestinian lands as a reflection of its arrogance, calling for Arab and international action against such plans.

This came in a press release issued by the office of Ghanim following his talk over the phone with his Jordanian counterpart and chairman of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union Atef Tarawneh, according to the Jordan News Agency.

Ghanim reiterated his Assembly's rejection of "Israel's aggressive unilateral steps" and its readiness to work with Arab and friendly parliaments at all continental and international parliamentary forums and events to expose Israel's practices and rally an international position against it.

He also stressed his country's rejection of Israel's plan to annex the Jordan Valley and called for decisive Arab and international reactions in this regard.

# 'Third intifada imminent if Israel annexes West Bank'

An adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has warned that a third intifada (uprising) could be just around the corner if Israel goes ahead with its highly-contentious plan to annex parts of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Speaking to France 24 Arabic on Saturday, Nabil Shaath said that the two major Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah, which are based in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively, are in agreement about a new intifada if Israel annexes the West Bank.

"When things flare up and it becomes a fully-fledged intifada, we will see a combination of forces between Gaza and the West Bank," he said.

Shaath also noted that he expected the potential Palestinian uprising to be funded by the Arab world, Press Tv reported.

The first intifada, which took place in 1987-1993, involved Palestinian demonstrations, mass boycotts and general strikes as well as attacks on Israeli forces using rocks, Molotov cocktails, and firearms.

The second intifada featured many more pitched gun battles and bombings. It began in 2000 and lasted until 2005, leaving 3,200 Palestinians and about 1,000 Israelis dead.

Israel's ruling coalition, led by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had announced July 1 as the date to begin moving forward with the scheme to impose "sovereignty" over about a third of the West Bank, including settlements and the fertile Jordan Valley.

The regime, however, failed to launch the land grab bid on the set date amid widening differences between Netanyahu and his coalition partner, minister of military affairs Benny Gantz.



Israel's labor, social affairs and services minister Ofir Akunis stressed that officials were still working out the details of the plan with their American counterparts.

Akunis also said that he expected the annexation to take place later this month after U.S. President Donald Trump issued a declaration on the matter.

The U.S. president had already given Tel Aviv the green light for the land grab in his self-proclaimed "deal of the century," which was unveiled in January with the aim of re-drawing the Middle East map.

But recently there have been indications of Trump's waning support for the annexation deal, with some analysts arguing that the U.S. president already has too much on his plate to deal with in light of the upcoming elections and the COVID-19 crisis gripping the United States, and therefore is not in a situation to continue his controversial support for Netanyahu's land grab project.

Israel's planned push to illegally consolidate its occupation of Palestine has drawn fierce international condemnations even from some of the regime's closest allies.

The UN, the EU and key Arab countries have all said the West Bank annexation would violate international law and undermine

the prospects of establishing a sovereign Palestinian state on 1967 boundaries.

At a joint press conference on July 2, Hamas and Fatah pledged unity against Israel's annexation of Palestinian areas and vowed to "topple" Trump's Middle East plan.

Israeli lawmaker Ayman Odeh of opposition Joint List party also attended the conference.

"I'm taking part in the conference in Ramallah to support Palestinian reconciliation moves. Reconciliation between the factions is a necessary step in combating annexation, ending the occupation and achieving a just peace," he said in a statement.

## British government is major partner in killing civilians in Yemen

→ 1 but that Saudis attended in times of previous courses on defense systems in particular Tornado, which is (fighters also used by the Saudis to strike and bomb Yemen).

The training of Saudi students continued despite the arrest of 2016 Saudi candidates accused of rape at the base.

In 2019, Wing Commander Jim Thorley, Chief Technical Training Officer at COSford, decided to resign "to take up a position in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia."

Declassed.com reported that 10 small-level pilots entered initial flight training courses at the Royal Air Force base in Cranwell, Parkston Heath base in Lincolnshire and the Wretting base in Cambridge Shire, north of London in 2019, and in the same year, 30 Saudis also learned how to Fast aircraft driving at Valle Base in Anglesey, North Wales.

According to the site, a BAE Hawk aircraft is used for training the British and Saudi military at the Vale base, where the BAE employs 78 people.

Among the 21 countries that Britain trained its pilots last year, most of the 600 trainees came from countries that buy British weapons, including countries that support Saudi Arabia in the Yemen war.



A spokesman for the campaign against the arms trade, Andrew Smith, said that the war in Yemen "created the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world" and "Britain was fully complicit in fueling the crisis."

The British-made fighters were important in the bombing and it appears that a large number of the people who led them were trained in Britain.

He added that the training is evidence of the warm and lasting political and military relationship between the British government and the Saudi regime. We were told that Britain is defending the achievement of man around the world, but it supports, arm and cooperate with one of the worst totalitarian dictatorships in the world.

In June 2019, the British government assured Parliament that it would not issue export licenses to arms to Saudi Arabia and the countries allied with it so that they would not be used in the Yemen war, but Minister of Commerce Liz Terrance apologized to Parliament in September 2019 because it allegedly allowed, according to its claim, the export of 180 spare parts for the Saudi signal weapon. In clear violation of the court's decision.

Terrance said, Ministry officials did not know that Saudi forces employed in Yemen.

Directly and shockingly, Britain participated in feeding the Yemeni crisis and the war in the country which suffers from the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world, and British warplanes participated in the bombing of civilian targets and killed civilians, including children.

(Source: Yemen Press)

## Protesters burn American flag outside White House after Trump's July Fourth address

→ 1 Burning the American flag is not illegal, however, and the Supreme Court ruled in the 1989 case Texas v. Johnson that the action is protected by the First Amendment.

■ **Protesters in Baltimore use ropes to remove statue of Christopher Columbus**

Meanwhile, a Christopher Columbus monument has been toppled by a group of protesters in the Little Italy neighborhood of Baltimore, in the US state of Maryland, on the evening of 4 July. The group used ropes to pull down the statue before tossing it into Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Video of the incident, shared in social media, revealed a group of violent protesters shouting while removing the monument from its base using ropes.

The marble statue, one of three Columbus monuments in Baltimore, was dedicated in 1984, honoring the legacy of the 15th century Italian explorer, known as a sea captain who discovered America for Spain.

As the nation-wide movement against racial injustice and police brutality gains ground in the United States, the legacy of Columbus has resulted in the figure now being denounced by many over his - and his sponsors - 'enslavement' of native peoples in the region.

The statue toppling in Baltimore echoes a series of violent acts against other historical monuments, such as defacing a George Washington statue in Manhattan and pulling down a Thomas Jefferson statue, alongside



that of many Confederate leaders.

Amid the ongoing protests, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order envisaging up to ten years imprisonment for those who are found guilty of violence and vandalism toward statues.

■ **Two dead, eight injured after shooting at South Carolina nightclub**

In another event, A Greenville County Sheriff's deputy noticed a "disturbance" at the club before 2 a.m., and called for backup due to "active gunfire from inside the building", according to Lt. Jimmy Bolt.

Initial reports suggested that 12 people were wounded, but the Sheriff's Office later the revised figures, stating that 2 people died and 8 more were injured.

The news comes after a series of fatal shootings across the American South. On Saturday, one man was killed and three others injured in a shooting attack at a Mississippi nightclub, and a day before a child was shot dead and three others were admitted to a hospital after a shooting at a mall in Alabama.

## Algeria seeks apology from France over colonial past: president

Algeria is waiting for an apology from France's colonial occupation of the North African country, the president said, expressing hope that French President Emmanuel Macron would build on recent conciliatory overtures.

A global re-examination of the legacy of colonialism has been unleashed by the May killing of unarmed African American George Floyd by a white police officer, which sparked mass protests around the world.

"We have already had half-apologies. The next step is needed... we await it," President Abdelmadjid Tebboune said on Saturday in an interview with news channel France 24.

"I believe that with President Macron, we can go further in the appeasement process... he is a very honest man, who wants to improve the situation."

France's 132 years of colonial rule in Algeria and the brutal eight-year war that ended it, have left a legacy of often prickly relations between the two countries.

In what has been seen as a thaw in ties, Algeria on Friday received the skulls of 24 resistance fighters decapitated during the colonial period.

The skulls will be laid to rest in the martyrs' section of the capital's El Alia cemetery on Sunday - the 58th anniversary of Algeria's independence - according to media reports.

Tebboune said an apology from France would "make it possible to cool tensions and create a calmer atmosphere for economic and cultural relations," especially for the more than six million Algerians living in France.

In December 2019, Macron said "colonialism was a grave mistake" and called for turning the page on the past.

During his presidential election campaign, he had created a storm by calling France's colonization of Algeria a "crime against humanity".

United Nations human rights chief Michelle Bachelet has



urged countries to make amends for "centuries of violence and discrimination".

## U.S. diplomats leaving Saudi as coronavirus cases surge

As countries around the world prepare to battle a looming second wave of coronavirus infections, many United States diplomats are following hundreds of U.S. citizens repatriated over the past few months.

Dozens of U.S. diplomats, along with their families, have left Saudi Arabia in the

past 48 hours as the kingdom struggles to contain the outbreak, just weeks after it reopened its economy, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported.

More are expected to fly out in the coming weeks, officials familiar with the plan told the WSJ, after the U.S. State Depart-

ment approved the voluntary departure of "non-emergency personnel".

Despite Saudi Arabia's efforts to contain the spread of the virus early on, the number of the cases in the country has surged past 200,000 - up 110,000 from May - according to figures published by

the Johns Hopkins University. More than 1,800 people there have died.

The uptick in the number of infections coincided with the kingdom's move to lift restrictions in a bid to revive its economy, which has suffered from low oil prices.



# Volleyball can become popular as football: Salehi Amiri

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — President of National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Reza Salehi Amiri, said that volleyball can become popular as football in Iran.

Salehi Amiri, who was accompanied by Nasrollah Sajjadi, Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Summer Games, and Olympic gold medal winner Behdad Salimi, visited Iran Volleyball Federation headquarters in Tehran on Sunday.

"Sociologically, I believe that volleyball can shine in the future and it could become popular as football in Iran," Salehi Amiri said.

Praising volleyball president Mohammadreza Davarzani as founder of modern volleyball in Iran, Salehi Amiri said, "I am sure Iran can shine on the Olympic stage and stay among the world's powerhouse teams. Davarzani is well aware of what the federation needs to be successful."

Salehi Amiri also is sure the re-arranged Tokyo 2020 Olympics will take place next year. "A coronavirus vaccine could be coming later this year and it will help the organizers to hold the Games. Japanese people have resumed their normal life after the coronavirus lockdown and it means that the Games to be held successfully next year."

Davarzani, on the sideline of the meeting, emphasized that Iran volleyball are ready to be among the top four teams in the Olympic Games.

Iran made history in 2016, booking a place at the Olympic Games for the first time as the top ranked Asian team. The



"Persian Leopards" finished at the fifth place in the Games. Now, the head of Iran volleyball federation says that they want

a better place in Tokyo.

"Now, we are focusing on finding a new head coach for the National Team. We have

both foreign and Iranian option for the team and will announce his name at the appropriate time," Davarzani said.

## 10-man Persepolis beat Shahin Bushehr



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team emerged victorious over Shahin Bushehr in Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday. At an empty Azadi Stadium, Persepolis edged past struggling Shahin 1-0 to cement their position at the top of the table.

Persepolis were reduced to 10 men after Kamal Kamyabinia received a straight red card for a reckless tackle on Shahin player in the 43rd minute.

In the 66th minutes, Mehdi Torabi rolled his shot beneath Shahin goalkeeper Abolfazl Darvishvand to seal three crucial points for the Reds.

The result left Shahin Bushehr bottom of the table.

In Isfahan, rock-bottom Paykan defeated their hosts Zob Ahan 4-1 and Tractor moved up to third place with a 2-0 win over Sanat Naft in Tabriz and went level on points with second-placed Sepahan.

## Greco-Roman wrestler Hossein Nouri hospitalized in ICU



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Three-time Asian champion Hossein Nouri is being treated for coronavirus in the intensive care treatment (ICU) of Tehran's Masih Daneshvari Hospital.

The Greco-Roman wrestler was diagnosed with COVID-19 in his hometown Karaj but was transferred to Tehran after his condition worsened.

Nouri won a bronze medal at the 2017

World Championships in Paris.

The 87kg wrestler also won three gold medals in Asian Championships in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Nouri also claimed a gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games.

Iran has been battling the spread of the coronavirus, with the total number of cases hitting 237,878 on Saturday and a further 148 deaths bringing the country's toll to 11,408.

## Ali Karimi: Iran's finest footballing export

Although he wasn't the first Iranian player to try his luck in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich, Ali Karimi is probably the most renowned. A professional career lasting almost 20 years played out in four countries at a variety of clubs, resulted in Karimi becoming one of Iranian football's best-known exports.

Born in Karaj, Iran, in 1978, Karimi signed his first professional contract for Iranian second flight club, Fath Tehran, where he spent two years. A transfer to Persepolis, the top side in Iran, ensued in 1998 and the domestic double was won the following season. By this time, Karimi had already won the first of 127 caps for Iran in what was to prove a fourteen-year international career.

An attacking midfielder usually, Karimi was an aggressive ball-winner who contributed to the score sheet regularly. Not especially tall or strongly built, Karimi was nevertheless noted for his strength on the ball intertwined with his stamina. A player who could be deployed playing just off the front two or a little deeper, Karimi was known for his sense of timing and his ability to find space. It was these attributes that contributed to his more than healthy goalscoring record over his career.

After three years with Persepolis, Karimi was ready to move on. A transfer abroad was the preferred option and after a trial with Perugia Calcio proved unsuccessful, Karimi signed for United Arab Emirates side Al-Ahli. In four seasons at the club, Karimi contributed to Al-Ahli twice winning the UAE Cup.

In October 2004, Iran played host to Germany in an international friendly. Although Iran were defeated by



two goals to nil. Karimi played well and his performance didn't go unnoticed. The following May, Bundesliga giants, Bayern Munich, announced the signing of Karimi despite reservations in some quarters regarding Karimi's fitness.

Karimi was to play more than forty times for the Bavarian giants over the next two seasons, and although he only scored a handful of goals, he contributed to a Bundesliga and German Cup success in 2006.

After two years in Germany, Karimi was on the move again — this time to Qatar Sports Club, where he was to play a single season. Next was a move back to Persepolis in Iran. The move didn't prove to be particularly successful the second time around and Karimi's time back at the club was to end in acrimony after only a year when a dispute over

his contract resulted in him being transferred to Steel Azin.

Two relatively successful seasons ensued with Karimi contributing regularly from midfield. Once again, however, Karimi's time at the club wasn't without controversy.

In January 2011, Karimi signed a short-term deal back in the Bundesliga with Schalke 04 until the end of the season. However, he was to make only two appearances.

A further return to Persepolis followed, where Karimi made another 50 appearances over the next two seasons, scoring at a rate of almost one goal every three games. By now his career was winding down and after a further season with Tractor Sazi, Karimi retired in the summer of 2014 after helping his club with the Iranian Cup.

His international career spanned fourteen years and 127 caps with 38 goals and took in the World Cup final stages of 2006 and the qualification stages of the 2002, 2010 and 2014 versions. He also won the Asian Games in 1998. Almost inevitably his time with the national side had its moments of strife. He was dropped in May 2008 for criticizing the Iranian FA, the IRIFF, and only reinstated after personal intervention from the Iranian Prime Minister.

Since his retirement from playing in 2014, Karimi has made a name for himself in management and coaching, including a spell as Carlos Queiroz's assistant for the national team.

The Asian Footballer of the Year in 2004 and runner-up in 2012, Karimi is rightly remembered as one of the nation's best-ever players and thanks largely to his spells in the Bundesliga he helped raise the profile of Iranian and Asian football in general.

(Source: PunditFeed)

## Xavi signs one year extension with Al-Sadd

The Blaugrana legend has agreed to stay on as the Qatar based club's head coach through to the end of the 2020-21 season

Xavi's long-awaited return to Barcelona has been put on hold after his decision to sign a one-year contract extension with Al-Sadd. Barcelona said goodbye to a club legend when Xavi called time on a hugely successful spell at Camp Nou spanning 17 years in 2015.

The Spaniard spent the next four seasons playing in the Qatar Stars League for Al-Sadd, before hanging up his boots in May

of last year.

Xavi was subsequently appointed Al-Sadd's new permanent head coach, and has since guided the club to two trophies.

The 40-year-old has been heavily linked with the top job at Barca since moving into management, as the Spanish champions continue to try and rediscover the spark of previous eras under former players Pep Guardiola and Luis Enrique.

Quique Setien is the latest man attempting to bring back the glory days at Camp Nou,

but he is already being tipped to leave the club after just six months in charge.

Xavi, who recently admitted that he harbours ambitions to coach Barca in the future, has been touted to replace Setien if he fails to deliver success in either La Liga or the Champions League come the end of the season.

However, the former Blaugrana captain has now committed his immediate future to Al-Sadd, with an official announcement posted on the club's Twitter account on Sunday.

Xavi has delivered a message to supporters

after agreeing to fresh terms, which reads: "Happy to renew my contract with Al-Sadd. I'm working with the club's management during the current period on a number of issues, including the renewal of Akram Afif's contract, and signing foreign players to replace Gabi and Marco Fabian."

Despite the World Cup winner's decision to remain in Qatar, Barca could still end up bringing back an influential figure after the club's next presidential elections in the summer of 2021.

## Amir Sedighi elected as Iran wushu president

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Amir Sedighi has been elected as new head of Iran Wushu Federation on Sunday.

In the presidential elections held at the Iran's Academy Olympic, Sedighi was elected for a four-year term till 2024 by receiving 34 votes out of 43 votes.



Mamoud Motedayen finished in second place in the elections with nine votes.

Sedighi replaced Mehdi Alinejad who worked as wushu president for 12 years.

Alinejad currently serves as the Iranian Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth.

"First, I would first like to thank everyone for giving me an opportunity to serve as president of wushu federation for the next four years. Wushu is one of the most decorated federations in Iran and I know it's a difficult task ahead of us. We can achieve our goals if we stand up and work together. We are a united family," Sedighi said.

## Rio Ave President confirms interests for Mehdi Taremi

Antônio da Silva Campos, president of Rio Ave, has confirmed that several European clubs have shown their interest in signing Mehdi Taremi.

The Iranian forward has scored 16 goals so far for Rio Ave. "There are several clubs that are interested", António da Silva Campos told in an interview with O Jogo.

"We wait until the end of the season then will decide the fate of the player. The truth is that there is strong competition for the Iranian international, who has another year of contract with the team," he added.

"Benfica, Porto, Bordeaux, and other clubs from, Spain, Italy and England are also among the long list of Taremi. He costs 10 million euros," the Rio Ave president stated.

(Source: O Jogo)

## Two Iran league matches cancelled after players test positive for coronavirus

**Tasnim** — The match between Pars Jonoubi and Esteghlal and Nassaji against Foolad in the Iran Professional League (IPL) have been postponed after the players tested positive for the coronavirus.

Esteghlal were supposed to travel to the southern city of Bushehr to meet Pars Jonoubi on Sunday but the match was canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

Esteghlal coach Farhad Majidi has shut down the team's training for two weeks.

The Nassaji and Foolad match in IPL Matchweek 23 has been postponed as well after several players of Foolad tested positive for COVID-19.

If five players of a team are tested positive, the team's matches will be canceled, acting head of Iran Football League Organization Soheil Mahdi had already said.

## Iranian taekwondo fighter bags gold in Russia virtual games

**IRNA** — Iranian taekwondoka Amir Reza Salmani Fard ranked first in the Russian international virtual competitions.

Speaking to IRNA, Head of Khuzestan taekwondo committee said the first round of virtual competitions in the Pumsae field was held in Russia and Salmani Fard with the highest scores stood in the first place.

He added that the event was held in the presence of nine countries and the Iranian athletes defeated rivals from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Germany.

Salmani Fard had earlier snatched a bronze medal in Iran virtual Pumsae competitions and bronze medal of the premier league, he noted.

## Syria football federation confirms friendly with Iran

**Tasnim** — A top official of Syrian football federation has confirmed a friendly match with Iran.

Iran were supposed to meet Oman in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on September 3 but the match was cancelled.

Now, Ibrahim Abazeed has announced that Iran national football team are going to meet Syria in a warm-up match in Tehran as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualification.

Iran are in Group C, five points behind Iraq. Deagan Skocic's team are scheduled to host Hong Kong on October 8 in Tehran and meet Cambodia five days later in Phnom Penh.

Iran's last two matches against Bahrain and Iraq - which are very crucial - will be against Bahrain and Iraq on November 12 and 17 in Tehran.



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is a fitting cover, and wisdom is a sharp sword. So cover your ugly conduct with patience, and kill carnal desires with wisdom.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Tunis to host Iranian cultural festival

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — The International Cultural Center of Hammamet (CCIH) in the Tunisian capital of Tunis will be playing host to an Iranian cultural festival.

An agreement to organize the festival was discussed in a meeting between Iranian cultural attaché Meisam Farahani and the director of the center, the Iranian Cultural Center in Tunis announced in a press release on Sunday.

The International Cultural Center of Hammamet operates under the auspices of the Tunisian Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

No exact date was mentioned for the Iranian cultural festival in the press release.

Farahani pointed to various Iranian cultural festivals organized in Tunisia over the past decades and added that Iranian festivals in various media are ready to host art and cultural groups from Tunisia.

He said, “The cultural affinities between Iran and Tunisia have always been regarded by officials of the two countries and therefore, the mutual cultural events have always been well organized.”

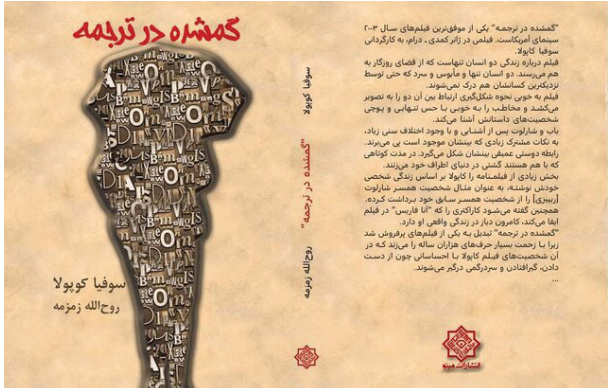
“Iran’s profound culture and ancient civilization have always been respected by Tunisian people and frequent mutual cultural festivals will help develop the understanding of each other among the people of the two countries,” he added.

Tunis was the guest city of the 31st Tehran International Book Fair in 2018.

## Sofia Coppola’s “Lost in Translation” published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — American filmmaker, actress, and writer Sofia Coppola’s book “Lost in Translation” has recently been published in Persian.

Ruhollah Zamzameh is the translator of the book published by Minoo in Tehran.



Cover of the Persian version of Sofia Coppola’s book “Lost in Translation”.

The book is about Bob Harris, a fading American movie star who arrives in Tokyo to appear in lucrative advertisements. He is staying at the upscale Park Hyatt Tokyo and is suffering from strains in his 25-year marriage and a midlife crisis. Charlotte, another American staying at the hotel, is a young college graduate who is accompanying her husband while he works as a celebrity photographer in Japan. Charlotte is feeling similarly disoriented as she questions her recent marriage and is unsure about her future.

Bob and Charlotte grapple with additional feelings of jetlag and culture shock in Tokyo and frequently happen upon each other in the hotel. After several chance encounters, Charlotte invites Bob into the city to meet some local friends. The two bond through a fun night in Tokyo, where they experience the city nightlife together. In the days that follow, Bob and Charlotte spend more time together and their friendship strengthens. One night, while each are unable to sleep, the two share an intimate conversation about Charlotte’s personal uncertainties and their married lives.

The pair encounter each other again in the evening, when Bob reveals that he will be leaving Tokyo the following day.

The following morning, when Bob is leaving the hotel, he and Charlotte share sincere but unsatisfactory goodbyes.

In 2003, Coppola made a film adaptation of the story, which won her the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay and the Golden Globes Best Actor award for Bill Murray for the portrayal of Bob Harris.

# Bust of Commander Qassem Soleimani unveiled at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A bronze bust of Commander Qassem Soleimani set up in the courtyard of Tehran’s Vahdat Hall was unveiled on Sunday.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi and a large number of officials attended the unveiling ceremony of the bust created by Sabr-Ali Lavai.

Lieutenant-General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, was assassinated during a U.S. air raid in Baghdad on January 3.

Speaking at the ceremony held at Rudaki Hall, a smaller hall above Vahdat Hall, Salehi called Commander Soleimani a popular personality with whom people could easily connect.

“Peace, bravery and glory were the secrets behind the life of martyr Soleimani,” he said.

“Commander Soleimani came to life with the Sacred-Defense [1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war] and today the 40th anniversary of the Sacred Defense is his first death anniversary. Commemorating this martyr will help add to the splendor of the 40th anniversary of the Sacred Defense,” the minister said.

Next in a live video call with Khuzestan Province, the poster of the Zolfaqr Art and Literary Festival was unveiled.

The name of the festival refers to Zulfiqar, the sword of Imam Ali (AS). It was also used to name a national honor, entitled “Order of Zolfaqr”, one of which was presented to Commander Soleimani in March 2019 by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

“What is offered to you in return for jihad in the way of God and what Allah the Exalted grants in return for laying down your life and offering your possessions is paradise and divine satisfaction. What we grant—including our verbal and non-verbal gratitude, and the medals of honor,



The Bronze bust of Commander Qassem Soleimani is seen in the courtyard of Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on July 5, 2020. (Honaronline/Gata Ziatabari)

orders and epaulets that we grant—are things that are noteworthy on the basis of worldly calculations, but on the basis of spiritual and divine calculations, they are not noteworthy,” the Leader said had said in honoring the commanded with the medal.

The Khuzestan governor-general also said that the province has been a witness to

the bravery of Commander Soleimani and that the province owes a lot to the martyr and is ready to pay its respect to him as much as it could.

The province will do its best to be a good host to the artists from all different fields in honor of martyr Soleimani, he said.

Moreover, in a video call with Kerman, Soleimani’s hometown, a poster of the 2nd

Soleimani Theater Festival was unveiled.

The festival will be held in the city of Kerman from December 21 to 26.

Qader Ashena, the director of Iran’s Dramatic Arts Center, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini and Rudaki Foundation Managing Director Ali-Akbar Safipour were among the participating guests.

## Children’s cultural center releases card game “The Parrot and the Grocer”



This photo shows the image of the card game “The Parrot and the Grocer” published by Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA).

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has released a card game named “The Parrot and the Grocer”, which has been inspired by a story from Persian poet Jalal ad-Din Rumi’s masterpiece Masnavi-ye Manavi.

The game has been designed by Emad Arghand to help children practice observing while developing deductive reasoning.

“Rumi’s Masnavi-ye Manavi is full of stories, which represent deep moral and mystical concepts in a very sweet and creative way,” Arghand said.

He added that the story of “The Parrot and the Grocer” is also a good concept for a game with its collection of varied characters.

He also said that he believes if the

games are inspired by national and cultural origins, they would have a more profound influence and cause a deeper connection with the users.

Earlier in June, the IIDCYA announced its plan to publish a selection of 10 card games inspired by stories from classic Persian literature. “The Parrot and the Grocer” is one of the games from the collection.

The collection will also help children and young adults to become familiar with stories from Farid ud-Din Attar Neyshaburi’s Mantiq at-Tayr (Conference of the Birds) and several other Persian masterpieces through playing the games.

Other games include “Simorgh” inspired by Mantiq at-Tayr, and “The Snake Catcher’s Tale” inspired by Masnavi-ye Manavi.

## Sureh-Mehr books scoop Golden Pen Awards



Scholar Milad Jafarpur (R) is honored for “Epic of Musayyebnameh” during the 18th Golden Pen Awards at the Iran Pen Association in Tehran on July 3, 2020. (Mehr)

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Books published by Sureh-Mehr, a publishing house affiliated with the Art Bureau, received three honors out of the five categories at the 18th edition of the Golden Pen Awards on Saturday.

“Atun-nameh: Esmal Talai’s Mails” written by Mohammad-Esmail Hajalian won the award in the Adults Story section while “A History with a Cornelian Cherry Flavor” by Yusef Qojaq was awarded in the Children’s Story category.

“He Just Read”, a collection by Hadi Mohammadhassani, shared the award in the Adults Poetry section with “Flying in the Cocoon” by Hamed Hosseinkhani, which was published by the Shani Publishing House.

“Epic of Musayyebnameh”, a book about Musayyeb ibn Qaqa Khazai, a companion of

Imam Ali (AS) and his sons Imam Hassan and Imam Hussein (AS), won the Golden Pen in the Review and Research section.

The book written by Mohammad-Baqai Vars Bukhari and Abu Taher Tarsusi has been translated and corrected by Milad Jafarpur. The Mahmud Afshar Foundation is the publisher of the book.

In the Children’s Poetry category, the award was shared by Tayyebeh Shadmani’s collection “Hezar-o-Shast-o-Pansad” published by Behnashr and Hossein Tavallai’s book “It Rains Inside Myself” published by Elmi-Farhangi.

The awards ceremony was held at the Iran Pen Association, which organizes the Golden Pen Awards, every year.

Writer and filmmaker Jamal Shurjeh, a member of the association who is suffering from a brain disease, was also honored for his lifetime achievements.

## DEFC, Iran Chamber of Commerce team up to produce docs on national entrepreneurs

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) and the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture have teamed up to produce documentaries on successful Iranian entrepreneurs.

The two have agreed on several projects over the past year, some of which have so far been produced or are currently under production.

“Unfinished Path”, “Amin al-Zarb”, “Mohsen Khan”, “Zuu”, “F.A” and “Nureddin Family” are some of the documentaries.

Director Jamshid Bayat-Tork is working on making the documentary “Amin al-Zarb” which explores the adventurous life of the businessman in addition to portraying the economic changes within Iranian society during the Qajar era.

Amir Kabir and Mirza Hossein Khan Sepahsalar, the prime ministers of Qajar king Nasser ad-Din Shah, as well as the political activist Seyyed Jamaledin Afghani were three main characters who made great efforts in the development of the government, and Amin al-Zarb was the



A logo for the Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

first businessman who became the first Iranian industrial investor, promoting entrepreneurship.

The life story of Asghar Qandchi, the founder of Iran Kaveh, Iran’s first truck and trailer manufacturing company, has been portrayed in the documentary “Unfinished Path” by director Mostafa Razzaq-Karimi.

Qandchi was a blacksmith working in his garage in downtown Tehran. He had an interesting life, he could not go to school to study but he was a successful entrepreneur. He worked diligently and experienced many problems in his life. His dramatic life and Iran’s contemporary history as well have been reviewed in the documentary.

The 100 year-long history of public transit by bus in Tehran is the topic of another documentary under production by director Nima Mahdian.

According to Mahdian, transit by bus has made great changes in the public culture of the country and the documentary views the historical course of bus transit in Tehran, while it also shows the people’s behaviors towards the vehicle.